



Aylestone School

Options 2017-2019
Year 9

Achievement Co-ordinator: Mr Lewis
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Austin-Bailey



Core Subjects

GCSE English, English Language and English Literature (Core)



What will I learn?

English Language.

The course builds on skills and knowledge learnt during KS3 working towards two examinations at the end of the course that assess both reading and writing skills in fiction and non-fiction. You will be expected to study a variety of texts including prose from The English Canon and Literary non-fiction. You will also be developing your ability to write for specific audiences and purposes.

Speaking and listening is very important across and is formally assessed; you will be given many opportunities to prepare and present your ideas over the two years of study.

English Literature

All sets study English Literature. Here you move your skills on again with the study of poetry, drama texts and novels from a range of periods. There is an expectation that you will provide the texts required for the study – these will be nominated by your teacher during the course in Year 10.

How will I learn?

There will be a mixture of group work, paired work and independent learning. Access to ICT will be important in order to access up to date reports and news features. We expect you to take responsibility for your progress through regularly reading good quality non-fiction outside the classroom.

How will I be assessed?

There are four exams at the end of the course which will make up 100% of the total course as both English and Literature must be studied in tandem. These will test your understanding of Literary English and crafting the language. There will be key points across the course where you will be expected to completed examinations on the various texts studied and test writing skills. You will have two qualifications at the end of the course.

What can I progress to

English is an essential qualification. You must have a GCSE in English to be considered for most career routes. A good qualification in this subject will open many doors for you. It is worth noting that English counts towards the English Baccalaureate qualification.

Further Information

Mrs Tarring

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GCSE Mathematics (Core)



What will I learn?

You will follow the new GCSE in mathematics (which began in September 2015). You will study mathematics for 3 hours each week, continuing with the focus on problem-solving that you will be used to from key stage 3.

Through your studies you will:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context
- develop confidence in mathematical problem-solving.

How will I be assessed?

All assessment is carried out in end of course written examinations. These will all occur at the end of year 11. You will sit a total of three exam papers, one assessing non-calculator skills and the other two allowing the use of a calculator.

What can I progress to?

A good GCSE mathematics grade supports access to higher education and is a requirement for many courses and employment choices. The use of mathematics to model real-life situations is prevalent in a wide array of careers.

It is worth noting that mathematics counts in towards the English Baccalaureate qualification.

Further Information

Mrs Bowen

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GCSE Combined Science—Double award (Core)



What will I learn?

This is a new course for 2016 and pupils will study a wide variety of aspects of biology, chemistry and physics.

There are excellent resources to support students and there is a great emphasis on practical work with all students being expected to complete a minimum of 17 core practicals. Students will develop an understanding of “Working Scientifically” and will research current issues to develop their own opinions.

Throughout the two year course pupil will look at the overarching concepts in the areas of biology, physics and chemistry and look at specific topics, including cells and control, genetics and natural selection, atomic structure and chemical bonding, the periodic table, states of matter, light and the electromagnetic spectrum, to name just a few.

How will I be assessed?

Science will be assessed at the end of year 11 with pupils being entered at either Foundation (levels 1-5) or Higher (levels 4-9).

Students will sit 6 papers each lasting 1 hour and 10 minutes. Each paper will consist of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

“Working Scientifically” will be assessed through examination and the completion of the 17 core practicals.

What can I progress to?

Students gaining two Science GCSE qualifications are able move on to a great variety of courses and careers.

It is worth noting that Science counts towards the English Baccalaureate qualification.

Further Information

Mr Moss

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Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA)



What will I learn?

This course will:

- equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills you need to design and make, effective digital products for others to use.
- enable you to use digital tools as a means of expression to inform, persuade and entertain.
- foster your creativity and develop your independent learning skills
- challenge you to reflect on what they produce and strive for excellence
- increase your awareness of your responsibilities in the digital world and your respect of other people’s rights.
- equip you with professional, real-world skills in planning, project management and communication.

How will I learn?

You will learn all topics through a mixture of practical and theoretical scenarios. These scenarios will be context based and relate to the real world which will give you the opportunity to explore the technology while learning the skills needed to find solutions to everyday problems.

How will I be assessed?

One Practical examination - The examination will be set and marked by the exam board.

One Summative Project Brief- The Summative Project is the means by which students bring together the knowledge, skills and understanding they have acquired throughout the unit into a synoptic piece of work. Summative Project Briefs are set by the exam board, administered and marked by Aylestone.

What can I progress to?

This qualification provides a broad and solid foundation for further study of various aspects of creative computing, such as graphic design, web design, computer games design and interactive media. It supports progress to further study, including:

- GCE in Media: Communication and Production
- Level 3 BTECs in Creative Media Production
- Level 3 BTECs in IT
- Level 3 Principal Learning in Creative and Media.

It also enhances young people’s overall digital literacy and gives them a solid foundation for further study and employment.

Further Information

Mrs Austin-Bailey

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Physical Education (Core)



At Key Stage 4 you will continue with two hours of Physical Education, split into two one hour lessons each week. Your lessons will be split into a performance lesson and a competitive lesson. In your performance lesson you will follow a curriculum that offers a variety of activities enabling you to build on and reinforce skills you have learnt in Key Stage 3, as well as having the opportunity to learn new skills in activities you may not have covered in years 7, 8 or 9. In your competitive lesson, you have the opportunity to select and execute your skills in competitive situations via leagues or knockout competitions.

What will I learn?

Practically, you will follow a curriculum that is based around a variety of activities that include Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Football, health and Fitness, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Badminton, Tennis, Dance, Athletics, Rounders, Tennis and Cricket. You will have the opportunity to choose your activities in both the performance and competitive lessons.

How will I learn?

In your performance lesson, you will continue to be taught new skills as you have been in Key Stage 3, building on your current skill levels and knowledge and understanding of various sports. In your competition lessons, you will be required to work as a team with various pupils in order to succeed. You will be asked to not only take part as a player, but also as a coach, official or administrator.

Further Information

Mrs Powell
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Issues & Ethics



What will I learn?

Issues and Ethics is a new course which embodies elements of the religious education and the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Wellbeing Curriculum. It intends to challenge students thinking on issues such as global citizenship, relationship education and staying safe and avoiding risks. The course is enhanced by outside agencies which work with classes to present information and ideas and support their understanding on often complex issues, about which there is often some misunderstanding.

How will I be assessed?

There is no formal assessment but students will reflect on their learning and experiences and draw together themes at the end of each unit of study. This may be done in writing or in discussion with the class teacher or their peers.

What can I progress to?

The completion of this bespoke course will culminate in an award of a certificate highlighting the areas and issues studied. This will support many further career paths, from working with children and vulnerable young people and adults, to law and community work.

Further Information

Mr O'Neil
Email: noneil@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk



Option Subjects

GCSE Art & Design



What will I learn?

In our rapidly changing world, where today's technology and practices are out-of-date tomorrow, creative flexibility is an essential skill. GCSE Art & Design not only develops this skill, it can also lead to an exciting future in an art-related occupation - the UK's second highest employment sector.

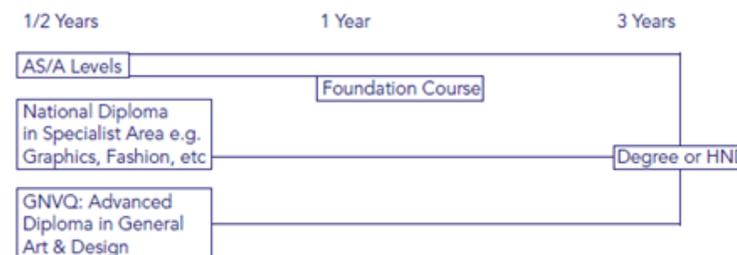
How will I learn?

Students are required to demonstrate knowledge, skill and understanding in a range of art and design disciplines. This process starts in year 10 with teacher-led learning which establishes a foundation in painting & drawing, ceramics, printing, constructs, methods and the application of ICT in art. As the course progresses, students gain more independence and, with the support and guidance of their teacher, take the lead in their own work.

How will I be assessed?

Students are required to produce one unit of course work (worth 60%) and carry out a controlled test (worth 40%) by the end of the spring term in year 11. The course work is a portfolio of the student's best work based around a theme. It should show a logical development leading to a final piece. This includes research, sketchbooks, practical exercises, media experimentation and all preparatory work. The controlled test is broken down into two stages, preparation and examination. Preparation starts with the issue of the exam paper (at the start of the spring term year 11) followed by a period of research and experimentation leading up to a 10-hour exam. Course work and the controlled test are marked by the Art Department staff at the end of the spring term in year 11 before being externally moderated.

What can I progress to?



Further Information

Mrs Juliard or Mrs Casey

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OCR GCSE in Business (J204)



What will I learn?

The great thing about this qualification is that it gives learners a more in-depth look into how business works. Additionally, this employs an analytical, evaluative and investigative approach.

How will I learn?

You will complete a series of individual, paired and group tasks. The tasks would be a combination of written tasks, presentations, reports, publications (such as leaflets, flyers and posters), problem solving tasks, research and investigations.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Business Studies comprises of 100% written examination.

The assessment is structured as follows:

- Business 1: Business Activity, Marketing, and People 50%. 1 Hour 30 Minutes Paper
- Business 2: Operations, Finance and Influences on Business 50%. 1 Hour 30 Minutes Paper

What can I progress to?

Progression to further study from GCSE will depend upon the number and nature of the grades achieved. Broadly, candidates who are awarded mainly Grades 4 to 1 at GCSE could either strengthen their base through further study of qualifications at Level 1 within the National Qualifications Framework or could proceed to Level 2. Candidates who are awarded mainly Grades 5 to 9 at GCSE would be well prepared for study at Level 3 within the National Qualifications Framework. In the business sector, learners would be aiming to move into entry-level roles, such as assistants in business administration, marketing, finance, human resources, sales and customer service.

Further Information

Mrs Austin-Bailey

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GCSE Computer Science



What will I learn?

This qualification is a mixture of theory (so students understand the enduring principles and abstract concepts of computer science) and computational thinking and practice (so students learn how to solve problems, write efficient code and build working systems). It provides opportunities for students to explore the wider societal and ethical issues associated with computer science and to develop as responsible practitioners.

There are six topics:

- Problem Solving
- Programming
- Data
- Computers
- Communication and the Internet
- The Bigger Picture

How will I learn?

You will learn all topics through a mixture of practical and theoretical tasks. These tasks will be linked to real world scenarios which will give you the opportunity to explore possible designs while learning the skills needed to find solutions.

How will I be assessed?

The Pearson Edexcel Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Computer Science consists of two externally-examined papers and a non-examined assessment component.

Component 1 – Principles of Computer Science. 40% of the qualification

Written examination: 1 hour 40 minutes

Component 2 – Application of computational thinking .40% of the qualification

Written examination: 2 hours

Component 3: Project. 20% of the qualification

Controlled assessment: 20 hours

What can I progress to?

The depth of coverage means that it provides a solid foundation for either the study of A level Computing or employment (for example software developer, website designer, programmer, network analyst). It is worth noting that a GCSE in Computer Science counts towards the English Baccalaureate qualification.

Further Information

Mrs Austin-Bailey

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GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition



What will I learn?

This course is a full GCSE. There is however, still an amount of theory work that needs to be completed. By studying this course, learners will:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills
- Develop an understanding of functional properties and chemical characteristics of food
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health
- Demonstrate knowledge of food safety in all aspects of cooking
- Explore different culinary traditions

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes worth 50% of the qualification

Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action

Assessment 1: Food investigation (food science experiment)

Assessment 2: Food Preparation assessment (three dishes which meets set brief)

How will I learn?

You will cook every week in order to develop your practical skills. In addition to the focused practical tasks, there is still an amount of theory work that needs to be completed.

What can I progress to?

You could:

- Go to College or private trainer provider
- Get an apprenticeship
- Go into employment
- Further Qualification: City and Guilds Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Professional Cookery

For further information:

Mrs Juliard

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GCSE French



What will I learn?

A GCSE in French is an incredibly useful qualification. As well as learning a language, you will increase your confidence, improve your communication skills and learn to listen for both gist and detail, as well thoroughly researching and reporting both individually and as part of a team.

You will study the language through the following themes:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global Issues
- Current and Future Study and Employment

How will I learn?

The course will allow you to access the language and actively learn via a wide range of authentic resources such as websites, magazine articles and TV clips, and using a variety of learning methods and styles. All four language-learning skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) will be developed and assessed.

Students will do lots of spoken work as well as focusing on learning vocabulary and grammar. We seek to develop their ability to use language independently so that they can write and talk about topics which interest them.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE French is assessed by 100% examination at the end of year 11.

- Listening (25%)
- Speaking (25%) – role play, discussing a photo and general conversation
- Reading (25%)
- Writing (25%) – writing in French, including translation

The new grading system of 1-9 will be applied and there is the option of taking the GCSE at either foundation (grades 1-5) or higher (grades 4-9) level.

What can I progress to?

Studying languages to GCSE and beyond develops communication skills. Language knowledge can be useful in many areas, including business, tourism, education, medicine, journalism, law and industry.

In order to take a GCSE in French to AS or A2 level, a level 6 or above at GCSE will be considered necessary. Students should note that if they are considering Higher Education courses, some universities may insist on a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language WHATEVER the course students wish to take.

It is also worth noting that a French GCSE counts towards the EBacc qualification.

Further Information

Mrs Erwin

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GCSE Geography



What will I learn?

AQA GCSE Geography.

This course builds on skills and knowledge learnt during KS3. There is a mixture of Human Geography, for example population studies, and Physical Geography, for example natural hazards. There will be some geographical enquiry where students will need to use their geographical skills to investigate and develop a decision making process to evaluate a problem.

How will I learn?

There will be a mixture of group work, paired work and independent learning. Access to ICT will be research the latest information on topics. Fieldwork will also be a requirement from the exam board.

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear course which means that all formal assessment will happen at the end of the course. There will be three exams which together will make up 100% of your mark. Fieldwork will be assessed within these units.

To what can I progress?

Geography is highly regarded by 6th form colleges and higher education as a subject that requires many skills in research, data processing and presentation of information so it will always look good on applications to college.

Careers which use the skills learnt in Geography include Town Planning, Resource Management, Conservation and Teaching.

Further Information

Mr O'Neil

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GCSE German



What will I learn?

A GCSE in German is an incredibly useful qualification. As well as learning a language, you will increase your confidence, improve your communication skills and learn to listen for both gist and detail, as well as thoroughly researching and reporting both individually and as part of a team.

You will study the language through the following themes:

Identity and Culture

Local, National, International and Global Issues

Current and Future Study and Employment

How will I learn?

The course will allow you to access the language and actively learn via a wide range of authentic resources such as websites, magazine articles and TV clips, and using a variety of learning methods and styles. All four

language learning skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) will be developed and assessed.

Students will do lots of spoken work as well as focusing on learning vocabulary and grammar. We seek to develop their ability to use language independently so that they can write and talk about topics which interest them.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE German is assessed by 100% examination at the end of year 11.

Listening (25%)

Speaking (25%) – role play, discussing a photo and general conversation

Reading (25%)

Writing (25%) – writing in German, including translation

The new grading system of 1-9 will be applied and there is the option of taking the GCSE at either foundation (grades 1-5) or higher (grades 4-9) level.

What can I progress to?

Studying languages to GCSE and beyond develops communication skills. Language knowledge can be useful in many areas, including business, tourism, education, medicine, journalism, law and industry.

In order to take a GCSE in German to AS or A2 level, a level 6 or above at GCSE will be considered necessary. Students should note that if they are considering Higher Education courses, some universities may insist on a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language WHATEVER the course students wish to take.

It is also worth noting that a German GCSE counts towards the EBacc qualification.

Further Information

Mrs Erwin

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GCSE History



What will I learn?

AQA GCSE History

The course covers four units of work from medieval times to the modern day. We will be studying The Norman Conquest, Medicine and health in Britain from medieval times to the 21st century, German History from 1890 – 1945 and Conflict and Tension in the modern world.

How will I learn?

Through a wide variety of activities; independent, paired and in groups. Some of it will be literacy based (newspaper articles, speeches, source analysis & essays) others more practical (research activities, debates, presentations).

How will I be assessed?

The course is a linear one so all formal assessment happens at the end of Year 11. There will be two exams at the end of the course. This will make up 100% of your mark.

To what can I progress?

History is highly regarded by 6th form colleges and higher education as a rigorous and challenging subject so it will always look good on applications to college. Careers which use the skills learnt in History include law, any sort of management, business, accountancy, teaching, army and police work.

Further Information

Mr O'Neil

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GCSE Music



What will I learn?

GCSE Music covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles – popular music, world music and classical music. Performing as a soloist and as a member of a group is 30% of the course and as such, pupils must be prepared to practise their instrument, perform and record their work. If pupils do not have instrumental lessons then keyboard or singing work covered in key stage 3 could be developed further for this part of the course.

How will I learn?

Through performing, composing and listening, pupils will learn how music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product and will produce extended compositions using notation software. Pupils will have the opportunity to work on solo and group performance and recording skills. Pupils will also learn how to analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed over the last 400 years.

How will I be assessed?

Performing – 30% controlled assessment

15% 1 solo Performance

15% 1 Ensemble Performance

Both performances will be recorded onto CD

Composing – 30% controlled assessment

You will compose 2 pieces of music in different styles e.g. A song and a piece of music in a minimalist style. Each piece of music will need to be 2 minutes and will need to be written down in music notation with the help of music software. Compositions will be recorded onto CD.

Listening – 40% External Examination

Students will answer questions based on eight set works covering each of the four Areas of Study; Instrumental Music 1700-1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.

What can I progress to?

GCSE Music is useful for any job that involves communication and expressive skills. It is also a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A Levels in Music and Music Technology as well as BTEC National Diplomas in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology. Future jobs might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching.

Further Information

Mrs Casey

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GCSE PE



What will I learn?

This course will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. You can perform in one or all of the following roles: player/ participant, leader or official.

How will I learn?

The course will be a mixture of practical and theory lessons

- You will develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of activities.
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance.
- Find ways to improve your own performance in a variety of roles.
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity.
- Appreciate the benefits of 'sport for all'.

You should have an interest in physical education and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1- Fitness and Body Systems. This is a written examination with a 36% weighting of the final grade.

Component 2- Health and Performance. This is also a written examination with a 24% weighting of the final grade.

Component 3- Practical Performance. Assessment consists of 3 activities from a set list. One must be a team sport, one must be an individual activity. The final can be a free choice. This is worth a weighting of 30% of the final grade.

Component 4- Personal Exercise Programme. This has a weighting of 10% of the final grade.

What can I progress to?

As well as being the ideal preparation for the A level Physical Education course, GCSE Physical Education allows for progression to related vocational qualifications, such as National Diplomas in Sport and exercise Science. The course develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in areas such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry, the armed forces and the civil service.

Further Information

Mrs Powell

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GCSE Resistant Materials



What will I learn?

Learning is based on a variety of design and practical tasks in metal, wood and plastic. You will learn how designers design the weird and wonderful as well as the practical. Projects in CAD/CAM will develop your skills in Computer Aided Design and Making and practical projects in enamelling, raising, forging and carpentry, will expand your making skills in preparation for your Controlled Assessment task in year 11.

How will I learn?

In year 10, you will complete a range of design and make projects, using wood, metal and plastic as well as CAD/CAM. The projects will follow the design process:
DESIGNING - investigation leading to the production of a variety of ideas which, after development, promotes the evolution of a design proposal in detail.
MAKING - selection and use of materials, processes, tools and equipment to produce high quality products;
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING - all aspects which aid the development of a designing and making capability but, specifically, those relating to materials and components, systems and control, structures, products and applications, quality and Health & Safety.

How will I be assessed?

In year 10 you will be assessed by your teacher at various stages in the project and will complete a final assessment at the end of each project. We follow the AQA syllabus and the GCSE is 60% Controlled Assessment and 40% external theory exam, the latter taking place at the end of year 11. AQA set the Controlled Assessment tasks and you will be given a range of tasks to choose from. Previous tasks include: jewellery, coffee table, garden project and storage and you will have 45 hours to complete a design folder and a practical outcome. This is worth 60% of your final grade. The external theory exam makes up the remaining 40% of your grade.

What can I progress to?

Engineering, construction, welding, blacksmithing, jewellery designer and maker, goldsmith, silversmith, teacher, lecturer, furniture maker, set designer, set constructor, toy designer and many, many more B.A Jewellery and Metalwork.

Further Information

Mrs Juliard or Mrs Casey

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GCSE Triple Science



What will I learn?

The Triple Science option is a new course for 2016 and encourages students to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages learners to develop their curiosity about the living, material and physical worlds and provide insight into and experience of 'working scientifically'. It enables learners to engage with science and to make informed decisions about further study in science and related subjects and career choices. The Triple Science course includes all of the material in GCSE Double Science, but it also has Extension Topics together with 24 Core practicals, that together lead to the award of three GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The extension topics offer a chance to study some more interesting and sophisticated science such as:

- Biology: Investigate the factors that affect enzyme activity
- Chemistry: Investigate the preparation of pure, dry, hydrated copper sulphate crystals starting from copper oxide
- Physics: Describe uses of ultrasound and infrasound, including:
 - a sonar
 - b foetal scanning
 - c exploration of the Earth's core

How will I be assessed?

Science will be assessed at the end of year 11 with pupils being entered at either Foundation (levels 1-5) or Higher (levels 4-9).

Students will sit 6 papers each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. Each paper will consist of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

"Working Scientifically" will be assessed through examination and the completion of the 24 core practicals.

What can I progress to?

Students gaining two Science GCSE qualifications are able to move on to a great variety of courses and careers. It is worth noting that Science counts towards the English Baccalaureate qualification.

Further Information

Mr Moss

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