

Saint Nicholas School

Key Stage 4



Your guide to Key Stage 4 subjects & Option Choices

2010-2012

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OPTIONS CALENDAR

Spring Term 2010

Wednesday 13th January

Meeting for parents and students to explain the Options process. Publication of subject Information Booklet

February

Further discussions, videos and interviews in Careers lessons.

Early March

Letter to parents re possible option groupings and exam results

Monday 15th March

Parents' Evening. Year 9 students to attend

Thursday 18th March

Letter to parents - suggested option combinations for each pupil.

Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th March

Final Interview appointments with Careers staff (if necessary) - for parents and students.

Summer Term 2010

Wednesday 28th April

Letter to parents - firm option choices. To be signed and returned by Wednesday 5th May

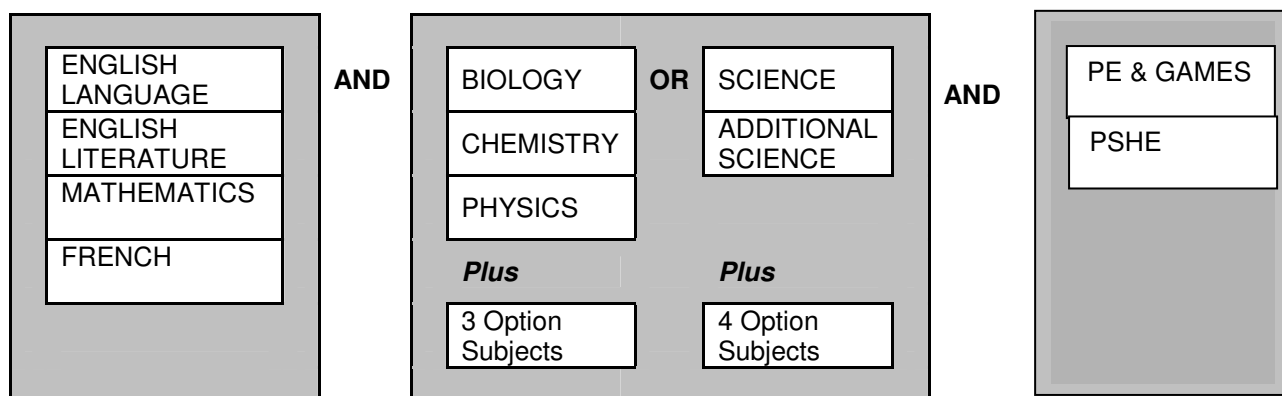
KEY STAGE 4 SUBJECTS

Introduction

All students at Saint Nicholas follow a ten subject programme of G.C.S.E. courses. These must be carefully selected for each individual to best match her/his aptitudes and abilities.

The teaching timetable is organized with the students' preferences in mind, but it is obvious that all students cannot always be accommodated in ten free choices. In these cases, the timetable is formulated to satisfy the maximum number of individuals, bearing in mind general educational aims.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is made up of Core Subjects, Option Choice Subjects as well as other additional study areas. This is shown below.



Core Subjects

Everyone must study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, French. There is also a choice (guided by advice from the Science Department) of Core/Additional Science or 3 Separate Sciences, Physics/Biology/Chemistry.

Option Subjects

Each pupil should aim for a balanced set of options, which best fits their needs and abilities. So therefore it might be a good idea for many studying nine tough academic subjects, to think seriously of a more creative option for their tenth.

In addition to the core subjects, each pupil must eventually choose three/four from the following Option Subjects

Geography, History, Art, ICT, Design & Technology, Drama, Food Technology, Music, Latin, German and PE.

These subjects will be arranged in subject groupings for time tabling by March, and final decisions will be made by the beginning of the Summer Term.

Other Subjects

During Year 10, students also have weekly lessons in Games, Physical Education and Personal & Social Education. Personal & Social Education includes talks, videos and discussions on important aspects of personal and social development and includes such topics as Police Talks, Money Matters, Discrimination, Citizenship, Healthy Living, Relationships and Moral Issues, Family Planning and AIDS, Child Care, etc. as well as Careers. The Careers programme in Year 10 focusses on Work Experience and there is an Interview Day for pupils to sharpen their employability skills.

Subjects

The staff have all contributed a short introduction to their subject at G.C.S.E. to help with your decision making. The students are given extra information in subject lessons and during Careers lessons.

There were new GCSE courses in all option subjects from September 2009 and new courses in Maths/English/ICT in 2010. The key new elements in the GCSE course are the replacement of coursework with a scheme of controlled assessment and the introduction of modules for all subjects, some of which can be sat in Year 10.

Awarding Body

There are major changes in all of the examination boards' specifications for English for 2010. The English department are currently reviewing the different specifications on offer to find a board that suits the needs of our pupils at St Nicholas.

Overview

Students will receive 2 GCSEs: GCSE English Language plus GCSE English Literature.

The exam boards offer a myriad of different options but below are set out the elements of the GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature that are common to all of the examination boards.

- A study of non-fiction and media texts
- Creative writing in a given style
- A study of texts from different cultures
- Non-fiction writing for a specified purpose
- A test of students' speaking and listening skills
- A study of spoken language, similar to linguistics
- A study of prose texts from our Literacy Heritage
- A study of poems from an anthology
- A comparative study of a Shakespeare play, with another text
- A study of modern prose or modern drama.

Assessment

In a change from previous years, coursework has been replaced by controlled assessments, completed in class time.

Both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature are assessed in a combination of both controlled assessment and external examination.

Awarding Body

All students take science in Years 9, 10 and 11, following the AQA Modular 4460 Science Award specification. This is in accordance with the Government recommended science curriculum for students to the age of 16.

Overview

The course occupies 20% of the teaching week and results in the award of GCSE subject grades. Students attaining high grades will be suitably prepared for A Level studies.

The course consists of 12 units, which cover aspects of Biology B1-3, Chemistry C1-3 and Physics P1-3.

Assessment

Units

There will be an internally marked exam at the end of Year 9. Externally marked units will take place in Year 10 and 11. These tests occur in November, March and June (objective tests). The dates are fixed by the awarding body and cannot be altered. However, any unit tests missed through illness may be taken on one of the later test dates (in addition to those already being taken).

Examination

The remaining units are examined in January and June of Year 10 and 11, along with questions involving applications and skills from the whole unit. The unit tests account for 75% of the total mark. Examination papers are set at 2 different levels of difficulty. Candidates are entered appropriately for each module.

Centre Assessed Units – CAU (Investigative Skills Assessment – ISA)

CAU accounts for another 25% of the total mark, and will involve the assessment, during lesson time, of practical skills. These include: using scientific knowledge using and organising equipment, materials and techniques; observing, measuring and recording results, and the interpretation and evaluation of these results. Most of these skills are assessed using students' own ideas for investigations, so creativity and initiative are of great importance. The student is assessed by a written controlled test (45 minutes) based on the practical set by the awarding body.

Awarding Body

The department follows the Edexcel syllabus.

Tier of Entry

The students are prepared for the higher or foundation tier of entry.

Assessment

This consists entirely of three modular exams. Every exam consists of two papers (calculator and non-calculator).

Texts/Resources

The Hodder Murray Mathematics course is followed. Pupils are each given two text books and a 'Personal Tutor' CD Rom for help with their homework.

The Lonsdale Series is used for revision purposes.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Subjects

FRENCH and GERMAN

It is compulsory for all G.C.S.E. students to study French.

Awarding Body

We will be following the OCR Board Specifications for both French and German. The following information relates to both French and German.

Assessment

Students must study four skills: *Listening, Speaking, Reading* and *Writing*.

Listening Comprehension

This will account for 20% of the total mark for French or German. Students will be examined by a terminal examination at the end of Year 11. Students will be entered for either Higher or Foundation Tier.

Reading Comprehension

This will account for 20% of the total mark for French or German. Students will be examined by a terminal examination at the end of Year 11. Students will be entered for either Higher or Foundation Tier.

Speaking

This will account for 30% of the total mark for French or German. Students are required to submit two speaking tasks. The tasks and preparation for the tasks must be completed in school under controlled conditions. Each speaking task will last approximately four to six minutes and will be differentiated by outcome. The speaking task will consist of a topic about which each student will talk. This topic will then be discussed with the teacher. Students will have two hours in which to prepare the task in class during lesson times. During this time, they will have access to certain reference material. They will be able to make notes that they may use during the final task. These notes should contain no more than forty words. The final task will then be conducted and recorded by the relevant teacher.

Writing

This will account for 30% of the total mark for French or German. Students are required to submit two pieces of writing. Students aiming for C to A* grades must submit up to six hundred words in total. The writing and preparation of the writing must be completed in school under controlled conditions. Students will be informed of the writing task. They will then have two hours in which to prepare the task in class during lesson times. They will have access to reference material. They will be able to make notes that they may use for the final

version of the task. These notes should contain no more than forty words. After the preparation time students will then be given up to one hour to write up their work. During this time they will have access to a bilingual dictionary as well as their notes.

LATIN

Awarding Body

The department follows the OCR syllabus J281.

Overview

From Year 7 students study the Cambridge Latin Course, which gives an excellent introduction, not only to the language, but also the life of the Ancient Romans, basing the information as far as possible on solid archaeological facts.

Pupils continue to study the Cambridge Latin Course at Key Stage 4.

Entry Tier

There are two tiers of entry – Foundation and Higher Tier. Candidates may combine units taken at different tiers.

Assessment

The course is assessed by four units. Pupils must sit both Language units and two units from Prose Literature, Verse Literature and Sources for Latin. Pupils may sit all units in a single examination series or a staged assessment, where units are taken in different examination series. Candidates may re-sit any unit once.

Language 1 – 1 hour – 25%

Language 2 – 1 hour – 25%

Latin Prose Literature – 1 hour – 25%

Latin Verse Literature – 1 hour – 25%

Sources for Latin – 1 hour 25%

A vocabulary list is provided for the language papers.

Awarding Body

The department follows the EdExcel History B (Schools History Project) 5HB (01-04).

Overview

This Syllabus is a continuation of work carried out in year 9 and builds on and develops skills acquired in previous years' studies. The syllabus is divided into four units. These are one Depth Study, one Development Study, one Sources Enquiry and one Module on Representations in History.

Development Study

Unit 1 Crime, Punishment and Protest Unit Code 5HB 01

This study examines developments in crime, punishment and protest over a long period. The core of the topic is the change in crimes against the individual and property and the response of authority during three key periods. Crimes studied range from poaching and smuggling to shoplifting and car theft. Also included is an extension unit which will look at changing attitudes to crime which examines witchcraft, the Tolpuddle Martyrs and conscientious objection.

Depth Study

Unit 2 Nazi Germany 1919 – 1945 Unit Code 5HB 02

This examines the development of the Nazi Party in Germany and deals with the conditions in the Weimar Republic which led to the rise of Hitler and the impact Nazism had on the country.

Sources Enquiry

Unit 3 Unit Code 5HB 03

This unit is on Protest, Law and Order in the 20th century.

Representations in History

Unit 4 Unit Code 5HB 04

Looking at the impact of war in Britain 1914-1950

Assessment

Students are assessed through three module exams of 1 hour 15 minutes each, which account for 75% of their total mark and one controlled assessment and task which is supervised at school but researched and developed by the students. Coursework is replaced by Unit 4, which will contribute 25% to the final mark.

Awarding Body

The department follows the EdExcel syllabus A. The format of this is outlined below.

Overview

This course is modular which means that students will be able to take examinations during the course and will be relieved of learning all the material covered for examinations at the end of Year 11. The course enables students to gain a broad geographical knowledge whilst learning cartographic, graphical and ICT skills. They will then be able to apply these skills in their geographical investigation.

Compulsory Units

Unit 1 Geographical Skills and challenges

Section A - Geographical Skills

Section B - Climate Change, Sustainable Development

Unit 2 The Natural Environment

Section A - The Physical World

Section B - Environmental Issues

Unit 3 The Human Environment

Section A – Farming and the countryside

Section B – A tourist's world

Unit 4 Investigating geography –

Controlled Assessment relating to fieldwork

Assessment

The students will be examined at the following examination sessions:

End of Year 10 Unit 2 Exam - 1 hour (25 % of whole exam)

January of Year 11 Unit 3 Exam – 1 hour (25 % of whole exam)

End of Year 11 Unit 1 Exam – 1 hour (25 % of whole exam)

Unit 4 Controlled Assessment mark submitted

(25 % of whole exam) The Controlled Assessment

is the writing up of the geographical investigation.

It is carried out under supervision in class.

Fieldwork

This is undertaken in order to carry out the geographical investigation and to enhance students' understanding of different environments.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Awarding Body

The department follows the OCR syllabus Design & Technology Resistant Materials J306

Overview

Resistant Materials Technology provides opportunities for students to develop an awareness of the significant importance of Design and Technology in a rapidly changing society. It enables students to develop their application of knowledge, skills and understanding of a

resistant Materials Technology focus within an overall design and make approach. The course involves the study and use of materials and processes to make three-dimensional solutions to design problems.

Students are encouraged to work on their own ideas, investigating, researching, planning, making and finally testing what has been produced to see if it fulfils the design specifications. The syllabus is arranged to encourage the development of creative skills and give the opportunity to identify, examine and solve the problems using a variety of materials.

Design Technology can be an important part of a balanced course of G.C.S.E. subjects for both girls and boys. It develops the ability to make choices and to solve problems in a logical way.

Assessment and Examination

The course is divided into four units:

Unit A561 Introduction to Designing and Making

The unit will involve candidates researching, designing and subsequently modelling a functional prototype on a theme set by OCR

It is worth 30% of the total marks. It is a controlled assessment given 20 hours and worth 60 marks.

Unit A562 Sustainable Design

The paper will consist of questions that focus on sustainable design.

It is worth 20% of the total marks. It is a 1 hour written externally examined paper worth 60 marks.

Unit A563 Making Quality Products

The unit will focus on the design and manufacture of a complete product from a theme set by OCR.

It is worth 30% of the total marks. It is a 20 hour controlled assessment worth 60 marks.

Unit A564 Technical Aspects of Designing and Making

The paper will consist of five questions that focus on technical aspects of designing and making.

It is worth 20% of the total marks. It is an externally assessed 1 hour 15 minute written paper worth 60 marks.

DRAMA

Awarding Body

The Department will follow the AQA GCSE in Drama.

Overview

The syllabus aims at enabling students to

Actively engage in the process of dramatic study, developing independent learning as well as critical and reflective thinking.

Work imaginatively and creatively with others.

Evaluate the effectiveness of their own work and that of others.

Develop and demonstrate theatrical, technical, creative and performance skills.

Explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.

Please be aware that additional theatre trip expenses should be considered, as the study of professional live performances is an essential part of the course.

Assessment

Assessment of this course is in 2 units:

Unit 1 is a 1½ hour written exam with three sections which contributes to 40% of the overall mark, and is assessed by an external examiner.

Section A asks the students to reflect on their practical work from Unit 2. This question is compulsory.

Students may then choose a question from either Section B or Section C. Section B requires students to study a scripted play and demonstrate their understanding of performance or technical skills from an actor or designer's perspective. Section C requires students to study a live theatre production and demonstrate their understanding of performance and/or technical aspects of performance.

Unit 2 is a controlled assessment which is internally assessed and externally moderated. It contributes 60% of the overall mark.

Candidates present practical work for two assessment options, each with an equal weighting of 30%.

Controlled assessment options:

Devised thematic work	Acting
Improvisation	Theatre in education
Physical theatre	Masks
Costume	
Puppets	

Assessment of each option is divided into two parts:

Process and understanding of skills development – 7.5%

Final presentation: either performance or demonstration/artefact(s) – 22.5%

ART & DESIGN

Awarding Body

The department follows an O.C.R. syllabus.

Overview

The Art & Design course is geared to help the pupil develop art work in the direction that best suits them. The course is broad based, with a wide variety of activities, media and techniques.

The course provides an appropriate body of knowledge, understanding and skills suitable both for those not intending to study Art further, and for those who wish to take up a career in which an Art & Design background is important.

Assessment

The course is assessed in two ways. There is a coursework component and also an end of course controlled test.

Controlled Assessment

One project has to be produced. This accounts for 60% of the overall mark and consists of a selection of work produced over the two years and it will be examined at the end of the course.

It must show evidence of research, development and realisation of ideas in a variety of ways.

Examination

This contributes 40% of the final mark and consists of a test taken at the end of the course in which a pupil is able to show ability to work independently, within a brief of a specified time limit.

This will provide reliable evidence on which to base an assessment of attainment and achievement.

MUSIC

Awarding Body

The department follows the Edexcel specification 2MU01

Overview

The specification is designed to allow the study of music through the integration of performing, composing, listening and appraising. It recognises that we live in an age of cultural diversity and the Areas of Study cover a wide range of music.

Assessment

Unit 1 – Performing music 30% - Controlled Assessment

Candidates are required to play or sing ONE solo piece and ONE ensemble. The performances are recorded and marked by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel. To access the higher marks available the performances should be approximately Grade 3 standard but candidates do **not** need to have passed grade 3. Candidates will have a maximum of ten hours to complete each performance.

Unit 2 – Composing Music 30% - Controlled Assessment

Candidates are required to compose TWO pieces lasting three minutes in total. Each piece has to be recorded and notated (written down). Compositions are marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board. Candidates will have a maximum of ten hours to complete each composition.

Unit 3 – Music - Listening and Appraising 40%

This is a one and a half hour written paper at the end of the course in which candidates answer questions about recorded extracts of the set pieces studied in the 'Areas of Study'. It is set and marked externally by the exam board. The set pieces range from music by Mozart to West Side Story to Indian Raga. Candidates should be able to read music and have some general musical knowledge before they begin this course.

Areas of Study and Music for Unit 3

1. Western Classical Music 1600-1899
 - music from 'Messiah' by Handel
 - Symphony No 40 by Mozart
 - Piano Prelude by Chopin
2. Music in the 20th Century
 - music by Schoenberg, West Side Story and minimalist music
3. Popular music in context
 - Jazz
 - Rock
 - Club Dance
4. World Music
 - Folk music
 - Indian music
 - African music

Extra-Curricular Activities

GCSE music students will be expected to take part in musical extra curricular activities eg choir.

Awarding Body

The department follows an AQA Syllabus.

Overview

The emphasis in GCSE Food Technology is on investigating, designing, making and evaluating food products. Emphasis is placed on relating these skills and processes to the food industry and their industrial practices.

However, the course also helps develop the ability to make informed choices, when buying, preparing and cooking food, and provides a sound basic knowledge of nutrition, food hygiene, consumer awareness and the way food manufacturers and retailers respond to consumer demands and changing lifestyles.

Practical Work

Practical work tends to form a small part of many lessons. It can take the form of experimental work, comparisons or evaluations of food products, or recipe development and modification.

Assessment

All candidates are assessed by a two hour exam and one major piece of coursework.

Examination

This represents 40% of the marks. A preparation sheet is issued on or after 1st March in the final year, which will give advance notice of the context for most of the questions. Pupils are allowed to research this context before the examination.

Controlled Assessment

This represents 60% of the marks. One major piece of work must be completed which is an extended design and technology task involving designing and making food products. Industrial practices including product development and research, and industrial systems and controls must be included.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Awarding Body

This year heralds the introduction of a new GCSE ICT specification for first teaching in September 2010.

The ICT Department is reviewing the range of new specifications available, and it is likely to follow the course set by OCR.

Overview

At Saint Nicholas School ICT will now be one of the options subjects so it will need to be selected if ICT is required at GCSE level.

The course will include the following:

ICT in Today's World – Candidates study a range of ICT systems using current and emerging technologies – 1 hour written paper worth 20% of the total mark.

Practical Applications of ICT – Candidates select from a range of set tasks to demonstrate their practical ICT ability – controlled assessment 30% of the total mark.

ICT in Context – Candidates study ICT systems in a business or organisation – 1 hour written paper worth 20% of the total mark.

Then one of the following as a controlled assessment worth 30% of the total mark:

Creative use of ICT – multimedia project

Coding a Solution – programming project

Assessment

Controlled assessment replaces coursework in 2010. Examination papers can be sat at various times during the two year course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Awarding Body

The department follows the AQA Syllabus

Overview

This requires the students to take part in a variety of practical activities within the school. These will be in separate lessons and aim to shadow the core pattern of Games/PE within the school eg Rugby/Netball/Hockey/ Swimming/Athletics. Theory lessons will cover the basic physiological, psychological and socio-cultural aspects of PE and sport.

Talented students who are committed to extra-curricular sport and represent the school would score highly. This subject now offers a Double Award for candidates who are strong practically.

Course Content and Assessment

Unit 1 Knowledge and Understanding for the Active Participant (80 marks)

This is a 1½ hour written paper, externally assessed, worth 40% of the total marks.

Section A – Objective tests and short answer questions

Section B – Extended written answers, based on scenario issued as pre-release material prior to the examination.

Unit 2 The Active Participant

This is a controlled assessment worth 60% of the total marks

Four assessments chosen from a multitude of sports. Students can choose from the following ways to participate:

- player/performer
- event organiser
- coach

- official/referee