



MAIDSTONE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
1549 - 2024

GCSE Options Booklet

For Courses Commencing September 2024



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Remember that these choices are important, are up to you and should be made in consultation with your teachers and parents.

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Year 8

This is one of the most exciting and important times in secondary school: choosing your KS4 options. It's the first time you have the opportunity to select subjects to study, so it's essential to think carefully about your choices.

The purpose of this publication is to help parents and students navigate the process of selecting the most suitable courses to follow through to GCSEs. Your selection may include courses familiar to you from Key Stage 3 and courses you have not previously studied. It's important to choose subjects in which you are confident or those you think you will enjoy learning more about. Consider subjects that align with the demands of future careers and university courses you may be interested in. These should reflect the strengths you have demonstrated in Years 7 and 8. Think very carefully about your options and keep the following in mind:



- Consider your current attainment in each subject - choose subjects you enjoy and in which you will likely excel.
- Think about your future career aspirations. Some careers require specific qualifications, so it's important to find out now if you need particular GCSE courses for university admission.
- Be proactive. Seek advice from teachers, friends, and family to learn as much as you can about each course and the potential career paths they could lead to.
- Talk to older students about their experiences with different courses.

What is essential is choosing subjects that you are confident you will enjoy learning more about. Be aware of the most common mistakes students make when choosing their options:

- Choosing subjects because they like the teacher from Key Stage 3.
- Opting for subjects perceived as easy.
- Selecting subjects without genuine interest, often due to parental pressure.
- Choosing subjects merely because their friends have chosen them.

Remember, these choices are significant and should be made after consulting with your teachers and parents. Three years is a long time to study a course, so choose wisely.

Lastly, students at MGS are fortunate to have the opportunity to start their GCSE courses a year earlier than most schools. Make the most of this unique opportunity!

Good luck.

Mr M Tomkins BSc NPQH
Headteacher

Key Stage 4

Our students follow the Key Stage 4 curriculum in Years 9, 10 and 11. Our KS4 curriculum is ambitious and all students follow a programme that will lead to them gaining the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

All students in Year 9 to 11 study at least 11 GCSE subjects based on the following structure:

Compulsory Examination Subjects

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics (Further Mathematics is also studied by the top mathematicians. Further Mathematicians study at least 12 subjects).
- Triple Science (Separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry & Physics)
- A Humanity Subject (History or Geography)
- A Modern Foreign Language (Every student must study a modern foreign language from the two that they have studied at Key Stage 3).
- Religious Studies

Non-EBacc Subjects

All students also study at least one subject from the list of Non-EBacc subjects below:

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Art | Business | Classical Civilisation | Computing |
| Design & Technology | Drama | Film Studies | Food Preparation and Nutrition |
| Latin | Music | Physical Education | Sociology |

Additional Subjects

In addition, all students study one additional subject from:

- a second Modern Foreign Language
- Geography or History
- One more Non-EBacc subject

Non-Examined Subjects

All students undertake non-examined programmes of study in Core PE, Games, and Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE) including Careers Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Assemblies and tutor time also form part of a KS4 student's wider education.

Our MGS Extra programme embeds enrichment in school life for every Maidstonian and activities, clubs and societies run by teachers and students are enjoyed by all Year 9, 10 and 11 students.

How to Choose

Step 1

Note that all subjects in Block A are compulsory.

Block A

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Triple Science | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| English Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| English Language | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mathematics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Religious Studies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Step 2

Choose between History
or
Geography in Block B.

Block B

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| History | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Geography | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Step 3

Choose **ONE** of the two languages that you studied at KS3 in Block C.

Block C

| | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| French | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| German | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Spanish | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Step 4

Choose one Non-EBacc from Block D and one more from Block D **or** Block E.

Block D

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Film Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Business | <input type="checkbox"/> | Food & N | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Classics | <input type="checkbox"/> | Latin | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Computing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D&T | <input type="checkbox"/> | PE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sociology | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Block E

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| French | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Geography | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| German | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| History | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Spanish | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CEIAG

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

All Year 8 students receive the following Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) as part of the options process:

- During year group assemblies students are informed of the options process where the significance of their options choice is highlighted and the entire process is explained.
- Attend a Year 8 Careers Day, where students take part in a number of different careers related lessons to help them get ideas about careers that might interest them, think about making decisions and choices, help develop teamwork and employability skills and start thinking about working life as a young adult. They meet the school Careers Adviser and external Careers Advisers from the CXK Service and are shown how to use the careers software programme, Morrisby Careers, to help them develop and research career ideas.
- Subject Presentation Assembly - a range of subjects present to all Year 8 so that students gain a deeper understanding of what the subject will be like at Key Stage 4. This includes subjects students have not studied before such as Business, Classical Civilisations, Film Studies and Sociology.
- Careers lessons in PSHCE to help them start to develop their financial management skills, including budgeting and banking and learn about rights & responsibilities at work, discrimination and stereotyping.
- Career related discussions in each subject to show them how the skills they gain in each subject is useful in developing their employability and which subjects may be useful for different careers. This may include presentations from external organisations.
- Information about GCSE option choices through a Year 8 Parents' Evening, Options Evening and GCSE subject talks in school.
- Have the opportunity to speak to the school Careers Adviser, Mrs Acaster (careers@mgs.kent.sch.uk) if they have any questions about careers and education choices. They can also have additional support from an external Careers guidance service provider, CXK Ltd.
- Access to our excellent school careers library and the careers section of the school website, which includes links to useful careers software and websites such as the National Careers Service and Fast Tomato.

Useful Links:

<https://www.morrisby.com/> (All Year 8s are registered on this site and have their own account which they can use for the rest of their time in MGS).

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Further information can be provided by our Careers Adviser Mrs Acaster. Email: careers@mgs.kent.sch.uk

What Happens Next?

1. Careers Day & Subject Presentations - Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 December 2023
2. Options Booklet shared with students via Teams - Friday 8 December 2023
3. Options Booklet shared with parents - Friday 8 December 2023
4. Year 8 Assessment Report #1 Published - Friday 15 December 2023
5. Year 8 Information Evening - Thursday 4 January 2024
6. Internal Deadline for Teacher Recommendations - Friday 26 January 2024
7. Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening - Tuesday 30 January 2024
8. Deadline for GCSE Options Form - Thursday 8 February 2024
9. Year 8 Assessment Report #2 Published - Friday 22 March 2024
10. Option Choices Published (Draft 1) - Term 5

On the following pages you will find course descriptions for each Key Stage 4 subject. Carefully read these and do ask the Head of Departments indicated in the subjects entries questions if you have any.

If you have any questions about the options process then please do not hesitate to contact Mr D Martin who is responsible for the options process and timetabling. You can contact him directly via email: DGM@mgs.kent.sch.uk

Art

AQA Exam Board

The study of Art is academic and rigorous. Art is an important way a society generates a visual culture. It can celebrate life and being part of a particular society. It can create a more visually stimulating world. Art at its best can produce something of beauty or visual richness. It is also a means to explore ideas and promote positive discussion around viewpoints. It can be a way to escape present reality and imagine a better world.

All GCSE Art students are encouraged to ask questions and to demonstrate their technical skills in a variety of practical and creative ways. Whilst on the course, students will be introduced to new techniques and ways of working within the disciplines of drawing, painting, design, photography and 3D/sculpture. Art is strongly recommended for careers in architecture, city planning and engineering, computer game design, photography, medical illustration, animation and SFX, website design, primary education, art therapy and the fine arts.

What goals do we desire for our students in their study of Art and Design?

- To learn to create their own visual world in a skilful way through use of the formal elements of Art – line, value, shape, colour, pattern, form, texture, space, composition, perspective
- To develop imagination, originality, curiosity, and playfulness in creating their own unique visual world
- To communicate their own viewpoints, ideas, and concepts through visual means in their sketchbooks.
- To discern and critically engage with others' Art, including from their peers, from other times and cultures, and from artists in contemporary western society
- To enjoy and be passionate about an aspect of Art and Design either through critical engagement and appreciation or through creating and making.

Assessment of Art has two components:

- **Coursework (60% weighting):** you will compile portfolios of work based around thematic projects that are initially set by your teacher, leading to self initiated projects later in the course.
- **The Examination (40% weighting)** is comprised of a prep period of 14 weeks and culminates with a ten hour practical; the examination allows for the student to select his own theme and explore ideas with greater independence.

All Art students are eligible for both school-based and public exhibitions and our artists have compiled an impressive track record of prize winnings, university placements and successful careers.

Where Art can take you...

Covering a vast range of skills and talents, art is a diverse subject that can help you turn your creative passion into a money-making career. The UK's creative sector is internationally famous and there are lots of opportunities to prove your worth.

Employers include: advertising firms, branding specialists, design consultancies and studios, media and communication companies, packaging companies, PR agencies, publishing companies, museums, local authorities, schools, colleges and hospitals. Some graduates set up their own studios and work as exhibiting artists or work as part of a studio collective.

Career Ideas: advertising, architecture, animation, fine arts, graphic designer, illustration, fashion & textile design, stage & set design, exhibition design, games design, web design, UX designer, VFX artist, art therapy, conservator, museum/gallery curator, production design, interior & spatial design, printmaker, medical illustrator, multimedia specialist, photography, arts administrator, digital marketer, creative director and much more.

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Art-DT-Gatsby4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr M Jones**.

Art

Business

Business

AQA Exam Board

Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour.

Students will apply their knowledge and understanding to business decision making including:

- The interdependent nature of business activity, influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, and how these interdependencies underpin business decision making;
- How different business contexts affect business decisions;
- The use and limitation of quantitative and qualitative data in making business decisions.

Assessment:

- 2 x 90 minute exams – 90 marks – 50% of GCSE each paper
- Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity
- Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity
- Each paper comprises of: multiple choice questions; short answer questions; case studies with accompanying questions

Where Business can take you...

The skills you gain in business enable you to have a positive and effective impact on your employer's organisation

Industries as diverse as chemicals, utilities, fashion, health, grocery and construction all require functional business managers with a clear understanding of systems, efficiency and operational issues. Opportunities exist in management and analysis roles with employers in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

Career Ideas: actuarial work, arbitrator, business advisor/analyst, management, accountancy, investment banking, data analyst, forensic accountant, insurance underwriter, consultancy, project manager, risk manager, stockbroker, supply chain manager, logistics & distribution manager, construction manager, auditor, Human Resources manager, marketing executive, mortgage advisor, retail manager, sales executive

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Business-Economics-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr E Seymour**.

Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation

OCR Exam Board

Classical Civilisation is the study of the Ancient Greek and Roman civilisations. This is a particularly diverse and fascinating subject covering many different aspects of the ancient world including literature, ancient history, art, architecture and archaeology.

The specification for the new GCSE Classical Civilisation has been revised for first examination in 2019. The new course is comprised of two units, studied over years 9 and 10 and revised and extended in year 11. The first unit covers a thematic study of Myth and Religion of Greece and Rome. In addition to learning about the gods and hero cults, temples, sacrifice and festivals, we study foundation myths of Athens and Rome and myths as symbols of power.

The second unit focuses on either City Life in Ancient Rome, in which students will study the different strata of Roman society, politics, daily living and entertainment, or The Homeric World, in which students study sections of the Odyssey alongside the archaeological evidence of Mycenaean society.

An in depth study of ancient literary and artistic sources is a requirement of both units as the ability to analyse primary source material is a key skill of a classical education. Students will gain an in depth knowledge and understanding of the topic areas studied and develop their written skills to write essay and context question responses.

Classical Civilisation is enjoyed by many students across the school and is supported by a variety of enrichment opportunities. It is also available for further study at A Level should students wish to pursue their studies beyond GCSE.

Where Classical Civilisation can take you...

Classics develops your intellectual flexibility and analytical thinking skills. The breadth of this subject makes you attractive to many employers.

These include: art centres and theatres, financial institutions, heritage and cultural organisations, local and national government, legal firms, libraries, museums, the police, publishing houses, research and information organisations, schools & universities.

Career ideas: academic research, teacher/lecturer, museum/gallery curator, archivist, archaeology, law, civil service, accountancy, events management, heritage management, publishing and editing, journalism, media, marketing & public relations, fundraising campaign manager, politics, management consultancy and more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Classics-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from Miss E Adams.

Computer Science

Computer Science

OCR Exam Board

This is a course that has real relevance in our modern world. It will give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on “behind the scenes” of the processor. As part of this course you will investigate computer programming, which builds upon the Scratch and small Basic programming covered in Years 7 and 8.

The Computer Science GCSE is appropriate to the modern and changing world of computing. Computer Science is both a practical and theoretical subject, where you can apply your knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement.

Through the study of computer programming, you will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. These skills will prepare you to go on to study Computer Science at A Level and beyond. The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills, such as engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

The method of assessment currently consists of 2 written papers; Computer Systems and Computational Thinking, and Algorithms and Programming, each contributing 50%. You will have the opportunity to complete several challenging programming projects throughout the course.

A programming project must also be completed.

Where Computer Science can take you...

Studying computing opens up a range of careers from applications development to web design.

Common employers are IT consultancies and IT service providers. However, as most businesses rely on computers to function effectively, there are also opportunities within the IT departments of major organisations across all sectors such as aerospace & defence, agriculture, financial services, healthcare, manufacturing, government, media, retail, telecommunications etc. You could also be employed by a company specialising in software engineering/development or other areas of IT.

Careers Ideas: applications, cybersecurity, data analyst, forensic computer analyst, games design & development, software engineering, systems analyst, web design & development , UX design, business analyst, IT consultancy, nanotechnology, network engineer, telecommunications, education and many more

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Computing-Gatsby4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr K Young**.

Design & Technology

EDEXCEL Exam Board

The subject develops a broad range of knowledge and a wide variety of technological skills. You will also develop both your problem solving and designing skills. There is a great deal of variety and freedom in the work undertaken, much of which is practical. You will find a great sense of achievement in the designing and manufacturing of a range of products

The GCSE in Design and Technology enables you to understand and apply iterative design processes through which you explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. It enables you to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering your own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives you opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities. You will acquire subject knowledge in design and technology that builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make, with confidence, prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities. You learn how to take design risks, helping you to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens. You should develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. Through the critique of the outcomes of design and technology activity, both historic and present day, you should develop an understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world and understand that high-quality design and technology is important to the creativity, culture, sustainability, wealth and wellbeing of the nation and the global community.

The assessment has two components:

- Component 1 - An examination that represents 50% of the marks. 1hr 45mins
- Component 2 - Practical and project work 50% of the marks.

Where Design & Technology can take you...

A career in design and technology involves developing creative, tech-based solutions to existing problems. This can mean anything from designing innovative video games to creating indoor living spaces that are both functional and visually appealing. As technology continues to grow and evolve, so does the need for people with strong backgrounds in design technology. Employers include product manufacturers; car manufacturers, designers, retailers. Self-employment, or employment within a design-based consultancy, is also possible.

Career Ideas: architecture, construction, CAD technician, automotive engineer, materials engineer, planning, production, manufacturing, science & technology, interior design, clothing/textile technologist, product design, games design, web design, interior & spatial design, furniture design, conservator/restorer, colour technologist, exhibition design, graphics, robotics, industrial design, advertising and much more

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Art-DT-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information available from **Mr R Alvarez**.

Design & Technology

Drama

Drama

Eduqas / WJEC Exam Board

As a subject, Drama is energetic, expressive and exciting. It is relevant to a wide range of career paths, as it builds confidence, creativity and communication skills. You will work with different people, in different groups, exploring different stories and ideas. This will help you to be an excellent leader, a problem solver, someone who can motivate themselves and those around you. You will be able to express yourself sensitively and eloquently; communicate effectively and respond to others thoughtfully.

In the new curriculum, students are required to complete both practical and theoretical elements of the course. Practical elements include both scripted and devised pieces. Their examination will focus on a set text (currently 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly). Having explored this text in class, they will have to write about it from the perspective of an actor, a director and a designer. In addition, they will review and explore a piece of live theatre that they have seen.

Watching live theatre regularly is a huge help; this can be done with family and friends, but also as part of the school when trips are arranged or our own productions are put on. Students are encouraged, and expected, to participate in extracurricular Drama. This may be by auditioning for a role in a production or helping to run a Drama club.

From week to week your dramatic skills and abilities will be developed and tested through practical and written assessments. During Drama lessons, you will learn how to explore texts through characterisation, strategies and different elements of Drama.

Here is an outline of the three components that you will study:

Component 1 (Devising):

You will work in a group of between three & six to create a devised piece. This is assessed through your performance and a portfolio that you create.

Component 2 (Performance from a Text):

You will interpret a play & perform two extracts from it. This is assessed as a performance by a visiting external examiner, resulting in a final performance.

Component 3 (Theatre Makers in Practice – written examination):

This is written examination on the set text and questions on live theatre. Play texts are not allowed; up to 500 words are allowed to help you with Section B.

Do be aware that Drama is a challenging subject; it requires enthusiasm, self-discipline, mature interaction with others and commitment to rehearsal schedules and deadlines. However, it is both valuable and rewarding. Whether you want to be an investment banker, a lawyer, an engineer or a doctor, Drama supports and develops key skills that are relevant to your future.

Where Drama can take you...

Studying drama can set you up for a career in the performing arts but drama students also use the transferable skills gained from their studies to enter a variety of other professions.

Organisations that often employ drama students include: educational institutions, arts organisations, media companies, hospitality and leisure organisations. Drama students also frequently work in roles not associated with their degree, such as recruitment, marketing and customer services.

Career ideas: acting, broadcast presenter, community arts work, dramatherapy, journalism, runner, film/theatre director, stage/TV management, arts administration, choreography, media research, music producer, special effects technician, talent agent, education, recruitment, marketing and many more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Performing-Arts-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from Mrs G Brooks.

English

English Literature & English Language

AQA Exam Board

Students will study two separate English examinations at GCSE.

The English Language GCSE will focus on the students' ability to write clearly and accurately, in good Standard English. They will be expected to use a range of writing skills, to suit different purposes and audiences. Pupils will also be required to read a wide range of literature and non-fiction texts from a range of genres and types. 20% of the marks for the written exams will be allocated to accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. Speaking skills will also be assessed but will not contribute to the overall grade.

In the English Literature GCSE, students will study at least one Shakespeare play, a nineteenth-century novel, a selection of poetry since 1789, including Romantic poetry, and a further choice of 20th Century fiction or drama. 5% of the marks will be allocated to accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Where English can take you...

The broad set of skills you gain through studying English are marketable in many sectors.

English students find opportunities with many different employers, across a range of public, private and charity sectors, including: administration, advertising, marketing and public relations agencies, media organisations & publishing companies, the NHS, arts management, education, legal firms, local and national government, events management, finance, general management leisure and hospitality, research retail, tourism.

Career ideas: publishing copy-editor, digital/advertising copywriter, editorial assistant, newspaper/magazine journalist, advertising, marketing, teacher/lecturer, EFL teacher, lexicographer, writer, web content manager, media researcher, education consultant, public relations officer, archivist, arts administration, academic librarian, arts and events management, information officer, social media manager, leisure & hospitality, retail, tourism and much more.

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/English-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from Miss N Wilson.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Food Preparation & Nutrition

OCR Exam Board

In today's world the idea of a healthy diet and the nutritional value of certain foods are extremely important. Current food items are coming under more and more pressure to reduce sugar, salt, fat and to warn consumers about the content of their products. The best solution to this is to cook everything you eat from scratch, no pre made and no takeaways, (well maybe on occasion). If you have made the meal yourself, you know exactly what has gone into it and there are few skills more important than that.

In this course you will focus on three key areas:

- Food provenance – where your food comes from
- Nutrition and diet
- Cooking skills

We will focus on the cuisines of a variety of countries in order to consider the above three areas. From fresh made pizza dough, home-made pasta or a hearty wedding soup to a spicy curry, handmade naan breads or filled samosas – this course will cover a wide range of different foods.

Whilst a major aspect of this exciting new GCSE course is cooking, there will also be a portion of research, written responses and theory aspects to this. Designing a menu for different diets in order to ensure the optimum nutritional value, looking at the advantages and disadvantages of exporting food items or designing and adapting recipes to create an original item.

The course is broken down into three parts:

1. An exam looking at a series of issues on food nutrition, provenance and cooking skills worth 50% of the GCSE grade
2. A non-examined assessment task investigating the impact certain ingredients can have upon recipes and cooking – 15% of the GCSE
3. A non-examined assessment task cooking and planning in accordance with a brief set by the exam board – 35% of the GCSE

The department will have a store cupboard of essential ingredients for student use; however, the majority of ingredients will need to be purchased and supplied by the students. If there are any concerns over this matter, please feel free to contact Mr Goddard or Mrs Morton to discuss this further.

The course is perfect for anyone conscious about what they eat, anyone who enjoys cooking or baking, or anyone who sees the food industry as a possible career path. However, at the end of the day, everyone eats, therefore this is perfectly placed to make you a better chef.

Where Food Preparation & Nutrition can take you...

Studying food & Nutrition provides you with the scientific and technical skills needed for a wide range of careers in the food and drink industry, as well as in public health, nutrition and research.

The main employers of food & nutrition students are the hospitality & catering industries, food manufacturers, producers, processors and retailers, local authorities and regulatory bodies, such as the Department for Health, in areas such as food safety, inspection and analysis. The NHS, private health organisations, sport and leisure companies, sports clubs or sports professional associations also employ food & nutrition students, as do areas in the land-based sector, which encompasses agriculture and animals, as well as fresh produce, food service and retail.

Career Ideas: food technologist, food scientist, health & safety Inspector, nutritional therapist, Nutritionist, animal nutritionist, product/process development, production manager, quality manager, technical brewer, chef, sommelier, baker, toxicologist, teacher, procurement manager, research scientist, laboratory technician, hospitality/catering manager, food journalism, market researcher, public health promotion, international aid worker, naturopath, medical sales rep, health service manager, personal trainer, dietitian, herbalist and more..

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Food-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mrs L Morton**.

Film Studies

Film Studies

WJEC Exam Board

Film is an important part of our lives. Those who choose to study it characteristically bring with them a huge enthusiasm and excitement for film which constantly motivates them in their studies. Film inspires a range of responses, from the emotional to the reflective as we are drawn into characters, their narratives and the issues films can raise. The root of that power is the immersive audio-visual experience film offers – one which can exploit striking cinematography, composition and locations as well as powerful music and sound. It is not surprising that many consider film to be the major art form of the last hundred years and one of the most successful, profitable and growing industries today.

Maidstone Grammar School now offers this subject at GCSE level due to the incredible enthusiasm our students have for film. The course is comprised of three key areas of study:

1. An examination on the US film industry allowing for opportunities to study a wide range of films from the 20th and 21st century. This will also look at Hollywood as an industry and allow opportunities to look at both mainstream and independent cinematic texts.
2. An examination on Global cinema with opportunities for both UK and non-English language cinema. This will focus on social and historical context, representations and aesthetics as well as film for entertainment.
3. The Non Examined Assessment (coursework) element of the course involves a piece of filmmaking, allowing the opportunity to take all you have learnt about film structure and construction and put this into practice, creating your own original piece of filmmaking.

This fantastic GCSE course is perfect for students with an enthusiasm for film and will test your analytical, creative and practical skills. Whether you see yourself as a film director or just really enjoy watching film and would like to learn more about it, this is the ideal course.

Where Film Studies can take you...

Studying Film Studies develops your theoretical and technical skills, but you'll need determination and resilience to succeed in the competitive film industry. The most common sectors you may find work in are the media, creative, cultural and heritage industries. As well as traditional destinations in the film and broadcasting industries, you may also be interested in other media sectors such as publishing, journalism and research.

Career Ideas: broadcast presenter, director, producer, film/video editor, location manager, production design, researcher, runner, camera operator, production coordinator, advertising, marketing, arts administration, community arts, festival & cultural events management, journalism, public relations, talent agent, special effects and many more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Film-Media-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr J Goddard**.

Geography

Geography

AQA Exam Board

Geography is concerned with understanding key relationships between people and the natural environment. Studying the subject is therefore important as well as being enjoyable.

The subject content is stimulating and broad, covering a range of physical and human geographical themes, from tectonic hazards to migration.

The Physical Geography topics will support your studies in Science. For example, studying ecosystems will broaden your understanding of Biology. Likewise, learning about why some countries are wealthier than others can aid your understanding of Business Studies.

Geography opens up students to a wide range of careers, including scientific research, business management and urban planning. Apart from the important and varied subject content, the skills that you develop by completing fieldwork investigations are valuable to most work places.

The GCSE Geography course:

Paper 1 – Physical Geography; 1 hour 30 minutes; 35%

Topics:

- Natural hazards and Climate change
- Ecosystems, including Tropical Rainforests and Hot Desert environments
- Rivers and Coasts

Paper 2 – Human Geography; 1 hour 30 minutes; 35%

Topics:

- Challenges and Opportunities of Urbanisation
- The World Economy
- Resource security, including Water security

Paper 3 – Geographical applications; 1 hour; 30%

- Fieldwork analysis and Geographical Skills
- Decision Making Exercises based on Pre-Released material

GCSE Geography courses no longer include written coursework that contributes towards pupils' final grades. However, the school will be running two GCSE fieldtrips, one of which will be a visit to London. One fieldtrip will have a mainly physical geography focus, whilst the other will have a predominantly human focus. Their fieldwork knowledge and skills will be examined in Paper 3, where they will be asked questions about, for example, how primary fieldwork data can be accurately collected and recorded.

Where Geography can take you...

From environmental consultancies to planning departments, geography can lead you into a variety of careers

Geography opens up careers in a range of fields, including those in the education, commerce, industry, transport, tourism and public sectors. You'll also have many transferable skills, attracting employers from the business, law and finance sectors.

Employers include: the armed forces, charities, the Civil Service, environmental consultancies, environmental protection agencies, information systems organisations, local government, Ministry of Defence, police service, private companies, utility companies.

Career ideas: architecture, business analyst, cartographer, data analyst, environmental consultant, Geographical Information Systems Officer, marketing, education, social researcher, town planner, construction manager, landscape architect, nature conservation, palaeontologist, meteorologist, political risk analyst, sustainability consultant, transport/logistics planner

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Geography-Gatsby-4-subjectlinks.pdf>

Further information from **Mrs E Milne**.

History

History

EDEXCEL GCSE

The new History GCSE encompasses a wide range of themes, historical events and eras, so students can understand the past and its impact on the world around us.

Students will cover the thematic study of Warfare and British Society c1250 – present day, with a particular study on London and WW2. Also students will focus on Russia and the USSR 1917-41 and Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91. A Medieval British Depth Study will also be taught to help students compare and contrast politics, economics and society in different eras.

GCSE History builds on the skills acquired in Key Stage 3. Students are expected to use historical terminology and show understanding of the key features, concepts and characteristics of the periods. Students will be taught how to improve their essay style and their evaluation of historical sources, as well as developing an appreciation of different historical interpretations.

The main aims of the course are to develop key academic skills and to further stimulate a sense of enquiry and interest in history, illustrating how essential the subject is to gaining an awareness of contemporary issues and values.

Where History can take you...

History gives you the skills that can take you into a variety of careers from museum, library and heritage work to teaching or accountancy

Other typical employers include: accountancy firms, archive and records offices, banks, charities, international development organisations, law firms, management consultancies, publishing companies, retailers, broadcasters, National and local government and the public services.

Career Ideas: academic research, archivist, heritage management, historic buildings work, conservation, museum/gallery work, teaching/lecturing, archaeology, academic librarian, journalism, law, civil service, publishing & editing, human resources, information officer, marketing, politics and much more..

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/History-Gatsby-4-subjectlinks.pdf>

Further information from **Mr A Wrein**.

Latin

Latin

EDUQAS Exam Board

Latin gives students a fascinating insight into the lives of the ancient Romans through the study of their original language. The course will enable students to read original Latin prose and verse as well as studying aspects of their civilisation.

In Years 9 and 10 students will study the Cambridge Latin Course (Units III-IV) including translations, comprehensions and grammatical exercises. They will also start learning the set vocabulary for the GCSE.

In the second part of Year 10 and throughout Year 11 students will continue to develop their unseen translation skills; however, the emphasis will shift on to the study of original Latin prose and verse literature.

During the course students will read Roman authors in the original Latin; develop their analytical and problem solving skills; deepen their knowledge and understanding of English grammar and vocabulary; develop their knowledge and understanding of Roman society and culture which have had a tremendous influence on our own.

Assessment:

- Latin Language (50% / 1hr 30 minutes)

A written paper requiring candidates to answer comprehension questions on and translate sections of a passage of unseen Latin. Candidates will also be required to complete a short piece of grammatical analysis.

- Latin Literature and Sources – Themes (30% / 1 hr 15 minutes)

A selection of Latin literature (prose and verse) on a set theme, together with prescribed ancient source material on the same theme. This will be prepared and studied in detail during the course in preparation for the exam.

- Roman Civilisation (20% / 1 hr)

Students will study a prescribed topic of Roman civilisation as a non linguistic unit.

Students should have studied Latin previously in Years 7 and 8 to select this course. Students are usually able to take both Latin and Classical Civilisation at GCSE (timetabling constraints allowing) and this has proved a successful combination for those students with a keen interest in the Classical world in the past.

Subject to demand and timetabling constraints, we hope to offer students the opportunity to continue their study of Latin at A Level, if they wish.

Where Latin can take you...

Latin develops your intellectual flexibility and analytical thinking skills. The breadth of this subject makes you attractive to many employers.

These include: art centres and theatres, financial institutions, heritage and cultural organisations, local and national government, legal firms, libraries, museums, the police, publishing houses, research and information organisations, schools & universities.

Career ideas: academic research, teacher/lecturer, museum/gallery curator, archivist, archaeology, law, civil service, accountancy, events management, heritage management, publishing and editing, journalism, media, marketing & public relations, fundraising campaign manager, politics, management consultancy and more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Classics-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from Miss E Adams.

Mathematics

Mathematics

Edexcel Exam Board

The course builds on mathematical knowledge acquired at key stage 3 and further develops investigative, problem solving work and functional skills

The GCSE examination consists of three papers, 1.5 hrs long each: one is a non-calculator paper and the other two calculator papers. There is no Centre-based Assessment requirement for GCSE Mathematics. All students will take the Higher Tier. There will be questions on the exam papers that address the requirements for functional skills in mathematics.

Mathematics is taught in sets. Students are selected for the fast sets on the basis of their assessment and examination results. It should not be assumed that just because a student starts Year 9 in a set 1 that they will continue in this set throughout the three years of KS4; it is likely that there will be set changes throughout Years 9 and 10 as students' relative abilities change.

Where Mathematics can take you...

The logical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills you learn while studying mathematics can lead to careers in computing & IT, business & finance, science & engineering

Mathematicians and statisticians are in demand across a range of sectors including; education, engineering, finance, banking and accountancy, government, insurance, IT, business & consultancy, market research and marketing, medicine and health, petroleum and nuclear industries, space science and astronomy.

Career Ideas: acoustics, actuarial work, astronomy, accountancy, data analysis, data science, banking, investment, research, computing/IT, software engineering, sound engineering/music production, statistician, economist, financial management, trading, stockbroker, games design, insurance underwriting, meteorology, palaeontology, surveying, engineering (all branches), education and much more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Maths-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr A Stone**.

Modern Foreign Languages

Modern Foreign Languages

FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN

AQA Exam Board

GCSE courses teach you to understand and to communicate in the foreign language. They build on the work covered in Key Stage 3 in terms of understanding grammar and developing vocabulary. There are four language skills which are developed in the courses and assessed through examination and non-examination assessment. In brackets below the percentage in brackets indicates how much the assessment in that particular skill is worth in the GCSE exam as a whole.

LISTENING (25%)

You will learn how to listen to recordings in the foreign language and show your level of understanding by completing tasks such as filling gaps in sentences, true/false or multiple choice type questions or answering in the target language.

READING AND TRANSLATION (25%)

You will learn how to read passages in the language and show your understanding in similar tasks to those for Listening. You will also be required to translate a passage from the language into English.

WRITING (25%)

This will be assessed by an examination which consists of completing two writing tasks in the target language. You will be assessed on your ability to write fluently and accurately as well as showing that you can express, develop and justify personal opinions relating to the topics covered in the GCSE syllabus. In addition to the two writing tasks you will be required to translate a passage from English into the language.

SPEAKING (25%)

This will be assessed in a single exam which will be conducted by your teacher, but will be marked externally. It will involve a conversation / role play with the teacher as well as discussion around the GCSE topics you have studied. The emphasis will be on how well you produce spontaneous, fluent and unrehearsed language which gets your message across.

We will offer visits to Spain, France and Germany during the course of Years 9 and 10 so that you can use the language you have learnt in class in real life situations. The skills learnt at GCSE will equip you to embark on an A level course in the language.

Where Languages can take you...

Language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses that trade internationally

Some modern language graduates work on a self-employed basis as interpreters or translators. However, many others are employed by companies who trade or offer services internationally, or to non-English speaking customers and suppliers. Language students are therefore employed by a wide variety of employers and sectors, including: business services, charity work, engineering, media, museums and libraries, public administration, teaching, tourism, transport and logistics.

Career Ideas: Academic researcher, diplomatic service, EFL teacher, intelligence analyst, international aid/development worker, interpreter, political risk analyst, translator, teacher/lecturer, broadcast journalist, detective, education consultant, logistics/distribution management, marketing, Patent examiner, publishing, sales, tour manager and many more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MFL-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr C Zaccarini**.

Music

Music

Edexcel Exam Board

Music is integral to our society and should be considered by everyone who is currently or is planning on practising an instrument (including voice). Those who choose to study this course enjoy the encouragement and development of their skills in performance, composition, listening, and music technology. The areas of study cover a wide range of musical styles including classical, vocal, music for stage and screen, and world fusions.

In Year 9 your musical skills will be developed through performing together in ensembles and individually, as well as completing arrangement and original composition tasks. We shall also consolidate your knowledge of music theory in preparation for the notated parts of the GCSE examination. In Years 10 and 11, we shall study the set works for the GCSE (eight pieces), research the background to those pieces, and develop compositions related to them. To aid this learning we organise a variety of musical and concert trips.

Assessment for the GCSE has three components: Performing (30% of the total mark), Composing (30%) and Listening and Appraising (40%).

- Performing 30%

In Year 11, you will perform one solo piece and one ensemble (group) piece as part of the assessment at the end of the course. Your performances are internally assessed and externally moderated. The pieces chosen in Year 11 should be at a grade 4 standard or higher in order to gain the top marks.

- Composing 30%

At the end of Year 11, you will submit two compositions which must be completed under controlled conditions within school. One of the works is an entirely free choice, whilst the second must be selected from one of four briefs set by Edexcel, each relating to a different Area of Study from the Listening and Appraising unit. These compositions are also internally assessed and externally moderated.

- Listening and Appraising 40%

The assessment for this component consists of a 1 hour 45 minute examination in which you respond to questions based on a CD of recorded extracts. Section A will ask questions based on the set works you have studied, as well as an unrelated question assessing your dictation skills. Section B will assess your ability to describe, compare and evaluate two extracts, one from a set work you will have studied and a second from an unfamiliar piece. Details of the set works can be found on the Edexcel website.

Where Music can take you...

Composing, performing and teaching are just three of the ways you can develop your music career. You can choose to work in a range of professions inside and outside music.

Employers include: music production companies, music retailers, media organisations (including music magazines and licensing bodies), schools and colleges, orchestras, opera companies and touring companies, travel industry companies e.g. hotels, summer camps and cruises; mental healthcare providers and charitable organisations, the armed forces, a range of employers in the cultural and creative industries including film and gaming companies.

Career Ideas: music producer, music therapist, musician, music teacher/tutor, sound designer/engineer, sound technician-broadcasting/film/video, special effects, acoustic consultant, arts administrator, broadcast engineer, choreographer, community arts worker, events manager, marketing, radio producer, talent agent, theatre stage manager and more..

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Performing-Arts-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr J Bourne**.

Physical Education

Physical Education

EDEXCEL Exam Board

GCSE PE is divided into three areas of study:

- Theory (60%)
- Practical Performance (30%)
- Personal Exercise Plan – Coursework (10%)

Theory

Students considering studying PE as a GCSE subject must be competent in all relevant areas of human biology, as it is a key component which provides a large proportion of the overall mark. The theory component of GCSE PE involves areas such as the circulatory system, the respiratory system, the skeletal system, the energy systems, muscles, bones and joints, performance enhancing drugs, impact of the media, sport psychology and data analysis. This component is assessed via two, 90 minute exams based on 'Fitness and Body systems' and, 'Health and Performance' respectively.

Practical Performance

Students are required to be physically able to gain marks in the practical aspect of the course. Students will study approximately ten sports throughout the three year duration of the course. After close examination by the teacher, each student will gain marks for their 'skills in isolation' and 'skills in competition'. Each student will need to be assessed in 3 activities. At least one team sport, one individual sport and one of their choice. In total there are 105 marks available for this aspect of the course, 35 marks for each sport. Final assessment of these sports is made by an external examiner.

Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

The purpose of this component is to assess students' skills in analysing and evaluating performance through a personal exercise programme (PEP) in order to improve/optimize performance in a chosen physical activity. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of training, relevant methods of training and use of data in order to analyse and evaluate their PEP. The PEP will cover a six- to eight-week period, and can relate to any physical activity of their choice from the activities list

Where PE can take you...

Studying PE/Sports Studies opens up career opportunities throughout the sports industry, working with athletes, children or the general public. Jobs are available with a range of organisations in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, including: professional sports clubs, national sporting associations, governing bodies and other related sporting agencies, private health and fitness clubs, spas and public sports and recreation facilities, local authorities, schools, colleges & universities, the health sector, including the NHS. You may choose to enter a career not directly related to sport, such as finance or management.

Career Ideas: exercise physiologist, fitness centre manager, personal trainer, teacher/lecturer, sports administrator, sports coach, sports development officer, sports therapist, choreographer, health improvement practitioner, clinical scientist, nutritionist, outdoor activities instructor, sports psychologist, physiotherapist, events manager, theme park manager, tourism officer, marketing executive, armed forces training & education officer, youth worker,

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/PE-Gatsby-4-subjectlinks.pdf>

Further information from **Mr D Saunders**.

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

AQA Religious Studies A GCSE

All students will study for a full course GCSE in Religious Studies.

All human beings, whether they are religious or not, have beliefs. These beliefs shape our understanding of reality and the way we choose to lead our lives. Religious Studies is a wide ranging, interesting and stimulating subject which explores some fundamental questions, such as whether life has any meaning and purpose, whether or not it is rational to believe in God and ethical questions concerning abortion, euthanasia, animal rights and capital punishment.

The subject develops knowledge and understanding, as well as evaluative skills. It will help students to develop their ability to express their opinions clearly and in an informed way. It will provide students with an insight into a wide range of current affairs and contemporary issues and there are strong cross-curricular links with other humanities subjects as well as science.

The study of RS is academic and objective, using logical thinking and reason with empathy to explore moral and religious matters. Students will find that the subject gets them to think critically about the viewpoint of others as well as their own. It is important to emphasise that students are not encouraged to adopt a particular view – there is a strong emphasis on tolerance and respect for other perspectives.

Any humanities related course or job which requires logical thinking, arguing a case and coming to a conclusion, research skills and dealing with different kinds of people will benefit from the study of RS. Many high ranking universities list RS amongst their preferred subjects at GCSE and A Level. Students with a background in RS may go on to work in banking and financial services, business, law, teaching of many different subjects and professions.

Content

Students study two units:

1) The study of religious beliefs and practices from two world religions:

- Christianity
- Islam

2) The following themes:

- The Existence of God and Revelation
- Religion and Life
- War and Peace
- Crime and Punishment

Further details are available on the AQA website under GCSE Religious Studies A, 2016.

Assessment is through written answers in examination papers at the end of the course with an emphasis on evaluation skills.

Where RS can take you...

Studying religious studies allows you to explore how religious beliefs and practices shape and influence the world we live in. Religious studies students work in a variety of roles in a range of employment sectors

Employers include: the church and other religious organisations, national and local government (including the Civil Service and government agencies); non-governmental organisations (NGOs), schools, colleges and universities; charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations, social services and other caring professions, financial and legal firms, the National Health Service (NHS), publishing and media companies, PR, advertising, sales and marketing companies.

Career ideas: teacher/lecturer, advice worker, archivist, chaplain, charity fundraiser/officer, civil service, community development worker, editing/publishing, equality, diversity & inclusion officer, mediator, journalist, youth worker, law, policy officer

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Social-sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from Miss E Alloy.

Science

Science

Students must study Triple Science (Separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

BIOLOGY

AQA Exam Board

The course aims to develop awareness of the living world and respect for life. We encourage your curiosity and concern about the relationships between organisms, including humans, and their environment. You develop a knowledge and understanding of the anatomy, genetics and physiology of living organisms and study their relationships, as well as the scientific method and the skills necessary for the safe handling of apparatus and biological material. The course relates to National Curriculum Science – Life and Living Processes. As with the other Sciences, you also cover Scientific Investigation.

Assessment is by two written examinations.

CHEMISTRY

AQA Exam Board

Chemistry is central to the most important industries but is fascinating to study just to find out how and why everything around us is the way it is and how the world works. You study natural resources and how these materials can be changed into new and more useful substances and the links with industry, the environment and society. Whilst a sound knowledge of facts is required, the relevance of Chemistry to everyday life is stressed. There is satisfying interplay between fundamental theory and experimentation.

Chemistry is a challenging and interesting course which broadens your experience of science in everyday life. Chemistry at a high level enables you to demonstrate skills sought after in many careers and it is especially useful for careers in medicine.

Assessment is by two written examinations.

PHYSICS

AQA Exam Board

Physics seeks to explain the universe from the smallest particle to the far depths of space. In the course we cover Energy, Waves, Forces, Electricity, Radioactivity, Space and more. Not only does the course appeal to would-be scientists but it also provides an appreciation for the world around us and how it works. An understanding of Physics is useful for students who intend to pursue courses or careers in Engineering, Medicine or Science.

Assessment is by two written examinations.

Where Science can take you...

Biology is a fundamental subject for careers in the science and health sectors but there are many other career routes you can take with this subject.

Employers include: universities and clinical research organisations, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, hospitals, health, conservation and environmental organisations, local authorities, government and public health laboratories, scientific and technical consultancies, schools and colleges, the water industry, museums, science centres and broadcast companies. Many biology students pursue other opportunities in business, finance, the civil service, marketing and sales.

Studying chemistry can lead to jobs in cutting-edge technologies within science and research as well as roles outside the laboratory

There are many different employers of chemistry graduates. Some are within the chemical and related industries, while others are in different sectors that have roles linked to chemistry. You could also be employed in schools, colleges and universities, as well as by computer software development companies, environment consultancies and water companies.

Physics a great starting point for a career in scientific research, as well as in a range of careers in the business, finance, IT and engineering sectors

Employers include: aerospace and defence, education, energy and renewable energy, engineering, health and medicine, manufacturing, meteorology and climate change, nanotechnology, oil and gas, science and telecommunications. Physicists also move into careers outside of science including banking and finance, computing, accountancy, law and transport

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr R Cooper**.

Sociology

Sociology

EDUQAS Exam Board

Sociology is the study of society and involves exploring how human behaviour is shaped by a range of social factors. It thus studies the fascinating and complex relationship between the individual and society. For example, it explores the causes and consequences of crime such as violent crime, mugging and financial fraud. Why do certain people become hardened criminals whilst others remain law abiding citizens? Sociology asks us to consider important and interesting questions about our society. Is the rise of digital technology helping or damaging human relationships? Does the 'Me Too' movement show that society is sexist? Is racism a serious problem in British Society? How many poor people are there in Britain? Is poverty the results of an unfair society? Why does Britain have a comparatively high divorce rate? Is marriage a dying institution? Is British society better off without religion? Does the education system unfairly favour a few privileged social groups? Is it possible to distinguish between 'fake news' and real news when all media output is arguably biased? These are just some of the exiting questions you will explore.

Sociology will also support your studies in other subjects. For example, Classical Civilisation, History, Geography and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics all involve an understanding of wider social contexts and issues. In addition to making a natural transition to A Level Sociology, the GCSE course will also build a foundation for the study of other social science and humanities subjects such as Politics, Philosophy and Psychology.

GCSE SOCIOLOGY SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT:

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification This component covers the following topic areas:

- Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission
- Families
- Education
- Sociological research methods.

A written assessment with a mix of short answer, structured questions and extended response questions, all compulsory.

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification This component covers the following topic areas:

- Social differentiation and stratification
- Crime and deviance
- Applied methods of sociological enquiry.

A written assessment with a mix of short answer, structured questions and extended response questions, all compulsory.

The Sociology course is based on the Eduqas specification and for more detailed information please see: www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/sociology/gcse

Where Sociology can take you...

Studying sociology opens up a range of careers in areas such as welfare, education, social research, and local and central government

In addition to careers within the areas of social or welfare there are also opportunities with a range of other employers, including charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations, law firms, local and central government, media companies, marketing and PR firms, the NHS, police and probation services, schools, colleges and universities, social and market research organisations.

Career ideas: anthropology, advice worker, community development worker, teacher/lecturer, housing manager, marketing, police officer, youth worker, social researcher, policy officer, charity officer, civil service administrator, family support worker, Human Resources officer, international aid/development worker, life coach, journalist, probation officer, public relations officer, social worker, special educational needs coordinator (SENCO)

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Social-sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Further information from **Mr N Amin**.

These outcomes alone do not make MGS the great school that it is, however they do open doors for our students and are testament to the hard work of all students and staff in our community.



Our Performance

GCSE Results 2023:

Grade 9 = 10%
 Grades 8-9 = 25%
 Grades 7-9 = 43%
 Grades 5-9 = 85%
 Grades 4-9 = 94%
 Grades 1-9 = 99.7%

A Level Results 2023:

A* = 8%
 A*-A = 29%
 A*-B = 61.3%
 A*-C = 83.8%
 A*-E = 99.2%
 A*-U = 99.7%

Destinations 2023:

Top 30 Universities = 59%
 Russell Group Universities = 40%
 5 Oxbridge (4 Cambridge, 1 Oxford)
 5 Medicine (including one at Cambridge)

Top 10 University Destinations 2023:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. University of Bath | 11 |
| 2. University of Surrey | 7 |
| 3. Bournemouth University | 6 |
| 4. University of Leicester | 6 |
| 5. University of Sussex | 6 |
| 6. Loughborough University | 5 |
| 7. University of Exeter | 5 |
| 8. Cardiff University | 4 |
| 9. Nottingham Trent University | 4 |
| 10. University of Brighton | 3 |

Top 10 Degree Subjects 2023:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Law | 11 |
| 2. Computer Science | 7 |
| 3. Mechanical Engineering | 5 |
| 4. Medicine | 5 |
| 5. Economics | 5 |
| 6. Aerospace Engineering | 3 |
| 7. Television Production | 3 |
| 8. Business Management | 3 |
| 9. Business Economics | 3 |
| 10. Psychology and Criminology | 2 |





Olim Meminisse Juvabit

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