



ARNOLD LODGE

4-18 yrs Co-educational Independent Day School



**GCSE INFORMATION & OPTIONS BOOKLET
2024 - 2026**





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ARNOLD LODGE

GCSE Options 2024 - 2026

GCSEs at Arnold Lodge

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The transition from Year 9 into Year 10 is an important one for pupils. With the changes over the past few years to examinations at GCSE and the move from A*-F to 9-1 gradings, it's more crucial than ever that pupils are prepared for life at GCSE level.

Under the grading system at GCSE, grades 9-7 replaced A*-A, grades 6-4 replaced B-C and grades 3-1 replaced D-F. Where pupils were once looking for A grades, they will now look for Grade 7 and above. Similarly, where pupils would once have aimed for Grade Cs as the 'pass', they will now aim for Grade 4s. Unlike previous years, many of the new GCSE specifications do not include a Non-Examined Assessment unit (i.e. a coursework unit) with the exception of practical subjects such as Drama, Art and Food & Nutrition. Instead, qualifications are awarded based only on examination performance at the end of Year 11.

As we support pupils through Key Stage 4, we will continue to build their happiness, confidence and skills while working with them to encourage their aspirations for the future and prepare them for the rigours of external examination so that they achieve the very best that they can in their GCSEs. Whether a pupil is looking to achieve a full set of grade 7-9s or looking forward to the challenge of gaining 5+ grade 4s, we will be there to enable every pupil to fulfil their potential and our exceptional track record of performance in examinations in recent years is testament to the support and challenge that we provide.

In the summer of 2023 Arnold Lodge celebrated an exceptional set of GCSE results. Of all grades awarded, 25% were at Grades 7-9 (A*/A equivalent), with 86% at grade 5 or higher. Pupils achieved 82% A*/A in languages and 50% achieved A*/A in the separate sciences.

Most impressively, on average, our pupils achieved a considerable number of grades above their targets set by external testing upon entry to the school. This is a significant achievement for the pupils, staff and the wider school community and reflects the academic value added for the pupils at Arnold Lodge across their time at the school and we will support your child to achieve the same academic success.

Selecting GCSE options can be both exciting and daunting but we are here to support pupils every step of the way. I'm confident that between the information contained in this Options Booklet, your child's mentor and parental support, pupils will be able to choose the options that suit them best. If you would like to talk anything through, we are here to help, please contact your child's mentor or myself on lcolledge@arnoldlodge.com, my door is always open.

Kind regards,

Mr L Colledge
Head of Key Stage 3





KEY INFORMATION

Moving to Key Stage 4 - what should I expect?

You'll really notice a difference in the pace of learning and breadth of subject knowledge from Year 9 into Year 10. Your work will be much more focused on examination skills and, where applicable, on the Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) unit. You will take increasing ownership of your learning and, as part of this, you will become used to discussing your target grades (what you are targeted to achieve at the end of your GCSE course) and your working at grades (the grade you are working at each term) to help you focus on how to achieve the best grade that you can.

What will I study in Key Stage 4?

You will study English, Maths, Science and up to four optional subjects of your choice. You will also have a double Games lesson and your daily mentor time programme, which will include PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education).

What decisions do I need to make now?

You need to choose which optional subjects you would like to study at GCSE level. The optional subjects can be found on p.11-24 of this booklet. Each subject has its own page which contains information about what you will study and how you will be assessed.

What do I do once I have decided which optional subjects I would like to study?

Once you have selected subjects that you may be interested in, you need to complete the Microsoft Form that was sent in the email with this booklet by 4pm on 8th February. The form asks you to list your five potential option choices. These are not your final option choices but inform the school of what they might be in order for us to build the option blocks to suit your year group.



What are core subjects and what is meant by core subject pathways?

The core subjects are English, Maths and Science and everyone studies these at GCSE level.

Within the core subjects, you are offered different pathways:

ENGLISH

For English, you can either take English Language (1 GCSE) and English Literature (1 GCSE) over two years or you could take English Language only over two years to help you focus on getting the best grade possible.

MATHS

For Maths, (1 GCSE) you can either sit the Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) or the Higher tier (grades 4-9).

SCIENCE

For Science, you will study Combined Science: Trilogy, which means you have the opportunity to gain 2 GCSE awards. The Combined Science qualification provides a perfect springboard to A Level science in the future.



English Language

Head of Faculty | Mrs F Darby
fdarby@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: English Language IGCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment Format:

Exam: Component 1 - Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing

2hrs 15 mins
60% of total marks

NEA: Paper Component 3 - Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing

40% of total marks

NEA: Spoken Language Endorsement

Endorsed separately

English Language allows pupils to study both fiction and non-fiction writing. Pupils will also have the opportunity to develop their own creative and non-fiction writing. The course is assessed through one written paper at the end of Year 11 and through two NEA assignments. As part of the course, pupils will also complete a Spoken Language assessment, which challenges them to develop their verbal communication skills.

What will we study?

Over the course, you will develop your ability to read fluently, evaluate texts, synthesise information, utilise knowledge gained from reading and to write effectively. Across the course, pupils will study a range of textual extracts including poetry and novels, and these will come from a range of genres and types. In addition to the reading focus, pupils will learn how to produce clear and coherent texts and develop their ability to write for particular purposes.

Why study English Language?

English Language allows you to demonstrate – and develop – everyday skills. From understanding what you read, to being able to give presentations on complex ideas while maintaining the interest of a crowd, English Language gives you some crucial components of your academic skill set. English will help you to be able to read fluidly, to read critically and to develop your grammar, spelling and punctuation.





English Literature

Head of Faculty | Mrs F Darby
fdarby@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: English Literature IGCSE
Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment Format:

Exam: Component 1 - Poetry and Modern Prose

60% of GCSE

NEA: Component 3 - Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts

40% of GCSE

English Literature is assessed through one written exam paper and two NEA assignments

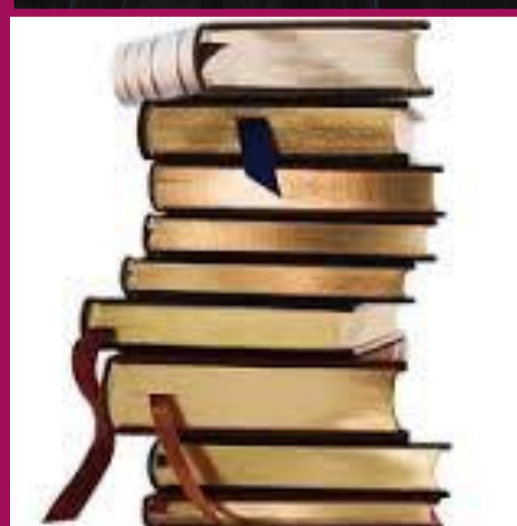
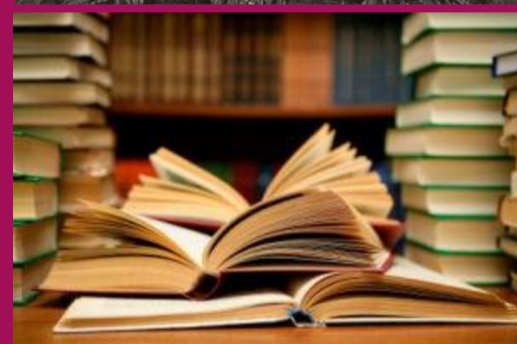
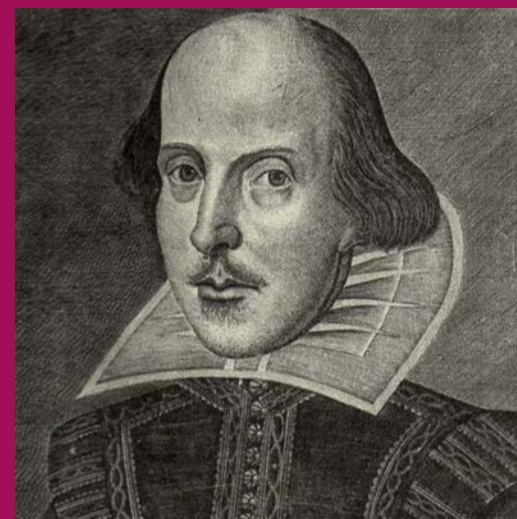
What will we study?

Over the course of the IGCSE, you will study a range of texts. These will include a poetry anthology, a modern novel, a modern drama text and a literary heritage text. In addition to this, you will develop your ability to analyse an unseen poem.

Why study English Literature?

English Literature requires you to develop skills of written communication and immerses you in a culture of reading. By studying English Literature, you will be given the chance to read a range of different texts and to develop a real love of reading.

Through different literature texts, you will address questions of a moral, ethical and personal nature and develop your own interpretations of the literature studied.





Mathematics

Head of Faculty | Mr D Brewer
dbrewer@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: Mathematics
Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment Format:

Exam: Paper 1 – Non-calculator	1 hr 30mins	33.3% of total marks
Exam: Paper 2 – Calculator	1 hr 30mins	33.3% of total marks
Exam: Paper 3 – Calculator	1 hr 30mins	33.3% of total marks

Pupils will sit either the Foundation tier (Grades 1–5) or the Higher tier (Grades 4 – 9). Pupils must take all three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series and will be taken at the end of Year 11. Each paper will assess content from any part of the specification and will consist of a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as pupils progress through the paper.

What will we study?

The specification will be split into the following topics:

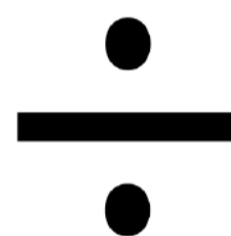
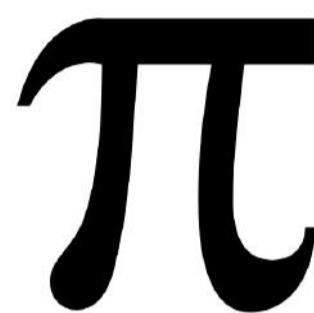
- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Pupils will start by consolidating their key mathematical skills, before embarking on more complex problem-solving work as the course progresses. In addition to having the opportunity to study abstract mathematical conceptions, pupils will also consider applications of mathematics in real-life.

Why study Maths?

Maths is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping pupils with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. It is a key requirement for many jobs and a Maths GCSE shows you have an understanding of numbers and the ability to work with them. Through studying Maths you will learn that it is about more than just numbers; it's also about thinking logically and being able to apply the principles you learn to everyday situations.

A secure understanding of Maths is, of course, crucial should you wish to undertake further studies in Mathematics. It is also an asset to careers in fields ranging from Engineering to Economics, and Medicine to Data Analysis.





Science

Head of Faculty | Mr D Brewer
dbrewer@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: Combined Science: Trilogy
(2 GCSEs awarded)

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment Format:

All examined.

Biology Paper 1 & Paper 2	33.3% of total marks
Chemistry Paper 1 & Paper 2	33.3% of total marks
Physics Paper 1 & Paper 2	33.3% of total marks

All pupils study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects. There are two written papers for each subject, taken in the Summer of 2025. Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes in length, and covers half of the subject content for that subject. There are also 16 required practicals across all subjects which pupils must carry out as standard, as well as many opportunities for practical work throughout the course.

What will we study?

The content of each subject is extremely broad, with a large proportion of the course being delivered through practical activities. The overview content of each subject is listed below.



BIOLOGY

Cell biology
Organisation
Infection and response
Bioenergetics
Homeostasis and response
Inheritance, variation & evolution
Ecology

CHEMISTRY

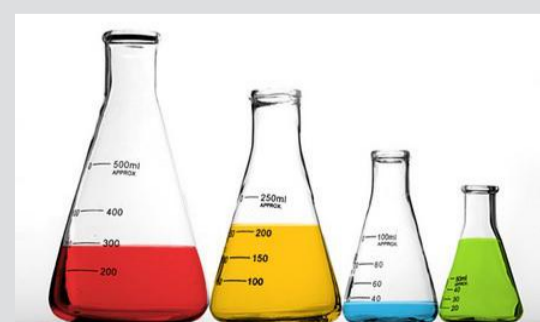
Atomic structure and the periodic table
Bonding, structure, and properties
Quantitative chemistry
Chemical changes and energy changes
The rate and extent of chemical change
Organic chemistry and chemical analysis
Atmospheric chemistry
Using resources

PHYSICS

Forces
Energy
Waves
Electricity
Magnets and electromagnetism
Particle model of matter
Atomic structure

Why choose 'Double Science'?

The Trilogy course covers all of the topics studied in Separate Science, but in a little less depth. It is an ideal choice to provide a firm foundation in all three Science subjects. Pupils who study Trilogy Science can progress to A Level study in any one of the sciences.







Art & Design

Head of Faculty | Miss S Crisp
scrisp@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: Art & Design (Art, Craft & Design)
Exam Board: AQA

Assessment Format:

Unit 1 (96) max- *Portfolio of work* **60% of total marks**
Unit 2 (96) max- *Externally set task* **40% of total marks**

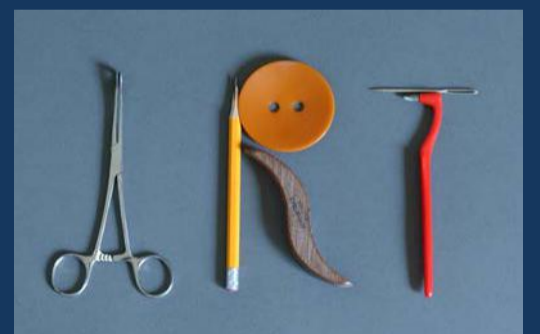
Art is assessed through a portfolio of work which is selected from two or three major projects completed across the GCSE course. The exam piece is an externally set task which you will be given time to prepare for before producing a final piece over 10 hours of supervised time.

What will we study?

Throughout the course of the GCSE, you will be introduced to new ways of working with media, and develop ways in which to generate and develop your own ideas and approaches, in order to create unique outcomes. You will enhance your skills by experimenting and studying the work of artists and crafts people. You will also have the opportunity to visit galleries and exhibitions, using knowledge gained to enhance your own work.

Why study Art and Design?

Art and Design enables you to develop practical skills, a creative and explorative way of thinking, and allows you to investigate many themes and media. You will produce practical and critical or contextual work associated with at least two or more of the following endorsements: Applied Art, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, 3D Design and Photography.





Business

Head of Faculty | Miss B Morgan
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Subject: Business

Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment Format:

Exam: Paper 1 – Investigating small business (Theme 1)

50% of total marks

Exam: Paper 2 – Building a business (Theme 2)

50% of total marks

Business is assessed by two 90 minute examinations at the end of the course. Each paper is worth 90 marks. The papers are divided into sections A, B and C. Section A is of a generic nature and knowledge-based. Sections B and C are based on case material and require the pupils to display the higher order skills of application, analysis and evaluation.

What will we study?

The Business course focuses on business activity and the way in which businesses interact with the world around them. Pupils will learn to identify and analyse the challenges that businesses face in a number of contexts. Wherever possible, the learning relates the new concepts studied to real-world business situations.

As well as teaching pupils about the business world, the subject develops skills in analysing both written text and numerical data, in writing for a professional audience and in making reasoned judgments based on evidence.

Why study Business?

The course will raise pupils' awareness of the business world and prepare them to become a part of it when they enter work.

The skills developed in the course translate well into the study of other areas, for example History and Geography, and so it is a good all-round GCSE whether pupils intend to continue its study at A Level or not.





Computer Science

Head of Faculty | Miss Sarah Crisp
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Subject: Computer Science
Exam Board: Cambridge iGCSE

Assessment Format:

Exam: Paper 1 – Computer Systems

50% of total marks

Exam: Paper 2 – Algorithms Programming and Logic

50% of total marks

What will we study?

The Computer Science course is made up of 10 modules. The first exam paper covers modules 1-6 and includes; Hardware, Software, Data Transmission, The Internet, Data Representation and Automated Technologies. Exam paper 2 covers the remaining 4 topic areas and is made up of; Algorithm Design, Programming, Databases and Boolean Logic.

We use Python as the programming language which is one of the most widely used languages globally.

Why study Computer Science?

Computers are an integral part of daily life. This course will teach you what happens inside them and how they interact with the world around them which could set you up for a career in one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Computer science is a dynamic, rapidly changing area of study as new technologies are introduced each year. During the course you will gain a wider understanding of the operation and impact of computing and programming which will provide you skills that will be essential in whichever career path you choose to take.





Design

Head of Faculty | Miss S Crisp
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Subject: Design and Technology
Exam Board: AQA

Assessment Format:

Exam: 2hrs - 100 marks - 50% of total marks.

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

Non- Examined Assessment - 50% of total marks.

An extended practical project based on a given context from the exam board in June of Year 10. You will need to design and produce a prototype along with an accompanying evidence folder of work.

Assessment criteria:

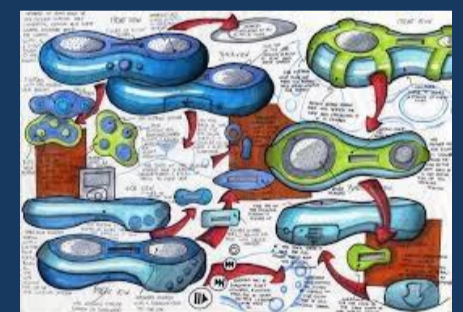
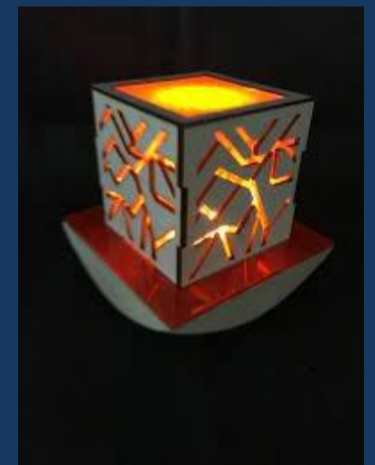
- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

What will we study?

During the first two terms of the course you will design and make a variety of mini projects, each one teaching you about different materials while widening your skillset on a number of tools. You will then need to draw on these skills and experiences when you embark on your NEA project. This project comprises of a folder of design work showing your iterative design process that finishes with a prototype of your final piece. The context is set by the exam board but you are free to explore a design route within the set parameters.

Why study Design and Technology?

Design and Technology allows you to develop your creative side and express your imagination through practical projects. The skills you will acquire are applicable to many future jobs as you will learn project management and creative thinking alongside the range of practical skills. Many ex-DT students have gone on to apprenticeships as well as A level and university courses such as Engineering, Theatre Design, Architecture, Product Design etc. The only limit is your imagination.





Drama

Head of Faculty | Miss S Crisp
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Subject: Drama

Exam Board: Eduqas

Assessment Format:

Component 1: Devised Performance (NEA worth 40%)

Component 2: Scripted Performance (NEA worth 20%)

Component 3: Written Exam (Worth 40%)

What will we study?

Component 1

In Year 10 we begin by collaborating in small groups to create a piece of original Theatre. This is examined by your teacher in school. You also complete a written log documenting your process and a written evaluation. This unit is completed by the end of Year 10.

Component 2

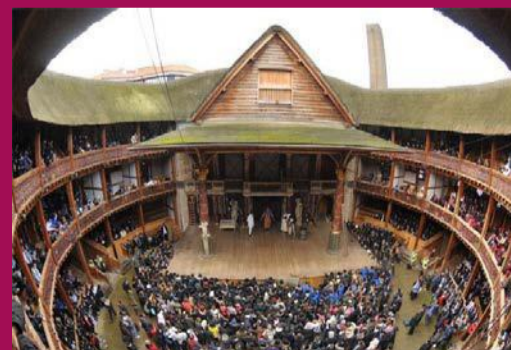
At the start of Year 11 you begin Component 2. In this unit you prepare an extract from an existing play for performance. This is assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3

The written exam is made up of two parts. In the first section you answer questions on a set text which we study in class. In the second section you write a review of a Theatre production which we have seen during the course.

Why study Drama?

Drama offers an opportunity to learn about Theatre craft. As a student of Drama, you will learn to collaborate with others and think analytically. You will gain confidence to pursue your own ideas and to reflect and refine your efforts. Whatever your future holds, you'll emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills that will be applicable in further studies and the workplace. You'll also have an awful lot of fun in the process!





Food & Nutrition

Head of Faculty | Miss S Crisp
scrisp@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: Food & Nutrition
Exam Board: AQA



Assessment Format:
Written Paper—50% of total marks

**NEA1—Chemical & functional properties of ingredients—
15 % internal controlled assessment**



**NEA2—Food Preparation Task - 35% internal controlled
assessment**

What will we study?

Principles of safety and hygiene, food preparation, cooking and presentation, nutrition and health, food choice and menu planning, food science and investigation, costing, communication and record keeping and environmental considerations.



Both units studied concentrate on food preparation and nutrition. Pupils will undertake scientific investigation and plan meals as well as developing their knowledge and skills. They will also learn how to meet the nutritional needs of different people and learn about food choices.



The practical component is assessed internally. Pupils complete a scientific investigation (15%) and a practical cookery assessment (35%). This assessment involves a 3 hour practical exam with a theme that changes yearly. In the past, pupils have investigated European foods, street food and Asian cuisines.

Why study Food & Nutrition?

A course in Food & Nutrition offers a unique opportunity to develop your knowledge and extend your practical skills in food production.



It will enable you to gain an understanding of Food and Nutrition which will help you to progress to further education.



Geography

Head of Faculty | Miss B Morgan
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Subject: Geography
Exam Board: OCR B

Assessment Format:

Exam: *Our Natural World*

35% of GCSE

Exam: *People and Society*

35% of GCSE

Exam: *Geographical Exploration*

30% of GCSE

What will we study?

The links, connections and ideas within the eight topics of Our Natural World 01 and People and Society 02 will be brought together for Geographical Exploration 03.

Application of knowledge, understanding and skills will be important in enabling you to question and develop arguments, and a decision-making exercise will allow you to become critical thinkers.

Key themes we study at GCSE Geography include Global Hazards (tectonic and climatic), Rivers and Coasts, Ecosystems, Urbanisation, Globalisation and Resource Reliance.

Why study Geography?

Geography bridges the gap between the arts and sciences and so leads to a qualification that links very well with many other subjects. As a traditional subject it remains highly valued by employers, sixth form colleges and universities; indeed, Geography remains the leading subject of graduate employment. It will help you understand the world around you and enable you to gain real skills that you'll find useful long after you've left school.

It will teach you how to collect, interpret and analyse data and how to make decisions and solve problems using a variety of different sources. In addition to learning about the power of natural forces at work on our planet and in the UK in the 21st Century, you will also gain an understanding of society and how we interact with the physical world, and our subsequent impacts on rivers, coasts and ecosystems.





History

Head of Faculty | Mrs F Darby
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Subject: History

Exam Board: Cambridge iGCSE

Assessment Format:

EXAM: Paper 1:- Structured Questions

Written paper, 2 hours, 60 marks. Candidates answer two questions from Section A (Core content) and one question from Section B (Depth studies).

40% of total marks

EXAM: Paper 2:- Document Questions

Written paper, 1 hour 45 minutes, 40 marks. Candidates answer one question on one prescribed topic taken from Section A (Core content).

30 % of total marks

COURSEWORK: Component 3

40 marks. Candidates produce one piece of extended writing based on a depth study from the syllabus or a depth study devised by the centre

30 % of total marks

What will we study?

Core content: Option B

The twentieth century: international relations from 1919.

Option B focuses on six key questions:

1 Was the Treaty of Versailles fair?

2 To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

3 How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939?

4 Who was to blame for the Cold War?

5 How effectively did the United States contain the spread of communism?

6 How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?

Depth Study B: Germany, 1918-1945

1 Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?

2 Why was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?

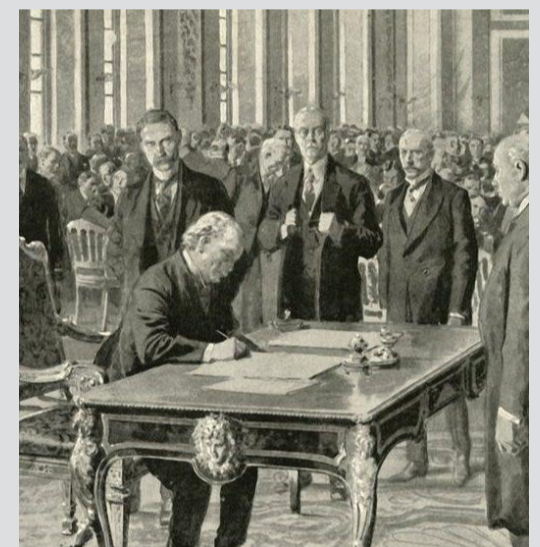
3 The Nazi regime

A) How effectively did the Nazis control Germany, 1933-45?

B) What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?

Why study History?

History encourages you to develop skills of analysis, research, literacy and independent thinking which are helpful for a wide range of careers. This can be for anything, but particularly areas such as advertising, marketing, sales or even teaching!





Media Studies

Head of Faculty | Mrs F Darby
fdarby@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: Media Studies
Exam Board: AQA

Assessment Format:

Media is assessed through 2 exams (70%) and one creative coursework element (30%).

Paper 1: Media One
Paper 2: Media Two

(35%) of total marks
(35%) of total marks

What will we study?

We will study a range of media forms including magazines, advertising and marketing texts, newspapers, television, radio, video games, film and online, social and participatory media. We will look at how media texts use a range of technical codes to represent society and construct 'reality' for their audiences. We will also examine the role of media industries and the issues surrounding regulation and control.

Some of the media texts we study are released in advance of the exam. These are called 'Close Study Products' and we will study them in detail.

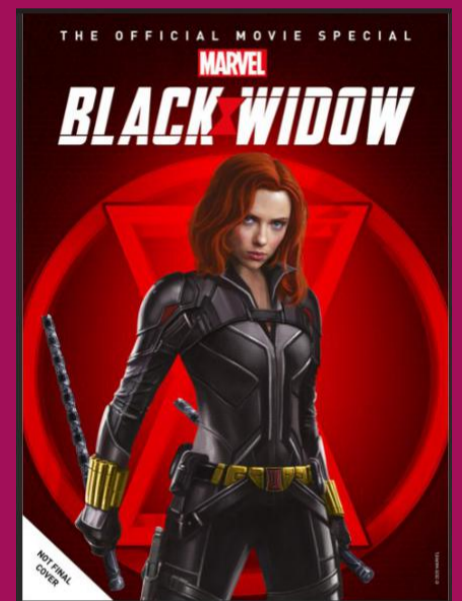
As part of the Creative Coursework Element, we will have the opportunity to create our very own Media Product. The products pupils can create include various media forms from videos (a music video or part of a television programme), print products (newspaper or magazine) or online products such as websites.

Why study Media?

Media texts are immersed in everyday life and developing an understanding of the media is crucial to any number of careers.

GCSE Media encourages you to develop your ability to write, edit work, analyse, research, design, edit video and audio and manage a project, all of which are useful and transferrable skills.

Those pupils who opt to study Media GCSE will find that the analytical skills they develop will support their study of GCSE English Language and prepare them for further study such as Media BTEC or Media A Level.





Music GCSE

Head of Faculty | Miss S Crisp
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Subject: Music GCSE
Exam Board: Eduqas

Assessment Format:

NEA: Performance	30% of total marks
NEA: Composition	30% of total marks
EXAM: Listening and Appraising	40% of total marks



Why study Music?

Because you love Music! The Music GCSE is a unique course designed for pupils who are passionate about the subject. It combines practical performance skills with compositional creativity and musical analysis. Music pupils are always in high demand due to the transferable skills developed throughout the course (commitment, versatility, creativity, academic rigour) and it is because of this that the subsequent Music A-level is deemed a desirable subject for Oxbridge applicants.



What should I know before beginning the course?

Due to the highly practical nature of the course, we require that pupils are of Grade 2 ABRSM equivalent standard on their chosen instrument / voice at the start of the course and are having lessons with a specialist peripatetic teacher.



What does the course look like?

NEA Performance - 30%

For performance, you will have to record two performances of at least Grade 3 standard to submit for coursework. These should be on your own instrument and can be any style of music you like.

NEA Composing - 30%

You will need to submit two compositions. One of these can be in any style you like including any instruments you choose, and the other will be to a range of briefs from the exam board. As well as teaching you how to go about the compositional process, you will also be taught how to use specialist software such as Sibelius, Garageband or Cubase to bring your ideas to life.



EXAM Listening and Appraising - 40%

The Listening exam will be sat in Summer 2026 and covers a broad range of music including Rock, Classical, Film music, Jazz, Musicals and much, much more! You will be expected to be able to identify key features of each style of music by ear and to be able to write musically about extracts played in the exam, articulating your thoughts on the music with appropriate musical vocabulary.





Physical Education

Head of Faculty | Mr C W Thomas
cthomas@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: Physical Education

Exam board: OCR

Requirements for this course: Must play at least one sport competitively and regularly outside of school (you will be assessed in three), and have a very keen interest in sport.

Assessment format:

Physical factors affecting performance

This component will assess:
1.1 Applied anatomy and physiology
1.2 Physical training

Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology

This component will assess:
2.1 Socio-cultural influences
2.2 Sports psychology
2.3 Health, fitness and well-being

Practical Performances

This component will assess core and advanced skills in three activities taken from the approved lists. One must be an individual sport, one must be a team sport and one either individual or team.

More information can be found here: [OCR GCSE \(9-1\) Physical Education J587 Guide to Non-exam Assessment \(NEA\) - Version 4.3 \(March 2023\)](#)

Analysis and Evaluation of Performance

This component draws upon the knowledge, understanding and skills a pupil has learnt and enables them to analyse and evaluate their own or a peer's performance in one activity.

Written paper: 1 hour. 30% of total GCSE, 60 marks

This paper consists of a mixture of objective response and multiple-choice questions, short answers and extended response items.

Written paper: 1 hour, 30% of total GCSE, 60 marks

This paper consists of a mixture of objective response and multiple-choice questions,

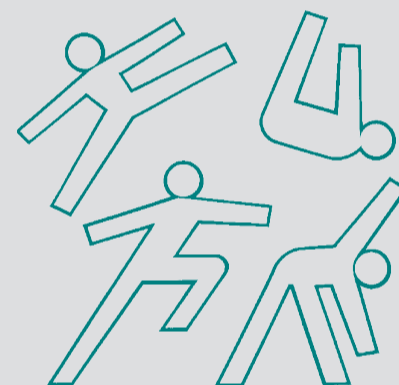
Non-examined assessment (NEA) 30% of total GCSE, 60 marks

This NEA will consist of three activities, including at least one 'team' and at least one 'individual' sport from the approved activity lists, all performed in competitive situations.

We **strongly** suggest that you look through the specification before opting for GCSE PE, and check that 'your sports' are on the list. Please also take note of the requirements per sport.

Non-examined assessment (NEA) 10% of total GCSE, 20 marks

This NEA will consist of a written task that must be produced under controlled conditions.



What will we study?

The PE course allows pupils to improve analysis skills, particularly in the effectiveness of performance and their understanding of roles such as player, leader and official. This knowledge is underpinned by the importance of involvement in physical activity as part of a healthy active lifestyle. Physical Education allows pupils to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities such as coaching or officiating awards, teaching, physiotherapy, nutritionist, sports science and psychology.

Why study Physical Education?

The course prepares pupils for the further study of Physical Education or Sports Science courses, as well as other related subject areas such as psychology, sociology and biology. Learners will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand by employers in all sectors of industry. Physical Education creates confident, independent thinkers and effective decision makers who can operate effectively as individuals or as part of a team – all skills that will enable them to stand out and effectively promote themselves as they progress through life.





Psychology

Head of Faculty | Miss B Morgan
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Subject: Psychology
Exam Board: OCR

Assessment Format:

Assessment will involve multiple choice questions and a range of short answer questions of various marks (typical questions are 2-4 marks). There is one extended writing question in each of the two papers which is worth 13 marks.

External assessment will involve sitting three examinations at the end of the two-year course:

Paper 1: Studies and Applications in Psychology 1 (1 hour 30 minutes, 90 marks)

This paper covers Criminal Psychology, Development, Psychological Problems and Research Methods (designing an investigation)

Paper 2: Studies and Applications in Psychology 2 (1 hour 30 minutes, 90 marks)

This paper covers Social Influence, Memory, Sleep and Dreaming and Research Methods (application to a novel scenario)

What will you study?

GCSE Psychology involves the study of individual people and their behaviour, brain and mind. It is an intriguing course where you will learn about a range of theories and studies that allow you to understand human behaviour and to find out how these behaviours have been studied, along with the impact it has had in the real world. What are the explanations behind schizophrenia and depression and how does this link to social media? What leads people to obey and conform and how does this link to the way we change people's attitudes towards things? You will learn theories and studies in detail that many questions about behaviour. Some of the topics covered over the course are; Psychological problems, Memory, Social Influence, Criminal Psychology.

Why study Psychology?

Psychology will help to develop your transferable skills such as, developing and articulating your opinions, questioning things rather than taking them at face value, helping to build your critical thinking skill. It will also prepare you to study it further at A level. It is a valuable subject that many disciplines recognise such as business, marketing, police work, mental health professionals, teaching, probation work and many more.





Sociology

Head of Faculty | Miss B Morgan
bmorgan@arnoldlodge.com

Subject: Sociology
Exam board: AQA



Assessment format:

EXAM: Paper 1 - The sociology of families and education (1 hour 45 mins)

50% of total marks

EXAM: Paper 2 - The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification (1 hour 45 mins)

50% of total marks

Sociology is assessed through two written papers which will be taken at the end of Year 11 in Summer 2024.



What will we study?

Unit 1: The Sociology of Families and Education:

- ⇒ The sociology of families;
- ⇒ The sociology of education;
- ⇒ Relevant areas of social theory and methodology.

Unit 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification:

- ⇒ The sociology of crime and deviance;
- ⇒ The sociology of social stratification;
- ⇒ Relevant areas of social theory and methodology.



Why study Sociology?

GCSE Sociology helps pupils to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

Pupils will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.



By studying Sociology, pupils will develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world.





Spanish

Head of Faculty | Miss B Morgan
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Subject: Spanish
Exam board: AQA

Assessment format:

Exam: Unit 1	Listening	25% of total marks
Exam: Unit 2	Speaking	25% of total marks
Exam Unit 3	Reading	25% of total marks
Exam: Unit 4	Writing	25% of total marks



What will we study?

The course covers three themes, which are assessed in all four question papers.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

This includes Me, my Family and Friends (relationships); Technology in Everyday Life (social media, mobile technology); Free Time Activities (sport, music, cinema and TV, eating out) and Customs and Festivals in Spain and Spanish-Speaking Countries.



Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

This covers home, town, neighbourhood and region; Social Issues (charity/voluntary work, healthy living); Global Issues (environment, poverty and homelessness) and Travel and Tourism.



Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

This incorporates My studies, Life at school, Education post-16 and Jobs, career choice and ambitions.

Why study Spanish?

There are multiple benefits to studying GCSE Spanish. First of all, being able to communicate in a foreign language is a valuable skill that you can use for travelling or in a future international career. It is highly valued by employers and universities, as it is viewed as an academically rigorous subject. It tests a variety of skills and as such improves your ability to communicate verbally and in writing. The course is diverse and covers wide-ranging topics and teaches you about the wider world and Hispanic culture. The study of Spanish complements a wide range of other GCSE subjects and has many cross-curricular links to subjects such as Geography, Sociology and Media Studies.



ARNOLD LODGE



4 - 18 yrs Co-educational Independent Day School

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