

KS4 Options 2023

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Head of School: Mr Richard Hawthorne

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Dear Year 9,

I am delighted to be able to welcome you to a new phase in your education. As you grow older, it is right that you be given the opportunity to take even more responsibility for decisions about your life and your education.

Now that you are in the middle of year 9, you must make some important choices about which subjects and courses you would like to study at key stage 4 (KS4) as part of our key stage 4 options process.

Our compulsory subjects ensure you maintain a healthy breadth of study during these important years, while our options subjects allow you to explore those areas of the curriculum which you are most interested in. This booklet forms part of your preparation for making an informed choice about your KS4 subjects.

It has been prepared to inform you and your parents/carers about the courses offered by our school in years 10 and 11. The options which are on offer have been carefully considered, and we believe, provide a broad and balanced offer for all students, no matter what your ability.

You will be asked to select your top 6 subjects in order of preference. You will be expected to select an EBacc subject as part of your choices, (although there may be a few exceptions to this rule if you currently receive additional support from Study and Support). Whilst we will endeavour to ensure everyone is allocated their top 4 options, this might not be possible for everyone, and you may be allocated options 5 or 6.

Please be aware that your options form should be completed by Friday 31st March 2023.

Course details for all subjects form the majority of this booklet, but a real flavour of each subject will only be gained by talking to the relevant subject teachers. I now encourage you to read the following pages carefully, and choose subjects for which you have an affinity, be that talent, enjoyment, engagement or interest. However, if you are in any doubt please ask.

The information in this booklet is also available on our school website.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Hawthorne

Head of School

Compulsory Subjects

English Language (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

AQA English Language GCSE

What will I learn in English Language?

You will learn to write creatively, persuasively, argumentatively and analytically. You will also study speaking and listening techniques in preparation for your speaking and listening exam.

Course overview of English Language

- Paper 1: Reading – Analysis of unseen fiction: 20th Century;
- Paper 1: Writing – Descriptive and narrative writing. An examination of short stories and poetry to understand plot development in timed conditions;
- Paper 2: Reading – Analysis of unseen non-fiction: Pre-20th century and post-20th century;
- Paper 2: Writing – Writing non-fiction texts - Persuasive writing techniques;
- Speaking and listening assessment on a topic of their choice. Comprises of a 4 minute speech and 4-5 minutes of questions from the class.

How will I be assessed in English Language?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing	1 hour 45 minutes	80	50%
Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	1 hour 45 minutes	80	50%
Speaking and listening assessment	8-10 minutes	Separate certificate – pass, merit or distinction	Compulsory element

What skills will I develop in English Language?

- The ability to write clearly and explain yourself;
- The ability to be creative and imaginative;
- Enjoying speaking and performing in front of others;
- An excellent grasp of spelling, use of punctuation and grammar;

Why should I study English Language?

GCSE English Language will allow you to demonstrate the use of English in real life, investigate how language is used and draw on your own experience. English is invaluable for your future no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day – and benefit all your other GCSEs too. Whatever you end up doing, English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life!

Which career pathways will English Language lead to?

English will be a requirement if you wish to pursue: law, journalism, teaching, media studies, humanities (psychology, history) editing, creative writing, politics, research, public relations.

It will also be useful to you in any subjects that require writing, research, or communication skills of any kind. Some examples include: business, service industry/reception, social work, nursing, marketing, sales, and many more besides.

Who should I contact for more details about English Language?

Mrs Walker – jogoffice@excalibur.org.uk

English Literature (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

AQA English Literature GCSE

What will I learn in English Literature?

You will learn to respond in essay form to a variety of texts, some modern and some of literary heritage: poetry, modern drama, texts from different cultures and Shakespeare. You will learn to analyse literature, the social and historical contexts it was written in and the author's ideas.

Course overview of English Literature

- A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens
- Macbeth -William Shakespeare
- An Inspector Calls - J B Priestley
- Power and Conflict- Poetry anthology
- Unseen Poetry analysis

How will I be assessed in English Literature?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19 th Century novel	1 hour 45 minutes	64	40%
Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry	2 hours 15 minutes	96	60%

What skills will I develop in English Literature?

- The ability to write clearly and explain yourself;
- The ability to be creative and imaginative;
- The ability to consider texts in light of their contexts;
- The ability to analyse, critique, and discuss texts;

Why should I study English Literature?

GCSE English Literature offers you the chance to study classic literature and some contemporary novels too. It will teach the skills of literal and inferential comprehension and critical analysis. It will teach you to communicate your ideas effectively.

Which career pathways will English Literature lead to?

English will be a requirement if you wish to pursue: law, journalism, teaching, media studies, humanities (psychology, history etc.), editing, creative writing, politics, research, public relations.

It will also be useful to you in any subjects that require writing, research, or communication skills of any kind. Some examples include: business, service industry/reception, social work, nursing, marketing, sales, and many more besides.

Who should I contact for more details about English Literature?

Mrs Walker— jogoffice@excalibur.org.uk

Mathematics (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

Level 2 GCSE (9-1) Mathematics AQA.

What will I learn in maths?

- Developing problem solving skills;
- Improving your calculation skills and gaining a sense of wellbeing when you discover how to reduce a seemingly difficult calculation to a much simpler form;
- Developing your spatial awareness and your ability to visualise problems in both 2D and 3D;
- Gaining an understanding of statistical analysis and the way the data cycle works to enhance your knowledge of real life situations.

Course overview of maths

The subject is divided into 6 strands:

- Algebra, where you develop general concepts in an abstract form;
- Number which will enable you to choose appropriate calculations for the task;
- Ratio and proportion and rates of change;
- Geometry & measure where your spatial awareness is enhanced;
- Statistics with the development of the data cycle for analysing and solving problems;
- Probability will enable you to apply ideas of randomness, fairness and equally likely events to calculate expected outcomes of multiple future experiments.

How will I be assessed in maths?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Paper 1—Foundation and higher tiers available. Non-calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	80	33%
Paper 2—Foundation and higher tiers available. Calculator allowed	1 hour 30 minutes	80	33%
Paper 3—Foundation and higher tiers available. Calculator allowed.	1 hour 30 minutes	80	33%

What skills will I develop in maths?

- Thinking logically and systematically when problem solving;
- Good arithmetic skills which allow you to make choices about the methods you use depending on the numbers you are working with and the degree of accuracy required;
- Creative thinking when tackling unfamiliar tasks;
- Sound understanding of concepts;
- Fluency in procedural skill.

Why should I study maths?

This qualification prepares students for progression to further study of mathematics at AS and A-Level. GCSE mathematics is a requirement for progression to a wide range of courses at Level 3. Students are expected to continue with their study of GCSE mathematics after the age of 16 if they have not achieved the qualification at key stage 4.

Which career pathways will maths lead to?

Accounts, architectural, banking, building society, insurance work anywhere where you use figures or technical drawing, Economics engineering, medicine and related careers, psychology, physiotherapy, teacher training.

Who should I contact for more details about maths?

Mrs Walker—jogoffice@excalibur.org.uk

Science (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

AQA Combined Science Trilogy 8464

What will I learn in science?

As this is a compulsory subject. We start introducing aspects of the specification in year 9 and students will be taught a wide range of content from across the 3 science subject areas, biology, chemistry and physics. They will learn the fundamental concepts which have supported scientific advancements and look at how science has influenced and played a role in current society along with being able to explain an extensive range of nature's wonderful curiosities.

Course overview of science

Biology

- Cell biology (structure, division and transport in cells);
- Organisation (tissues, organs and systems in plants and animals);
- Bioenergetics (respiration and photosynthesis);
- Infection and response (diseases and use of antibodies);
- Homeostasis (hormones and nervous system);
- Inheritance and evolution (reproduction, variation and genetics);
- Ecology (food webs and food chains).

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table (atoms, isotopes and properties of elements);
- Bonding (ionic, covalent and metallic bonding);
- Quantitative chemistry (conservation of mass, yield and molar concentrations);
- Chemical changes (reactivity of metals, acids and electrolysis);
- Energy changes (exothermic and endothermic reactions);
- Rates of reactions and equilibria;
- Organic chemistry (carbon compounds, fuels and polymers);
- Chemical analysis (purity, formulations, separating techniques and identification of ions and gasses);
- Chemistry of the atmosphere (composition of the atmosphere and greenhouse gasses);
- Uses of the Earth's resources.

Physics

- Energy (energy changes, conservation and resources);
- Electricity (current, voltage, circuits and energy transfers);
- Particle model of matter (states of matter, motions and pressure);
- Atomic structure and reactivity (isotopes, nuclear fission and fusion);
- Forces (interactions between forces);
- Waves (in air, water and electromagnetic waves);
- Magnetism and electromagnetism (motors, transformers and national grid);
- Space physics (solar systems and red shift).

How will I be assessed in science?

Unlike in previous years, the reformed science qualifications will no longer require students to complete internal skills assessments (ISAs) which are the controlled assessment or a coursework component of the legacy qualification. Instead, students are externally assessed at the end of year 11 and will need to complete 21 required practicals as part of the course.

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What skills will I develop in science?

The emphasis of both science courses is skills development in order to access the subject content to be able to understand a complex range of scientific phenomena and to re-ignite the natural curiosity associated with science. Students are encouraged to develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods through an investigational approach which involves complex problem-solving and team-working skills. These, together with technical skills in dealing with scientific apparatus, are gained through the required practical activities. Students will also develop the ability to communicate as a scientific expert confidently as a result of successfully navigating the course.

Why should I study science?

Science is all around us and helps to give us an understanding of the world, how things work and how we develop.

Which career pathways will science lead to?

The skills and knowledge that science graduates obtain can make them employable within virtually any type of organisation. There are a wide range of career pathways available from studying science which include forensic science, pharmaceuticals, veterinary science, medicine, biomedicine, bioinformatics, artificial intelligence, agriculture.

Who should I contact for more details about science?

Mrs F Keeley-Green - fkeeley-green@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Option Subjects

GCSE Art and Design

What is the qualification?

AQA GCSE Art and Design

What will I learn in art and design?

GCSE art and design is a vibrant and dynamic course which will give you the skills to continue the subject with confidence at A-level and beyond. Students are required to develop knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to a title of their choice through integrated practical, critical and contextual study that encourages direct engagement with original works and practice.

Course overview of art and design

Students will produce a portfolio and complete a 10 hour exam based around all different media: drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramic, textiles and photography.

How will I be assessed in art and design?

With two components, comprising a 'portfolio' selected from the course of study and an 'externally set assignment', the specification provides students with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to develop and explore their personal interests in art and design.

Title	Length	% contribution
Portfolio	No time limit	60
Externally set assignment	10 hours	40

What skills will I develop in art and design?

The course has been designed to allow students to develop knowledge and understanding during the course through a variety of learning experiences and approaches, including engagement with sources. This will allow them to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate their own ideas. Students will demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording, realisation and presentation of their ideas through a portfolio and by responding to an externally set assignment.

Why should I study art and design?

This is a course which is innovative and is a clear progression from key stage 3 whilst providing a strong foundation for further study at AS and A-level as well as vocational pathways. To support this progression, the assessment objectives, structure and titles are very similar to those detailed in the AS and A-level art and design specification. There is a full range of options open to students through the course titles, which allow for the study of art and design in both breadth and depth. There is no restriction on the choice of media, scale or format that students use to reflect and evidence their work.

Which career pathways will art and design lead to?

Art and design can lead students into a huge range future careers: architect, the fashion industry, teaching, designer and many more.

Who should I contact for more details about art and design?

Mrs Waddell lwaddell@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Computer Science— OCR GCSE (9-1)

What is the qualification?

Level 2 OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science

What will I learn in Computer Science?

Computer Science is a very practical subject – students will be able to use the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom on real-world problems. It is also a highly creative subject that calls on learners to be inventive. Students will study how computer hardware operates and learn how software is written through practical programming lessons. They will look at cyber security and explore how data is stored in computers. Students should be driven, enthusiastic, have a good work ethic and good mathematical skills as this will enable them to understand the logic required for programming.

Course overview of Computer Science

The Computer Science course is broken down into two separate components:

COMPUTER SYSTEMS - COMPONENT 1

- study systems architecture
- investigate computer memory and storage
- explore modern network layouts and how they function
- build skills in the ever important realm of cyber security
- investigate how types of software are used within computer systems
- stretch wider comprehension of how computers and computing affect ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues

COMPUTATIONAL THINKING, ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING - COMPONENT 2

- study fundamental algorithms in Computer Science
- build a firm foundation in programming techniques
- thoroughly test programs and make them resistant to misuse
- explore Boolean logic and understand how we store data within computers in binary form
- explore different programming languages and IDE's

How will I be assessed in Computer Science?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Computer systems – written paper	1 hour and 30 minutes	80	50
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming – written paper	1 hour and 30 minutes	80	50

Practical Programming

All students will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s), either to a specification or to solve a problem (or problems), during their course of study. Students may draw on some of the content in both components when engaged in Practical Programming.

What skills will I develop in computer science?

In Computer Science, students will develop valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace. They will enhance their understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions. They will develop their ability to write down solutions to problems and also gain a good grounding in mainstream computing theory and understanding. Students studying Computer Science will also develop the following qualities: flexibility and adaptability; decision-making; independent judgement; logical argument; enquiry and research skills; imagination and creativity.

Why should I study Computer Science?

We are now living in the Digital Age. Computer scientists theorise, design, develop, and apply the software and hardware we use every day. Computer Science encourages learners to be inspired through completing a challenging yet rewarding course of study. Computer Science students learn logical reasoning, algorithmic thinking, design and structured problem solving - all science and engineering to the humanities and business, and have already led to deeper understanding in many areas. Computer Science is also one of the leading disciplines helping us understand how the human mind works. Computer Scientists are needed in every type of industry – problems in science, engineering, health care and more can be solved by using computers therefore Computer Science students tend to have very good career prospects.

Which career pathways will Computer Science lead to?

Application analyst, Data analyst, Database administrator, Cyber Security consultant, Games developer, Information systems manager, IT consultant, Multimedia programmer, SEO specialist, Software Architect, Software Engineer, Systems analyst, Systems developer, Web designer, Web developer.

Who should I contact for more details about Computer Science?

Mr F McShane - fmcshane@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

AQA GCSE Design and Technology

What is the qualification?

AQA GCSE design and technology

What will I learn in design and technology

GCSE design and technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on design and technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Students must also demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding, in relation to design and technology.

Course overview of design and technology

The subject content has been split into three sections as follows:

- Core technical principles;
- Specialist technical principles;
- Designing and making principles;

These topics will cover material bases that include wood, metal, textiles and plastics.

How will I be assessed in design and technology ?

Title	Length	% contribution
NEA	30-35 hours	50
Written exam	2 hours	50

What skills will I develop in design and technology?

Students must demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding, in relation to design and technology. Maths and science skills and knowledge can and will need to be applied to the wider design and technology content.

Why should I study design and technology?

Design and technology is the inspiring, rigorous and practical subject which prepares all young people for the world in which we now live. It also provides opportunities for students to develop their capability, combining their designing and making skills with knowledge and understanding in order to create quality products.

Which career pathways will design and technology lead to?

Design and technology can lead students into more university courses than any other subject.

- Product designer
- Architect
- Packaging designer
- Furniture designer
- Advertising
- Design Consultant
- Engineer
- Interior decorator
- Fashion and Textile Designer

Who should I contact for more details about design and technology?

Mrs Waddell - lwaddell@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk and Mrs Stone jstone@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Drama (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

AQA Drama GCSE

Course overview of GCSE Drama

- Component 1 is all about understanding existing drama. You will study one play in depth.
- Component 2 is about devising drama. You will complete a learning log and an in-class performance.
- Component 3 explores texts in practice. You will perform two chosen extracts in-class. There is free choice as to which play you select but there must be a contrast in time frame from component 1.

How will I be assessed in Drama?

- Component 1 is assessed through an open book examination (1 hour 45 minutes). This is worth 40% of the GCSE.
- Component 2 is marked by your teacher and assessed by AQA. This is worth 40% of the GCSE.
- Component 3 is recorded and sent off to be marked externally by AQA. This is worth 20% of the GCSE.

What skills will I develop in Drama?

- The skills to devise performances
- The ability to be creative and imaginative
- Speaking and performing in front of others with confidence
- Being able to explain how plays might be performed on stage
- The skills to evaluate set designs and explain how these contribute to a production

Why should I study Drama?

GCSE Drama is an engaging and exciting course. It will encourage you to become a confident performer and accomplished designer with the skills needed for a bright and successful future.

Which career pathways will Drama lead to?

You will learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. You will gain the confidence to pursue your own ideas, reflect and refine your efforts. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.

Who should I contact for more details about Drama?

Mrs R White—rwhite@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

What is the qualification?

AQA GCSE food preparation and nutrition

What will I learn in food preparation and nutrition?

GCSE food preparation and nutrition will equip students with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. The course will inspire and motivate students, opening their eyes to a world of career opportunities and giving them the confidence to cook with ingredients from across the globe. This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Course overview of food preparation and nutrition

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

1. Food, nutrition and health
2. Food science
3. Food safety
4. Food choice
5. Food provenance

How will I be assessed in food preparation and nutrition?

NEA (Non-Exam Assessment)

Task 1: Food investigation task.

Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment .

Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Written exam:

Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from sections 1 to 5 (outlined above)

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
NEA 1	8-10 hours	30	15
NEA 2	20 hours	70	35
Written Exam	1hr 45 min	100	50

Which career pathways will food preparation and nutrition lead to?

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

Who should I contact for more details about food preparation and nutrition?

Mrs Waddell—lwaddell@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

French (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

GCSE qualification in French

What will I learn in French?

Students will learn how to communicate effectively in writing and speaking on a variety of topics, discussing issues and giving opinions. They will deal with a greater degree of unpredictability and widening range of vocabulary and structures. They will have the opportunity to understand global and local issues with opinions on a range of topics. They will be exposed to authentic French resources and cultural references.

Course overview of French

- Me, my family and friends
- Technology in and free-time activities
- Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries / communities
- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social and global issues
- Travel and tourism
- My studies
- Life at school / college
- Education post-16

How will I be assessed in French?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Unit 1 Listening	35-45mins	Foundation 40, Higher 50	25
Unit 2 Speaking	7-12mins	60	25
Unit 3 Reading	45mins-1hr	60	25
Unit 4 Writing	1hr-1hr15mins	Foundation 50, Higher 60	25

What skills will I develop in French?

In French, students will develop effective communication skills in written and spoken form; analytical skills in reading and spoken texts; logical arguments and dealing with the unpredictable; enquiry and research skills; imagination and creativity; IT skills and the ability to relate issues to a wider cultural context.

Why should I study French?

Being part of Europe, it is important that we learn the language and culture of our neighbouring countries will give students a distinct advantage in the world of work and in leisure trips abroad. Learning one language also enables the skills to pick up other languages more easily. A modern language forms part of the Ebac qualification and is a requirement of many of the top universities and employers.

Which career pathways will French lead to?

Translating, interpreting, teaching, journalism, marketing, hotel management and hospitality, insurance, marketing, business management, diplomatic services, travel and tourism services.

Who should I contact for more details about French?

Miss Bonner—abonner@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Geography (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

AQA GCSE Geography

What will I learn in geography?

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Course overview of Geography

- Living with the physical environment;
- Challenges in the human environment;
- Geographical Skills & Fieldwork.

How will I be assessed in geography?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Living with the physical environment	90 minutes	88	35
Challenges in the human environment	90 minutes	88	35
Geographical applications	75 minutes	76	30

What skills will I develop in geography?

You will develop a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and geographical information systems and in researching secondary evidence, including digital sources. Also, you will be able to apply sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses. This, along with geographical knowledge and understanding, can then be applied to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues.

Why should I study geography?

Geography impacts your day to day life and helps you to understand local, national and global issues. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geographers are also highly employable. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality - geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.

Which career pathways will geography lead to?

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism and weather forecasting.

The services, government, research organisations, law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop. As geographers learn about human and population development, geography can be useful for jobs in charity and international relations too.

Who should I contact for more details about geography?

Mr Voss— nvoss@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

History (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

Pearson Edexcel GCSE 9-1 History

What will I learn in history?

GCSE History is a wonderfully diverse qualification and choosing it as one of your options will allow you to study four fascinating topics in depth. The course begins by exploring crime and punishment through time, where you will learn the reasons why crime has changed (and in some cases continued!) throughout history. We will then move on to Weimar and Nazi Germany between 1918-39. This is a fascinating unit that allows you to explore a turning point in history—the end of WWI—from another perspective. You will explore how Germany tried to recover from the devastation of WWI and how the nation comes to fall into the grip of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi dictatorship and the effect this had on ordinary German people.

In Year 11, you will then investigate the incredible reign of the last Tudor monarch, Elizabeth I including her famous battle with the Spanish Armada. Finally, you will explore the intense rivalry between the East and West in the aftermath of World War II and the era of the Cold War, which gives you a real insight how and why Europe looks the way it does today.

Course overview of history

- Crime and Punishment Through Time c.1000-present
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91
- Early Elizabethan England 1558-88
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

How will I be assessed in history?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Paper 1: Crime and Punishment in Britain c1000-present and Whitechapel c1870-c.1900: Crime, policing and the inner city	1 hour 15 minutes	52	30%
Paper 2: Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91 and Early Elizabethan England 1558-88	1 hours 45 minutes	64	40%
Paper 3: Weimar & Nazi Germany 1918-39	1hr 20 minutes	52	30%

What skills will I develop in history?

You will develop and deepen your knowledge and understanding of history, explain and analyse historical events, develop your analytical skills of different sources and compare and evaluate the different ways the past has been interpreted by historians.

Why should I study history?

Only history can provide the answers for why the world is the way it is today! In today's world, we must have the skills necessary to scrutinise reliable information, which is a key part of investigating the past. History is a subject that is deeply rooted in debate and argument, which means it compliments many other option and core subjects.

Which career pathways will history lead to?

The study of history leads to jobs in professions such as the law, journalism, public relations, accountancy, the Civil Service and marketing amongst others. It is respected by both universities and employers.

Who should I contact for more details about history?

Mrs Chaddock— rchaddock@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Media Studies

What is the qualification?

Level 2 AQA media studies

What will I learn in media studies?

Not only is media studies interesting and relevant, it gives you valuable skills to help understand the world around you. You can apply many of these skills to GCSE English too – students often do better in English when they take media studies as well.

Course overview of media studies:

Exam 1 (35%): Exam 2 (35%):

- Multiple choice questions assessing breadth of knowledge;
- Short answer questions assessing in depth knowledge;
- An extended response question assessing in depth knowledge.

Coursework (30%)

- A media product for an intended audience e.g. film, animation, advert etc.

How will I be assessed in media studies?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Paper 1	90 minutes	84	35%
Paper 2	90 minutes	84	35%
Coursework		72	30%

What skills will I develop in media studies?

Employers look for the following qualities: effective communication; team work; problem-solving; analytical skills; flexibility and adaptability; decision-making; independent judgement; logical argument; enquiry and research skills; imagination and creativity; IT skills and ability to relate issues to a wider context. Media studies can give you the opportunity to develop in all of these areas.

Why should I study media studies?

GCSE media studies engages students in the in depth study of media products in relation to the four areas of the theoretical framework:

- media language
- media representation
- media industries
- media audiences.

Students are required to study media products from all of the following media forms:

- audio-visual forms (TV, film, radio, advertising and marketing, video games and music video);
- online forms (social and participatory media, video games, music video, newspapers, magazines, advertising and marketing);
- print forms (newspapers, magazines, advertising and marketing).

Which career pathways will media studies lead to?

Media studies supports a broad range of careers in advertising, broadcasting, journalism, editorial, events, information, market research and writing.

Who should I contact for more details about media studies?

Ms D Arden-Hunt - darden-hunt@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Music (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

Level 2 OCR GCSE qualification in music

What will I learn in music?

The course offers you the chance to reflect on and develop key musical skills through performing, composing and listening. You will develop your skills as a solo and ensemble performer, where you will explore and understand how to be an effective performer in different contexts. You will gain a more in-depth understanding of your instrument/ voice and how to compose successfully for it. You will learn how to use technology to perform and create music and will record your final pieces using professional music equipment. To support your development as a well-rounded musician, theoretical skills will be built on through studying music from around the world, classical conventions. Pop and film music.

Course overview of music

- **Integrated portfolio:** performance on your chosen instrument/voice **and** composition for your instrument/voice;
- **Practical component:** ensemble performance **and** composition to a brief set by OCR;
- **Listening and appraising:** aural recognition and context of unheard/unfamiliar music from within for areas of study.

How will I be assessed in music?

Title	Component	% contribution
Integrated portfolio:	Performing (solo)	15
	Composition 1 (for your instrument/voice)	15
Practical component	Performing (ensemble)	15
	Composition 2 (to a brief set by OCR)	15
Examination	Listening and appraising	40

What skills will I develop in music?

Employers look for the following qualities: communication, teamwork, creativity, independence, problem solving, application of IT, business/customer awareness and application of numeracy and literacy. Music will give you the opportunity to develop all of these skills. Music specific skills will include: increased proficiency and confidence as a performer and a composer, excellent skills in music theory (reading notation), the ability to use Italian music keywords as standard, and a real sense of discipline/ability to self-reflect critically when it comes to practicing your own instrument. [NB. students must take instrumental/vocal lessons during the course as well as attend regular ensemble rehearsals.]

Why should I study music?

GCSE music will enable you to develop musicianship through opportunities to perform, compose and appraise within a variety of musical styles. You will have the chance to pursue your musical passions with a focus on enhancing your instrumental/vocal skills. You will have the opportunity to work with other like-minded musicians to create exciting and engaging collaborative performances. GCSE music will allow you to build on the skills you have already as an instrumentalist/singer within a creative and encouraging environment.

Which career pathways will music lead to?

Music can lead to a career in the music industry and music education; however, the skills you will be developing could support you in any number of career pathways. Of students graduating with a music degree, 50% go onto careers in completely unrelated fields; 25% become teachers or education professionals and 25% find employment in artistic, literary and media occupations.

Who should I contact for more details about music?

Mrs A Grearson - agrearsn@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Physical Education (AQA GCSE)

What is the qualification?

GCSE Physical Education

What will I learn in GCSE Physical Education?

During the 2 years, you will gain a greater understanding of the theoretical concepts around Physical Education. You will gather knowledge of the principles of training, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, commercialisation of sport, ethical issues in sport and applied anatomy and physiology.

Course overview of GCSE Physical Education:

Paper 1 – Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport.

- Applied anatomy and physiology • Movement analysis • Physical training • Use of data

Paper 2- Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

- Sports psychology • Socio-cultural influences • Health, fitness and well-being • Use of data

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport .

How will I be assessed in GCSE Physical Education?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport	1 hour 15 minutes	78	30%
Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport	1 hours 15 minutes	78	30%
Practical performance in physical activity and sport		100	40%

What skills will I develop in GCSE Physical Education?

Employers look for the following qualities: Problem solving; effective organisational skills; good time management; numeracy & literacy skills; persistence; ICT skills; resilience; observational techniques; good listening skills and the ability to relate issues to a wider context.

Why should I study GCSE Physical Education?

Elite sport has embraced sport science disciplines wholeheartedly in the past few decades, moving from a perspective which assumed the primacy of natural talent in producing outstanding performance, to one which considers every minute detail of an athlete's training programme, rest time, environment and psychology in the pursuit of excellence.

Which career pathways will GCSE Physical Education lead to?

The knowledge you will gain at sport science will allow you to move on to complete AS/A2 level physical education. It can help lead into a career in a number of sports areas such as teacher, coach, personal trainer or a sport psychologist.

Who should I contact for more details about GCSE Physical Education?

Mr B McKeivitt - bmckevitt@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Religious Studies (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

AQA GCSE Spec A (9-1) Religious Studies (RS)

What will I learn in GCSE RS?

Learners are required to study **two** major world religions which will be Christianity and Islam. The focus of study for each religion is on 'beliefs and teachings' and 'practices'. Learners will study different philosophical and ethical arguments and their impact and influence in the modern world. These will include topics such as abortion, euthanasia, causes of war, world peace, terrorism, causes of crime, punishment of crime, the death penalty and include the analysis of well known case studies throughout these.

Course overview of GCSE RS

Beliefs/teachings & Practices

Learners are required to study **two** religions: At JOG, we will study Christianity and Islam alongside four themes:

- Relationships and families
- Crime and Punishment
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion and Life

How will I be assessed in RS?

Title	Length	Number of marks	% contribution
Beliefs and teachings & practices Christianity and Islam	1 hour 45 mins	96 marks (+6 SPaG)	50%
Thematic Studies	1 hour 45 mins	96 marks (+3 SPaG)	50%

What skills will I develop in GCSE RS?

A GCSE in RS provides a suitable foundation for the study of religious studies or related courses in further education. Skills gained from the qualification would help to equip learners for further studies in the range of humanities, arts or social sciences subjects, such as A level history, English, or psychology for example. A GCSE in RS provides a suitable foundation for the study of religious studies at AS level and A level.

Equally, it is suitable for preparing learners for the world around them. The course is designed to develop critical and reflective thinking with respect to religious diversity and encourage an awareness of the importance of religious beliefs, teachings and practices. RS is an excellent qualification to prepare learners for employment and give learners personal growth and engagement in learning.

Why should I study GCSE RS?

Religion and people's different religious beliefs still have an extensive impact on the world today. Religion affects how people treat others and what they think is right or wrong. People can do good and bad things in the name of religion. This course will enable you to understand in greater depth the beliefs of the religions of Christianity and Islam which still have influences on our world today. In addition, it is an interesting subject dealing with real issues and provokes thought and evidence-based discussion.

Which career pathways will RS lead to?

A very wide range of careers are open to you: Journalism, writer, business owner, teacher, university lecturer, Civil Service, law, politics, international development, research and marketing to name a few!

Who should I contact for more details about RS?

Mrs Chaddock - rchaddock@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Separate Sciences (GCSE)

What is the qualification?

You will obtain a Separate Science GCSE in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

By choosing this course you will gain 3 separate GCSE Qualifications, one Biology, one Chemistry and one Physics as opposed to two GCSE grades in Combine Science.

What will I learn in science?

In separate science you will delve further into individual topics covering some aspects of the Combine Science course in more depth or detail. In Chemistry you would cover nanoparticles and glass and ceramics, in Biology you would discover how to culture microorganisms and in Physics you would learn about the solar system, the life cycle of a star and about how the universe began.

Course overview of Separate Sciences

Below are some of the additional topics covered in Separate Science GCSE:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antibodies and medicine • Growing bacteria • The brain and eye • The kidney • DNA and genetics • Cloning and biotechnology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haber process • Fertilizers and Fuel cells • Alkenes & alcohols • Polymers • Identifying ions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrared radiation • Nuclear fission and fusion • Moments, levers and gears • Ultrasound and seismic waves • Light waves

How will I be assessed in Separate Sciences?

As in Combined Science you will sit a total of 6 Science exams in total. However, to assess the extra content the exams are longer and will be 1 hour 45 minutes each.

What skills will I develop in Separate Science?

Separate Science will help build your analytical, practical and logical thinking skills. You will enhance your evidence-based thinking and learn to evaluate scientific theories of past, present and future.

Why should I study Separate Sciences?

Separate science builds your ability to problem-solve. It enhances methodical thinking and builds on supporting answers with evidence and scientific research. It will allow you to enhance your love of Science and your understanding and appreciation of the world around us.

Which career pathways will Separate Sciences lead to?

Whilst A levels across the Sciences can be studied from Combined Science, having Separate Sciences mean you have more detailed knowledge of certain aspects.

The skills, knowledge and strategies that science graduates obtain can make them employable within virtually any type of organisation. There are a wide range of career pathways available from studying science. These can include fields such as forensic science, pharmaceuticals, veterinary science, medicine, biomedicine, zoology, bioinformatics, artificial intelligence, agriculture, manufacturing, aviation and marine biology.

Who should I contact for more details about Separate Sciences?

Mrs F Keeley-Green - keeley-green@johnogaunt.excalibur.org.uk

Frequently Asked Questions...

Q. Why can't my son/daughter opt for one extra subject as he/she can't decide which ones to study?

A. He/ she will have a full timetable already when making subject choices; there is no space in the academic week to include a further option choice.

Q. My child knows what he/she wants to do when he/she leaves John O'Gaunt so why does he/she have to follow all of the compulsory subjects?

A. John O'Gaunt considers all the subjects it offers important to the rounded development of your child. The world of work that they will enter will require a much wider and adaptable skill base than that of the past.

Q. Why is this happening now? What if my son/daughter wishes to change his/her mind before next year?

A. We appreciate that some students may wish to make changes as the year continues and there **MAY** be an opportunity for some alternations to be made to a student's choices; **this would be dependant on the size of the classes at the time of the decision to choose another subject and therefore cannot be guaranteed.**

Q. Where can our child get more advice?

A. There are many people that your child can go to for help and advice. He/she can speak to subject teachers, tutors, friends and, of course, yourselves.

Q. This is so different to when we were at school. How can you guarantee that our son/daughter will get the subject that he/she chooses?

A. We try to make the options as personalised as we can. Every effort is made to ensure that your child is able to study the subjects he/she has opted for. **However, if there are not sufficient numbers to make up a class, then that subject will not be offered and your child will be allocated to their reserve choice where possible.**

Q. My Child has additional educational needs. How will he get his specialist teaching at KS4?

A. Each student requiring specialist teaching is considered on an individual basis and decisions are made in partnership with the family on when specialist teaching takes place.

Q. What would happen if my child, once working in an option subject, realises that he/she has made a mistake?

A. We would hope after careful consideration and discussion, that this would not happen but if your child is unhappy with their choice of subject, it is possible within the **first few weeks** to move to another course if the numbers on that course allows.

Q. How is homework set at KS4?

A. At KS4, the type and volume of work done at home is both varied and demanding. Students will be expected to prepare for the next lesson whilst at the same time, completing work that could be the culmination of several weeks of study at home. This is very much subject dependent.

Q: Will my son/daughter study dual or triple award science?

A: Every year 9 student is currently studying the same content which is called trilogy. This is the dual or double award qualification which is two GCSEs. Students wishing to study triple award science, now known as 'separate sciences' should choose this as part of their options. The additional content required for separate science awards will be studied in these lessons to supplement the work done in core science lessons

'You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You're on your own,
And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.'
-Dr Seuss, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*

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