



Biddenham International School

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Information

2015 - 2016

KS4 Curriculum Information

Purpose of the curriculum

We aim to develop our students so that they are deep learners. Deep learners have intrinsic motivation. They strive to understand and to organise their learning. They are metacognitive: they know how to learn and they know when they have learned something.

Organisation of the curriculum

Our core principles are:

- **Personalisation:** We believe in providing a core entitlement curriculum which is broad and balanced.
- **Inclusion:** We believe that every student has an equal right to a high quality education. We believe in progressively identifying and tackling the barriers preventing access to education for each student.
- **Personal Excellence:** We believe that every student has the right to achieve at the highest level they can so that they feel proud of what they have achieved at Biddenham.

Three year Key Stage 4

At Biddenham, students begin year 9 and enter a seven week 'Carousel' where they will experience every option subject on offer alongside their core curriculum. By October half term, they will choose four option subjects to study, alongside their core curriculum. There is a comprehensive programme of 'Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance' which runs alongside the carousel, to ensure students are fully supported in making personalised option choices. Students will then follow their core curriculum and option subjects for years 9, 10 and 11.

Reformed GCSEs

For first teaching in September 2016, the following subjects will be reformed;

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Double Science
GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
GCSE Religious Studies
GCSE Geography
GCSE History
GCSE modern foreign languages (French, German and Spanish)
GCSE Art and Design
GCSE Drama
GCSE Dance
GCSE Music
GCSE Physical Education
GCSE Computer science
GCSE Citizenship studies
GCSE Food preparation and nutrition

The main changes to affect students are around how these courses will be assessed, grades will be changing from letters (A*-G) to numbers (9-1), with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.

GCSE Business, GCSE ICT, BTEC ICT, GCSE Health and Social Care and GCSE Resistant Materials are yet to be reformed and the grading will stay the same (A*-G) for those subjects.

Core Curriculum

All students will study;

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Double or Triple Science

(If students wish to study triple science, they must select this as one of their option choices).

GCSE Religious Studies

Core Physical Education

Personal, Social, Health Education - year 9 only

Core Computing and ICT Skills - year 9 only

All students will then choose FOUR option subjects.

The options form is on the following page

Biddenham Year 9 Option Choices 2015 - 2018

Please visit our website www.mybiddenham.com to find out more about each course

Please write your name in this box

All students will study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Religious Studies, Core Computing & ICT, PSHCEE and Physical Education

All students will study EITHER Separate Science OR Combined Science

(Student choices need to be made in consultation with their Science teacher)

Please tick which Science course you wish to study

<p style="text-align: center;">THE SEPARATE SCIENCES (GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics) If you decide to take the Separate Sciences, you must select this as one of your option choices from columns B or D. The Separate Sciences are Ebacc Subjects.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMBINED SCIENCE GCSE Combined Science worth 2 GCSEs. Selecting this does not take up an option choice.</p>

Signed Science teacher: _____

Students will then select 4 Option Choices
at least one of which **MUST** be a subject in **BOLD**; these are Ebacc subjects.

Please choose **ONE** subject in **EACH** column.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D
Spanish	French	Computing	Separate Science
Geography	Separate Science	History	German
Computing	Geography	French	History
Citizenship	Music	Food	Business
Health and Social Care	Art	Physical Education	Textiles
Drama	Business	Dance	Resistant Materials
Business	OCR National ICT	ICT	BTEC Work skills
Graphics	Physical Education		ICT

Notes:

- All subjects are GCSE qualifications unless otherwise stated
- BTEC Work Skills, Learning Support and EAL (English as an Additional Language) – selection for these options is through liaison with the SENCo and/or the EAL coordinator
- If you can't study the combination of subjects you would like, please write to Cathy Eckett at the school or email cathy.eckett@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Please ask your parent/carer to sign this form.

I approve of this choice of options. Signed _____

If insufficient students choose an option we may be unable to run a subject. We may need to limit the numbers of students admitted to a class for educational or health and safety reasons. We reserve the right to rearrange the options if this will improve the curriculum for a greater number of students.

Please return this form to the school office by Wednesday 14th October
Students not opting by this date will be issued options where spaces are available

Core Curriculum Subjects information

GCSE English Language

Description:

GCSE English Language is designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge, whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all. The course enables students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly. There are two equally-balanced exam papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed over a 3½ hour period, split equally across two papers, giving them time to express their true abilities and achieve their best possible grade. Paper one will assess a literature fiction text to develop reading skills. Paper two will assess a non-fiction and literary non-fiction text in order to focus on writers' attitudes and viewpoints. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes in length, and each account for 50% of the qualification.

What are the entry requirements?

All students will study GCSE English Language (alongside GCSE English Literature). The exam board is AQA.

Is there anything else I need to know?

A good command of the spoken and written word is vital for success in other subject areas. English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Doug Wise, Head of English: doug.wise@mybiddenham.com

Exam board: <http://web.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english.php>

GCSE English Literature

Description:

The specification takes a skills-based approach to the study of English literature that is consistent across the genres; it has been designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, no matter what their level of ability.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is spread over two papers, grouping similarly structured questions together, to allow students to maintain their focus. Paper 1 takes the form of a 1 hour 45 minute written exam on a Shakespeare text and a 19th-century novel (40% of the qualification). Paper 2 takes the form of a 2 hour 15 minute written exam on a modern text and a corpus of poetry (60% of the qualification).

What are the entry requirements?

All students will study GCSE English Literature (alongside GCSE English Language). The exam board is AQA.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Being a literate reader widens horizons and opens up a lifetime of opportunities. Reading enables students to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Doug Wise, Head of English: doug.wise@mybiddenham.com

Exam board: <http://web.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english.php>

GCSE Mathematics

Description

Mathematics is concerned with the nature of numbers and space, pattern and relationships, and is a major tool in helping people make sense of, and describe, the world as well as to solve problems new and old, real and abstract. We believe that mathematics is a creative and useful activity requiring not only facts and skills, but also understanding gained through exploration and application.

What Will I Learn?

We aim to provide relevant mathematical knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable students to have the necessary independence in adult society as well as promoting the ability and willingness to contribute actively and positively to that Society. We aim to give each student the confidence and satisfaction derived from a sense of achievement and to promote in them a lively and enquiring mind, capable of rational judgement and disciplined imagination.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The GCSE is assessed by three exams, two calculator papers and one non calculator paper at the end of year 11.

What extra costs are involved?

Students will be required to bring their own scientific calculator to each lesson. They may not use a mobile phone for this purpose in Mathematics as mobile phones are not allowed in examinations and they need to be familiar with using their own calculator.

Is There Anything Else I Need to Know?

Students will be entered at the appropriate level for their ability. Both levels have the opportunity to gain a grade C at GCSE.

Future Opportunities

A good result in this GCSE is imperative for future career progression. It has been shown that students with a good grade at A2 Mathematics earn on average £15,000 per annum more than those without. It is a prerequisite for entry to university courses to study finance, medicine, etc

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: piotr.strzelec@mybiddenham.com

AQA websites: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics>

GCSE Combined Science

(Information on Triple Science can be found within the options subjects)

Combined science is a joint award that looks at all three science disciplines. It is worth two GCSE's upon completion.

What will I learn?

This covers the new Science Programme of Study (the content of this makes up part of the separate Science awards). This has been developed so that students become more 'scientifically literate', i.e. they are able to make reasoned judgements about the science issues which may affect them in their everyday lives. It looks at aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and includes a detailed look at the scientific method.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be using the new 9-1 grading system, replacing the A*-G. The foundation tiers will cover grades 1–5 and the higher, grades 4-9. There are no controlled assessments in the new science qualification however the questions assessing students' use of mathematical skills will make up 15% of the assessments. The exam will be 7 hours, but broken up into separate papers, and will look to assess knowledge on Biology, chemistry and physics. 10% of the biology paper, 20% of the chemistry and 30% of the physics will assess mathematical skills.

Future opportunities?

The course prepares students for progression onto A level sciences, however if you are interested in taking a science at A level then the Triple Science option is advised, due to additional skills and content covered. The development of science in a modern society is essential for economic growth. It increasingly plays a part in our everyday lives. The list of career opportunities is almost endless. They range from the medical profession, i.e. doctor, nurse, pharmacist, public health and dentistry, to construction engineering, chemical engineering and mechanical engineering. Opportunities also occur in computing, electronics, telecommunications and electrical engineering. Scientists also form an important part of the aerospace industry, industrial chemical manufacturing, textiles and car industry.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: elise.berrill@mybiddenham.com

Exam board information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/new-science-gcse-specifications>

Core Physical Education

What will I learn?

Within Physical Education lessons across Years 9, 10 and 11 students will take part in a variety of physical activities in line with the new KS3/KS4 National Curriculum. In year 9 and 10 students will be grouped into single sex groups all having the same opportunities as each other.

In year 11 students are placed in a pathway groups that best suits them. Students will then vote on a variety of activities in their group. This gives the students more ownership of their curriculum and allows students to develop links with activities that they will hopefully continue with into Post 16 students

At key stage 3 (year 9) and key stage 4 (year 10 and 11) students will learn how to:

- use and develop a range of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in direct competition through team and individual games [for example, badminton, basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby and tennis]
- develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports [for example, athletics and gymnastics]
- perform dances using advanced dance techniques in a range of dance styles and forms
- take part in outdoor and adventurous activities which present intellectual and physical challenges and be encouraged to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group
- analyse and evaluate their performances compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best
- take part in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed practically in a wide variety of activities. Skills will be assessed as either exceeding, expected, extending or emerging.

Is there anything else I need to know?

There will be opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills by being part of the Leadership Academy run through our Bedford and Kempston School Sports Partnership. Students involved in the academy have the opportunities to attend leadership courses in a variety of physical activities and first aid courses, as well as organising and running sports festivals for lower and middle schools.

All students will be able to access a variety of extracurricular activities both at lunch and after school. This will allow for all students to participate in competitive sport outside of the curriculum. Extra curricular activities range from football, hockey, athletics, rounders, cricket, golf, leadership, softball, handball and dodgeball. These are only a few of those on offer, please see the PE section of the school website for a more detail overview of the type of activities we offer.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: phillipa.copley@mybiddenham.com

Personal, Social, Health Education - year 9 only

What will I learn?

PSHE is divided into three themes;

Health and Wellbeing

Relationships

Living in the wider world: economic wellbeing, careers and the world of work

PSHE is a programme through which young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. The PSHE programme at Biddenham aims to develop the qualities and attributes pupils need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. It prepares them to manage many of [the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up](#) in such rapidly changing and challenging times. It also helps them to connect and apply the

knowledge and understanding they learn in all subjects to practical, real-life situations while helping them to feel safe and secure enough to fulfill their academic potential.

Whilst much of the PSHE Curriculum is delivered through a 'whole-school' approach at in Year 9 students are allocated specific lesson time to look at the various issues surrounding Relationships and Sex Education, Personal Safety and Wellbeing, Adapting to change, and Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance.

How will I be assessed?

There is no formal assessment.

Anything else I need to know

Schools have a statutory responsibility to provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. As part of this responsibility schools must:

- *promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and*
- *prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.*
- *promote children and young people's wellbeing (Wellbeing is defined in the Children Act 2004 as the promotion of physical and mental health; emotional wellbeing; social and economic wellbeing well being; education, training and recreation; recognition of the contribution made by children to society; and protection from harm and neglect.)*
- *promote community cohesion (Education and Inspections Act 2006; Education Act 2002)*

PSHE education makes a major contribution to this and as a result it is embedded within the whole school curriculum.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Head of Department Paul Forster: paul.forster@mybiddenham.com

Core Computing and ICT Skills - Year 9 only

What will I learn?

Information Technology (IT), the convergence of computer and network technology, is a highly transformative discipline. It touches nearly all aspects of our lives: the way we work, learn, communicate, socialise and entertain ourselves. Where would we be without it? These days, success in any occupational field, be it law, medicine, business, education, entertainment, finance, etc., requires a command of IT.

For certain, IT is and will remain the foundation of the global economy for years to come.

The Core IT syllabus incorporates elements of Computer Science and Information and Communications Technology. You will be taught key, transferable skills which can be utilised across all of your subjects from use of Google services through to elements of computer programming.

How will I be assessed?

There is no formal assessment.

Anything else I need to know?

The content is not examinable, so those looking to undertake any form of IT qualifications MUST select either GCSE ICT or GCSE Computing as an option subject.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Head of ICT Beverley Sydney; Beverley.Sydney@mybiddenham.com

Head of Computer Science Anthony Parish; Anthony.Parish@Mybiddenham.com

BTEC WorkSkills Level 2

BTEC work skills can be chosen through consultation with the Learning Support or EAL departments.

Description

WorkSkills is an Edexcel BTEC qualification that has been developed after research and consultation with employers, training providers, schools and colleges.

The aim of WorkSkills is to help you improve your knowledge, understanding and skills needed to gain and retain a job.

A recent survey from the CBI showed that most employers want employees with a positive attitude and wider employability skills to succeed in the workplace. The survey suggested that, 'these wider employability skills should include: general communication skills, applied numeracy, team working, problem solving and integrity'. WorkSkills provides these skills.

The course consists of 13 credits, the equivalent to 1 GCSE C grade. All the work is completed over the three years which are related to employment based situations. This allows you to learn by completing assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations. You will use independent learning skills to research information from a variety of sources and have the opportunity to explore case studies from different types of jobs.

The course introduces you to particular areas of employment and provides a good basis to progress to advanced work-related qualifications.

How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed and graded by a portfolio piece of work. You will receive feedback on your progress throughout the course. Evidence of coursework can be recorded through a number of means such as PowerPoint presentations, wall displays, Word reports, role play assessment and working in teams.

What are the entry requirements?

No prior knowledge is required.

The units build on the skills taught in school and offer the opportunity to recognise these skills with a formal BTEC qualification.

What extra costs may be involved?

There will be visits connected to the course which will be used as case studies to enhance knowledge, skills and understanding of the units being studied.

Anything else I need to know

The course will appeal if you:

- Would like to gain more information and experience of work related skills and knowledge.
- Want to find out more about career progression through research, teamwork and independent study.
- Enjoy studying an area that will broaden your experiences.
- Want the opportunity to apply the theory of the course to practical work in the work place.
- Enjoy discovering about yourself in 'hands-on' situations.
- Wish to study a course which is active, fun and enjoyable.

Future opportunities

Study further BTEC and other qualifications.

Progress into a career in a wide range of jobs having experienced the skills which will help you understand what is required.

For further details speak to any of the Leisure, Travel & Tourism / WorkSkills Department in either H11 or R7.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Head of Department Beverley Darlow beverley.darlow@mybiddenham.com

The exam board is Edexcel.

GCSE Art & Design Textiles

If you enjoy drawing, painting, fashion, designing and making artefacts from fabrics and threads then Textiles would be the ideal choice for you.

What Will I Learn?

Students will learn to design and make beautiful artefacts from textile materials. As there is no written element the whole course is practical and you will learn a wide range of skills which will include drawing, various textile techniques, designing, researching, analysing the work of other artists and designers and applying all knowledge gained to your final pieces of work.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 is Coursework based and builds up your portfolio of work. During Years 9, 10 and 11 you will do a range of different projects on a selection of themes. These can take a number of different pathways from fashion based projects where we make garments and accessories, to constructed textiles and embroidery. Unit 2 is the Externally Set Assignment – At the beginning of January we receive an exam paper from AQA which gives 6 different themes to work from. For example: **Decorative Textiles:** Exotic feathers, butterfly wings, animal skins, fish scales and shells have inspired the design of decorative textiles throughout the world. Explore a variety of examples and develop your own work. The students then have 10 weeks to research, experiment and refine their ideas before completing their final outcome under exam conditions.

The four Assessment Objectives are:

AO1 - Develop their ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.

AO2- Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.

AO4- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

What are the entry requirements?

The main requirement is that students are creative, willing to work hard and are interested in fashion or textile design. Previous experience in Art or Textiles would be a bonus.

Is there anything else I need to know?

It is not a subject that is only for girls. Most of the famous fashion designers in the world are males. It also does not matter if you don't have any previous textile experience as long as you are willing to learn. We also have links with working Textile designers such as Mister Finch and Mr X Stitch who we use to inspire our students and try to get them to come in and work with us wherever possible to further enrich our work.

Future opportunities

A-Level Art & Design Textiles is available and is an ideal subject to study if you want a future career in the arts, fashion or textiles.

Further study at Biddenham through an AS or A level in Art & Design Textiles, or college, or an art foundation course. Possible careers after studying Art and Design Textiles are as follows: Architecture, Art therapist, Games designer, Audio - visual designer, Book designer, Corporate identity designer, Display designer, Electronic image designer, Exhibition designer, Exhibition officer, Fashion buyer, Fashion forecaster, Fashion grader, Fashion illustrator, Fashion journalist, Fashion merchandiser, and many other Art related careers

How Will I be Assessed?

Unit 1 is your portfolio of work and is worth 60% of the final marks.

Unit 2 is the externally set task and is worth 40% of the marks.

What are the Costs?

Students will need to purchase some materials and threads to manufacture their designs.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: chrissie.venables@mybiddenham.com

Exam board information: http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/dandt/new/textiles_overview.php

GCSE Art and Design

What will I learn?

GCSE Art and Design is all about developing visual ideas and for those individuals who enjoy making practical pieces of artwork. The main areas are drawing and painting, mixed-media, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture; but also opportunities for digital imaging.

An enquiring mind and a willingness to learn new techniques is essential. You will learn about significant artists and designers from the past and about contemporary artists too. The skills you learn will be varied:

Among them will be a working knowledge of the materials, practices and technology of art and design, the skills to analyse and experiment and how best to move your ideas forward.

The specific skills you will develop may vary depending on the area of study you may choose to major in, for example drawing, painting, printing, 3D, graphic design or photography.

Thinking skills will be developed alongside the practical activities to encourage creative thinking. Students become aware of art theory and wider cultural influences. Students keep a sketchbook, to explore themes and develop personal response for projects. Digital cameras may support this creative process

How will I be assessed?

Coursework is worth 60%: The Personal Portfolio. For the coursework you will complete two coursework projects.

Practical Examination is worth 40%:- This will take the form of a broad theme - for example it could be something like "Journeys" or "Time". You will have eight weeks to prepare for the timed test. At the end of this period you will sit a 10 hour timed examination during which you will produce your final piece(s) of work.

The 4 Assessment Objectives are:

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
- Refine ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

What are the entry requirements?

The main requirement is that you enjoy having visual ideas and a desire to learn practical skills. If you are interested in art or design and you have an aptitude for the subject - if you are creative or "good at drawing" - you may have the basic skills to succeed. It is also necessary to be interested in the meaning behind practical work.

Is there anything else I need to know?

It is not just about being "good" at drawing or painting it is about having an interest in all things visual and wanting to learn more.

Extra costs

Students studying GCSE will have the opportunity to purchase sketchbooks and assorted art materials to enable students to complete work independently.

Future opportunities

Art & Design GCSE can lead to an AS or A level in Art & Design or a BTEC Level or equivalent. If you know the area of art, craft or design you want to specialise in you could study for the National Certification or National Diploma in Art & Design. There are a vast number of courses at university under the umbrella of art & design. Some possible careers in Art and Design are :Advertising designer, Animator, Art therapist, Ceramicist, Corporate identity designer, Editorial illustrator, Electronic image designer, Exhibition designer, Fashion illustrator, Fashion stylist, Film director/producer, maker, Fine art conservator,, Furniture designer,

Gallery administrator, Illustrator, Image animator, Industrial designer, Interior designer,, Landscape designer, Lettering artist, Magazine designer, Model maker, Photographer, Printmaker, Publicity designer, Sculptor, Silversmith/jeweller, Teacher, Technical illustrator, Theatre designer and Typographer.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: allan.kavanagh@mybiddenham.com

Exam board: AQA

GCSE Business Studies

This subject is a single GCSE; assessment is through one piece of controlled assessment undertaken at the end of year 10 worth 25% and the rest is through two examinations in June of year 11.

What will I Learn?

This popular course is designed to give students an understanding of the dynamic environment in which businesses operate and the factors which impact upon business activity. Everyone works in a business or has contact with a business whether this is privately owned e.g. shops, hairdressers, builders, garages, solicitors; controlled by the government e.g. health, education, defence; or a voluntary organisation e.g. a charity.

During years 9 and 10, two areas of study are covered. Business Organisations (topics include: sole traders, partnerships, limited and public limited companies), and People in Business (recruitment and selection, methods of payment, motivation and employment law). After Easter in year 10 you will study marketing (market research, product, price, place, promotion, advertising constraints and consumer laws) which will be the basis of the controlled assessment task.

During the year we aim to take all students studying Business Studies to visit an organisation and we aim to have guest speakers in as well to help link the theory we learn in class to the real world around you. In the past we have visited Asda's Distribution Centre, Kempston, The Environment Agency, Huntingdon as well as having marketing talks during visits to Thorpe Park and Alton Towers.

In Year 11, students finish the course through studying Finance (including budgets, cash-flows, Profit and Loss Accounts and Balance Sheets), Production (job, batch, flow, JIT, quality control and new technology) and the Business Environment (interest rates, recessions, taxation, stakeholders, The EU and Supply and Demand are some the topics covered).

What are the Entry Requirements?

There is no formal requirement that you should have studied Business Studies previously. If you are interested in learning about the environment you will be based in after your education, then you have the aptitude for this subject. An interest in news, current affairs and documentaries will also give a good insight into this subject. Programmes such as Dragons' Den and The Apprentice are useful too.

How will I be Assessed?

There are three assessments which make up the OCR Business Studies GCSE, two of which are formal examinations.

Controlled Assessment: A291 Marketing - 10 hours research, 6 hours write up - 25% of final grade

Paper 1: A292 Business and People - 60 Minute exam - 25% of final grade

Paper 2: A293 Production, Finance and The External Environment - 90 Minute exam - 50% of final grade

What are the costs?

Students will be advised to purchase revision texts. In addition, you may be asked to contribute towards costs of visits.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Although there is a lot to learn, your teacher will use a variety of methods to deliver and engage you. There will be question and answer sessions, individual task work, group work, discussions, role-play, student presentations, the use of ICT, timed exam questions and mock exams. Over the duration of the course you will carry out independent research, have a willingness to contribute to class discussions and activities, and have the drive and commitment to succeed.

Future Opportunities?

The GCSE ideally leads on to AS and A2 level Business Studies or a Vocational Level 3 BTEC in Business studies, both are courses of which are offered in school. The GCSE course is also excellent preparation for students seeking employment and/or training. Many students who achieve an A Level in Business go onto University and study a Business related degree course e.g. Business Management, Law, Economics or Accountancy. Further opportunities exist at University as a standalone subject or to be combined with other subjects.

Careers include both public and private sector employment opportunities in specific areas such as; marketing, IT, human resource management, planning and accountancy, and general administrative/managerial trainee posts in both the public sector and with large companies. Business Studies is also a good platform for students who at some future point may wish to go into self-employment. It also prepares students for a whole range of higher education courses, over 89% of Business Studies graduates get jobs or going onto further education.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: tariq.amin@mybiddendenham.com,

Exam board information: http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gcse/blt/business_studies/

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

What will I learn?

In studying Food students will:

- Learn about different foods, ingredients, processes and techniques.
- Develop practical cooking skills.
- Understand about diets and health.
- Plan, prepare and cook a range of dishes based on skill development
- Understand about the catering industry
- Know how to plan and cost a meal
- Produce dishes of high quality with an emphasis on presentation

Practical work is used to back up theory lessons, and enhance the learning of skills.

In addition to the subject knowledge Catering will help students to develop some important skills that will be useful in other subjects and in their future lives. These include:

- Organisation skills
- Life skills
- Independent skills
- Team working skills
- Information and communication skills

How will I be assessed?

- One written exam accounts for 50% of the final grade.
- Two controlled assessments during the course
 - plan a menu of three dishes, then prepare, cook and present it in a 4 hour period;
 - investigate and evaluate the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients creating a report setting out their findings.

●

What are the costs?

Students will have a practical every week for which they will need to bring in their own ingredients from home, a container to cook the product in and a bag or box to carry the food home in
It is advised that students purchase a Revision Guide which is around £3.50.

Is there anything else I need to know?

All students are responsible for looking after their ingredients and dishes correctly. Each student is responsible for clearing away and tidying up efficiently at the end of each practical lesson.

A lot of the learning is achieved through the practical. Therefore, it is critical that students bring in their ingredients for every practical.

Future opportunities

Hospitality and catering is a growing sector of the jobs market and there are numerous opportunities within this industry from retail, hotel work, chef etc. there is also the opportunity to attend college and study catering to BTEC or degree level. Apprenticeships are also available in a variety of local establishments.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: margaret.ward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Exam board: to be confirmed for 2016 start

GCSE Citizenship

What will I learn?

The Citizenship is broken down into three themes which will cover the following topics:

1 Our rights, responsibilities and the law

The content covers:

- Rights and responsibilities
- The law
- The legal system

This will be worth 50 marks and 25% of your final GCSE.

2 Citizenship in action

The content will include:

- Democracy, governance and the economy
- Democracy, elections and voting in the UK
- National, local, regional and devolved government
- British Constitution
- The economy, finance and money
- The role of the media and free press
- Citizen participation in democracy and society
- Citizenship participation in the UK
- Politics beyond the UK
- • Active Citizenship -you will be asked to plan and organise campaign to change something aimed at a person in a position of power.

This section is worth 100 marks and 50% of your final GCSE

Theme 3 Our society and our links with the wider world

Section A

This will be examined by using a mixture of short answer items and extended response items.

- Identities and diversity in UK society
- The UK and its relations with the wider world

This is worth 50 marks and 25% of your GCSE

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE will be assessed by a final exam at the end of year 11. There will be a mixture of types of questions including multiple choice, short answer items and extended response essay style questions. In addition, Citizenship in action will be assessed within this component. This will require candidates to reflect upon the action they undertook and apply that knowledge to questions both on the action and in unseen scenarios.

Is there anything else I need to know?

In addition to the examined part of the course there will be opportunities during the course to take part in other non-examined citizenship activities such as the BBC School News Report where the students choose the news they think is important and then make a video which is played on the BBC. We will also visit the Houses of Parliament in London at some point during the course.

What subjects does Citizenship support at A-Level?

Citizenship is a great stepping-stone from GCSE to A-Level subjects such as History, Sociology, Law, Government & Politics, Economics, Media Studies, Communication Studies and AS Citizenship itself.

Why should you take it?

Citizenship is the perfect platform to encourage critical thinking of the world around us whilst also preparing young people for post 16 education, employment or training. If you are interested in the world around you and how the decisions that affect you are made then this is your opportunity to learn how you can influence the decision makers and to actually take some action and make a real difference. Citizenship is an academic subject but also a practical one, that allows you to apply your learning and develop a wide range of different skills that are attractive to employers.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: paul.forster@mybiddenham.com

Exam board: To be confirmed for 2016 start

GCSE Computing Science

What will I learn and why choose the subject?

Technology is ubiquitous in our modern society. Everything from mobile phones, televisions, traffic lights, theme parks, agriculture to sport depend on technology. You need to be prepared for the digital world.

The computing syllabus will give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. As part of this, a large amount of the course will be spent learning computer programming. Through this study of computer programming, the course will help you develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. For many, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects, especially mathematics and other sciences, and even applied in day-to-day life.

It is a fact that information technologies continue to have a growing importance. This means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If you want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science, you will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone. Students who have taken a Computing GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this area.

How will I be assessed?

There are three units and each has its own assessment:

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

- 90 minute written examination paper worth 40% of the qualification.

COMPUTATIONAL THINKING, ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING

- 90 minute written examination paper worth 40% of the qualification.

PROGRAMMING PROJECT

- Controlled assessment of approximately 20 hours worth 20% of the qualification.

What are the Entry Requirements?

In order to deal with the complexities of the course, in particular the logic skills, you need to be in the top 2 sets for mathematics. Exceptions can be made for those with good programming experience, in consultation with the Head of ICT & Computing

Is there anything else I need to know?

Computing Science is a tough and challenging subject. Within the first few lessons you will dive straight in to computer programming, which many find challenging but fascinating. The computing science qualification enables you to:

- develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies, understanding of how they work and apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts;
- acquire and apply knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming;
- use your knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of IT, able to make informed decisions about its use, and aware of the implications of different technologies;
- acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts; and
- develop computer programs to solve problems..

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Antony.Parish@mybiddenham.com

Exam board information (specification update pending):

http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gcse_2012/ict_tec/computing/documents/

GCSE Dance

What will I learn?

This course is intended to develop students' understanding and appreciation of a range of dance styles, through performing, choreographing and viewing dances. Students will have opportunities to learn new dance techniques, take part in choreography workshops and view professional dance works both on video and at the theatre.

There will be at least one theatre trip each year of the course (more if possible!).

Dance is a Performing Art and as such students will be expected to take part in any performance opportunities that arise to prepare them for the practical exam that occurs at the end of the course.

How will I be assessed?

- **Written Paper - 1 hour 30 minutes. – 40% of GCSE**

Students will study an anthology of 8 professional dance works as set by the exam board, covering a range of dance styles, themes and physical settings. Students will also study the theory of choreography and performance as well as learning the skills to critically appreciate their own work. Exam questions range from short answer questions to more extended answers which will require students to use their knowledge and understanding of all the dances studied and the subject itself.

- **Performance – 30% of GCSE**

Set Phrases.

Practical exam .

Students will be taught a series of set phrases choreographed by the exam board lasting approximately 20 seconds each. Students will be assessed on their performance skills for three phrases. Students will be assessed on their performance skills by their teacher and then these marks are moderated by the exam board

Performance in a Duo/Trio

Practical exam

Students perform a duo/trio lasting approximately three and half minutes. The dance is choreographed by the teacher in collaboration with the students. The assessment includes marks for demonstration of knowledge of safe practice. Students will be assessed on their performance skills by their teacher and then these marks are moderated by the exam board.

- **Choreography -30% of GCSE**

Solo or group choreography

Practical exam

The students create a solo dance lasting two to two and half minutes OR a group dance (2-5 dancers) lasting three to three and a half minutes. The dance may be in any style in response to an outline stimulus created by the exam board. The chosen style must allow the students to meet the criteria for assessment. The students perform their solo/group choreography as part of their practical exam. The students' choreographic skills are marked by their teacher and then the marks are moderated by the exam board.

What are the costs?

A number of trips to see professional dance works performed live will be arranged throughout the course. The cost is kept as reasonable as possible, with each trip cost approximately £25 -30 (including transport and tickets).

Rather than financial cost, students are required to make some personal commitments of their own time. There is a huge range of extra-curricular activities and performances run through the dance department and GCSE students are expected to be involved in at least one of these activities and at least one performance.

Such activities include:

- Street dance club.
- Biddenham Dance Company.
- Cheerleading
- Body conditioning (fitness training).
- The school musical
- Theatre trips (Milton Keynes, Cambridge, London etc).
- Choreographic workshops at the University of Bedfordshire.
- Internal Dance and Drama showcase.
- "Spring into Dance" internal dance production.
- Performances at the University of Bedfordshire.
- Supporting lower school students (Westfield).

Future opportunities

It is the intention of the dance course to enable students to develop the skills of decision making, problem solving, critical and creative thinking and the ability to co-operate with others that will equip them for a variety of working environments.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: hayley.wiltshire@mybiddenham.com

Exam board information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse>

GCSE Drama

What Will I Learn?

There are six Areas of Study that you will know and apply in practical and written work:

1. Character, Context and Plot
2. Structure
3. Audience and Defining Performance Space
4. Improvisation
5. Genre, Performance Style and Convention
6. The Semiotics of Drama and Theatre

A willingness to perform in front of others and good attendance will ensure success on this course due to the continual practical coursework and written demands.

How will I be assessed?

Component One - Devising Drama - 30 % of GCSE

Students will create a devised performance in groups. They will be able to select a starting point from a range of stimuli provided by the exam board. They can choose to work as a performer or designer in this component. Performances will be between 5 and 15 minutes, depending on the size of the group. (20 marks) All performances will be supported by a portfolio which is evidence of the students' devising process and can be made up of a combination of writing, images, observation notes and artefacts. (40marks)

Component Two – Text Performance - 30 % of GCSE

Students will study a text chosen by the centre. Students will take a part in two performances of two extracts from the text. They can work as a performer or designer in this component. In this unit students can work individually, or in a group of up to 6. The time range is between 2 and 15 minutes, depending on the size of the group. Students must present at least one performance as part of a group. (40 marks) Students will be required to produce an accompanying concept document which outlines their intentions for the performance. (20 marks)

Component Three – Written Exam, 1hour and 30minutes - 40% of GCSE

Section A, 50 marks - Students will be asked about preparing and performing a text. They will draw on the experience of studying a whole text during the course from a list set by the exam board. The questions will focus on the process of creating and developing a performance, working as a director, performer and designer, as well as the performance of a character from the text.

Section B , 30 marks - This section asks the students to review a performance they have seen on their course. They will be primarily assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate, but will also be marked on their accurate use of subject specific terminology

What are the Entry Requirements?

All committed and interested students are welcome to opt for one of our courses, irrespective of experience. However, a willingness to get involved in group activities and enjoyment of performing in front of others is a basic requirement of this course. This course is not advisable for students who do not like getting up and presenting in front of others. This is a very practical course and your attendance and commitment to extra activities is a basic expectation to develop your skills and discipline in performance. There are regular drama activities at school and we would encourage students to join this as these projects will support the student's coursework grades.

What are the Costs?

The Drama department aim to offer you theatre trips and workshops at a cost to cover travel and tickets for events. Each trip is approximately £25 -30.

Various props/costumes for drama pieces may be required.

Is There Anything Else I Need to Know?

There is a rich diversity of activities to get involved in from musical theatre, showcases, events at lunchtime and after school as well as visits to the West End and local theatre and cultural events. There are also opportunities to get involved in other extra-curricular opportunities such as working to develop work for an annual showcase of final exam work. GCSE students are expected to be involved in at least one of these activities and at least one performance. This course provides a sound basis for the study of Drama at A-Level or Performing Arts and provides opportunities to develop the key skills of working with others, solving problems and presentation that are invaluable in a wide range of careers.

Who should I contact for extra information?

If you need to contact the Drama department please email hayley.wiltshire@mybiddenham.com (Head of Department) or sarah.wozniak@mybiddenham.com (Drama Teacher)

Details of the course on the exam board's website:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-drama-j316-from-2016/>

GCSE French

What will I learn?

The course is OCR GCSE French Specification number J730. The course we follow in French will help you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand French in speech and writing. You will benefit when you come into contact with French speaking people both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where French is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people in these countries.

Key features of this course are:

- A meaningful and enjoyable educational experience for all candidates.
- Known and achievable but challenging goals for candidates of all abilities.
- A useful level of linguistic competence that all candidates can achieve.
- A suitable stage in a culture of lifelong language learning.
- Useful experience of language acquisition.
- Reference to other cultures, enabling personal awareness to develop.

There are 5 topic areas:

- Home and Local Area.
- Health and Sport.
- Leisure and Entertainment (includes online).
- Travel and the Wider World.
- Education and Work.

What are the entry requirements?

An interest in French/France, communicating with others and a desire to break down language barriers is very important (and you are expected to have achieved at least level 5 in Key Stage 3). We try to accommodate anyone with a genuine interest and strong work ethic. If you want to study for a GCSE in a Modern Language ab initio, then please come to talk to us in the Department first.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is based on the following principles:

- English is used for questions and instructions so that understanding the task is straightforward and not made unnecessarily complex by the language used.
- A broad range of test types is involved so that candidates are not disadvantaged by performance in any one test type.
- Test types are selected for their effectiveness in allowing candidates to show what they know and can do.

There are 4 areas of assessment:

- Listening exam (20% of the GCSE).
- Reading exam (20% of the GCSE).
- Speaking controlled assessment (30% of the GCSE consisting of 2 tasks taken during the 2 year course).
- Writing controlled assessment (30% of the GCSE consisting of 2 tasks taken during the 2 year course).

What are the costs?

You will be expected to have your own bilingual dictionary or purchase one from the school for £4.00 (2009 price). Revision guides can be loaned or brought (£7.50 approx). Exchange programmes are in place and prove a valuable way to absorb both language and culture. If you take part you should expect to host a French student and in return stay with a French family. Trips to the target-language country may also take place, where numbers permit. Costs are likely to be in the region of £300 (to include all expenses: travel to and from school, accommodation, food, language activities and excursions – 6 nights/7 days).

Is there anything else I need to know?

Please come to see us in the Department, or contact us by telephone or email if you would like to know more.

Future opportunities?

It is worth considering the study of a foreign language at GCSE level as some universities now insist that applicants have a modern foreign language qualification, (even if not immediately relevant to the course of study being applied for).

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Who should I contact for extra information?

For further information please contact: caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com

Exam boards: OCR

GCSE Geography

Geography a motivating and exciting course that gives you the WOW factor!

GCSE Geography Edexcel A: Geographical Themes and Challenges

What Will I Learn?

Geography is a continuously evolving subject that involves us all - it looks at the key global issues that are having an impact today and which will affect our futures. It helps give a greater awareness of how we behave, emphasising the importance of the relationship between people in different countries, their impact on the environment and their impact on each other. Edexcel Geography A gives you the chance to make the subject more relevant for you. For example:

You will cover human and physical geography along with geographical skills and challenges. There's a greater focus on Place and Scale. There is more emphasis on geographical skills that geographers need to progress to GCE and that employers expect.

PAPER ONE:THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1 hour 30 minutes 37.5% weighting

CHANGING LANDSCAPES OF THE UK

Two studies from coastal landscapes, river landscapes or glaciated landscapes.

WEATHER HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Two studies of Tropical Storms and Drought

ECOSYSTEMS BIODIVERSITY AND MANAGEMENT

Two studies of tropical Rainforest and Temperate Deciduous Woodlands

Total marks for this exam = 90 marks

PAPER TWO:THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1 hour 30 minutes 37.5%

CHANGING CITIES

Two studies of a UK city and a city in a developing or emerging country.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

A study of a developing or emerging country.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A study of energy or water.

Total marks for this exam = 90

PAPER THREE: GEOGRAPHICAL INVESTIGATIONS: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

1 hour 15 minutes 25%

FIELDWORK

One physical and one human investigation.

UK CHALLENGES

A study drawing across knowledge and understanding from The Physical Environment and The Human Environment.

Total mark for this paper = 60 marks

How will I be assessed?

You will sit three exams that comprise of three key themes (see sections Papers one - three above). All exams take place at the end of Year 11.

Are there any costs?

There is a requirement for an out-of-classroom experience in which fieldwork must be undertaken. Location and trip details will be publicised closer to the time.

Why study GCSE Geography?

Geography can open doors for you in the future as you will learn many real life skills that are transferable and desirable for GCE Level and the world of work! Check some of them out below:

Lateral thinking, 'Understanding the big picture', Problem-solving, Debating, Decision-making, Data collection and analysis, Independent study and research, Mapwork and Cartography, Recording techniques and data manipulation, Construction of maps and diagrams, Field Sketching, Evaluating work, Group discussion, Understanding current events, Appreciating different cultures, Global challenges, Active citizenship and Computer Literacy (IT skills).

Future Opportunities?

Just some of the jobs you can get with geography:

Advertising, Anthropology, Archaeologist, Architect, Business Management, Civil Engineering, Conservationist, Consultancy, Development studies, Environmental Science, European Politics, Financial adviser, Geologist, Hydrologist, Journalist (TV and/or Press), Law, Marketing, Meteorologist, Town Planner, Professor/lecturer, Surveying, Teaching, Tourism, Travel, Urban Studies...

For field trip experiences, please see articles on the school website and google site.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: danielle.morgan@mybiddenham.com

Exam board information: <http://www.edexcel.com/subjects/geography/pages/default.aspx>

GCSE German

What will I learn?

The course is OCR GCSE German Specification number J731. The course will help you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand German in speech and writing. You will benefit when you come into contact with German speaking people both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where German is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people in these countries.

Key features of this course are:

- A meaningful and enjoyable educational experience for all candidates.
- Known and achievable but challenging goals for candidates of all abilities.
- A useful level of linguistic competence that all candidates can achieve.
- A suitable stage in a culture of lifelong language learning.
- Useful experience of language acquisition.
- Reference to other cultures, enabling personal awareness to develop.

There are 5 topic areas:

- Home and Local Area.
- Health and Sport.
- Leisure and Entertainment (includes online).
- Travel and the Wider World.
- Education and Work.

What are the entry requirements?

An interest in German/Germany, communicating with others and a desire to break down language barriers are very important (and you are expected to have achieved at least level 5 in Key Stage 3). We try to accommodate anyone with a genuine interest and strong work ethic. If you want to study for a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language ab initio, then please come to talk to us in the Department first.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is based on the following principles:

- English is used for questions and instructions so that understanding the task is straightforward and not made unnecessarily complex by the language used.
- A broad range of test types is involved so that candidates are not disadvantaged by performance in any one test type.
- Test types are selected for their effectiveness in allowing candidates to show what they know and can do.

There are 4 areas of assessment:

- Listening exam (20% of the GCSE).
- Reading exam (20% of the GCSE).
- Speaking controlled assessment (30% of the GCSE consisting of 2 tasks taken during the 2 year course).
- Writing controlled assessment (30% of the GCSE consisting of 2 tasks taken during the 2 year course).

What are the costs?

You will be expected to have your own bilingual dictionary or purchase one from the school for £4.00 (2009 price). Revision guides can be loaned or brought (£7.50 approx). Exchange programmes are in place and prove a valuable way to absorb both language and culture. If you take part you should expect to host a German student and in return stay with a German family. Trips to the target-language country may also take place, where numbers permit. Trip costs are likely to be in the region of £300 (to include all expenses: travel to and from school, accommodation, food, language activities and excursions – 6 nights/7 days) but exchanges may cost less.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Please come to see us in the Department, or contact us by telephone or email if you would like to know more.

Future opportunities?

It is worth considering the study of a foreign language at GCSE level as some universities now insist that applicants have a modern foreign language qualification, (even if not immediately relevant to the course of study being applied for).

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Who should I contact for extra information?

For further information please contact: caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com
Exam board: OCR

GCSE Graphic Communication

Why choose Graphic Communication?

Graphic design is crucial in a number of industries for communicating brands, ideas and products, so if you're artistic and have a keen eye for striking visuals this could be the perfect career for you. You could find yourself working in a huge range of roles, including advertising, marketing, publishing and more. Jobs in this sector include...

•**Artworker** •**Commercials designer** •**Graphic designer** •**Illustrator** •**Web designer.**

You will work in areas of Graphic Communication such as those listed below.

- Illustration
- Advertising
- Packaging design
- Communication graphics
- Design for print
- Digital media
- Web Design
- Television

- Multimedia
- Lens-based and light-based media photography
- New media practices such as computer generated imagery

Skills and Techniques

You will be expected to demonstrate skills and techniques in the context of their chosen area(s) within Graphic Communication:

- showing an awareness of meaning, function, style and scale in relation to their chosen area(s) of Graphic Communication
- making an appropriate use of colour, line, tone, shape and form in their work
- interpreting a brief and working within its constraints, and/or responding to an idea, concept or issue
- displaying an appreciation of appropriate uses of typography (including hand lettering, calligraphy and graffiti), signs and symbols
- showing an awareness of a variety of materials, techniques and genres within their chosen area(s) of Graphic Communication
- being aware of the intended audience or purpose of their chosen area(s) of Graphic Communication
- providing evidence of the use of safe working practices.

The 4 Assessment Objectives are:

- **Develop** ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
- **Refine** ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
- **Record** ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.
- **Present** a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

What are the entry requirements?

The main requirement is that students are creative thinkers, willing to work hard and are interested in graphic design, media and modern advertising techniques.

Is there anything else I need to know?

If your looking to design TV commercials, movie posters, packaging, book covers, magazines, logos for companies, t-shirt, CD covers etc. then this the course for you.

How Will I be Assessed?

Unit 1 is your portfolio of work and is worth 60% of the final marks.

Unit 2 is the externally set task and is worth 40% of the marks.

What are the Costs?

Students will need to purchase some materials including sketchbooks.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: paul.alexis@mybiddenham.com

Exam board information:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-4200/subject-content/graphic-communication>

GCSE Health and Social Care

The GCSE Health and Social Care course is designed for students with the ambition to work in the health and social care industry. The course consists of two units, one examination unit and one coursework unit.

What will I learn?

Units completed during the course are:

UNIT 1: UNDERSTANDING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS

Written exam worth 40%

Students will study:

- The stages and pattern of human growth and development.
- The different factors that can affect human growth and development.
- The development of self-concept and personal relationships.
- Major life changes and how people deal with them.
- The role of relationships in personal development.

UNIT 2: HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY YEARS PROVISION

Controlled assessment worth 60%

Students will study:

- The range of care needs of major client groups.
- The types of service that exist to meet client group needs and how they are developed and organised.
- Local and national partnership working to ensure the integration of services.
- The ways people can obtain care services and the barriers that can prevent people from gaining access to services.
- The main work roles and skills of people who provide health, social care and early years care and education services.
- The principles of care that underpin all care work with clients.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 60% coursework and 40% exam. Unit 1 is the examined unit and Unit 2 is the portfolio coursework unit, which will be completed through controlled assessment.

What are the entry requirements?

No prior knowledge is required.

What extra costs may be involved?

There may be additional costs in relation to visits or work placements including CRB checks. The opportunities are designed to expose students to the health and social care sector.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students should have a genuine interest in the Health and Social Care sector with a desire to work with people. The GCSE links very well with many subjects such as Science.

Future opportunities

The GCSE leads onto the Platinum, Level 3 A Level Health and Social Care course, and subsequently a range of higher and further education opportunities. The student may decide that they wish to work as a care assistant, either with children or older people, for example, or study further to enable a career in nursing, midwifery or an allied health profession.

Useful information regarding the course can be viewed on the AQA website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/soc_sci/new/hsc_overview2.php?id=09&prev=09

Who should I contact for extra information?

For further information please contact abigail.speight@mybiddenham.com

Exam board AQA

GCSE History

Why study history at GCSE?

A GCSE in history will give you a good knowledge and understanding of the modern world and will challenge you think, argue, debate and write. History is a highly respected GCSE and many students of history have gone on to become professionals such as lawyers, politicians, teachers, business people and accountants as well as working in the creative industries and media.

What will I learn?

AQA GCSE

History B (Modern World)

Unit 1: International Relations: Conflict and Peace in the 20th Century

- Peacemaking 1918–1919 and the League of Nations
- Hitler's foreign policy and the origins of the Second World War
- The Origins of the Cold War 1945-1955
-

Unit 2: Twentieth Century Depth Studies

- The Roaring 20s: USA, 1919–1929
- Depression and the New Deal : The USA, 1929–1941
- Race Relations in the USA, 1955–1968

Unit 3: Historical Enquiry

- The Changing Role and Status of Women since 1900

In Year 9 you will study International Relations 1919-1939, a core paper set by the board. We examine the devastating causes and consequences of the Second World War and the origins of the Cold War. You will learn about the attempts made to keep the peace after the First World War, debate the role of Adolf Hitler in causing the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 and explore the post-war world including the impact of the decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945.

In Year 10 you will study American history beginning with the roaring twenties; you will investigate how the USA became the wealthiest nation in the world as well as the social change that occurred as a result. You

will learn about the African American experience, the changing of role of women, key individuals such as Henry Ford and President Roosevelt as well as more generally about the cycle of boom and bust. You will follow this with an in-depth study of race relations in the USA looking at the development of the civil rights movement and the role of individuals such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X.

In Year 11 you will carry out your historical enquiry into the changing role of women in Britain during the 20th century looking at the fight for Votes for Women by the Suffragettes as well as later developments in women's role during the First and Second World Wars.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: International Relations: Conflict and Peace in the 20th Century

Written exam paper, which is 1 hr 45 mins and worth 37.5% of the total marks.

Unit 2: 20th Century Depth Studies (USA)

Written exam paper, which is 1 hr 45 mins and worth 37.5% of the total marks.

Unit 3: Historical Enquiry British History: The Changing Role of Women

Controlled Assessment completed at school. This can vary in presentation and is worth 25% of the total marks.

What extra-curricular opportunities are there?

The History department run an annual trip to the WW1 Battlefields and Paris for GCSE students to enrich their study of Unit 1: International Relations 1919-1939. The department also has close links with the University of Cambridge and in collaboration with the staff and students there, our students have participated in independent research projects, debating and public speaking.

What are the entry requirements?

Enthusiasm and hard work are the key ingredients for successful history students. We welcome students who want to think for themselves, work in teams and contribute to group discussion. We aim to engender students who are responsible, resilient, resourceful and respectful researchers. You will need to be prepared to develop your extended writing, argument and reading. A prior interest in history is certainly helpful but don't be put off if you haven't enjoyed history lessons in the past. It is more important that you have an open and curious mind!

What are the costs?

You will need to buy your own class folder in which to keep your work. You may also wish to buy the course textbook, although students are provided with many handouts, tip sheets and other resources.

Is there anything else I need to know?

GCSE History is a challenging, academic subject and our department demand hard work and commitment from students. However, if you are prepared to work hard and develop your writing skills you will find the course very rewarding!

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: ruth.pineda@mybiddenham.com

More details are available on the AQA website: <http://web.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history>

**The information here reflects the current GCSE History course undertaken by Y10 and Y11 students. However, History GCSE is currently undergoing reform and a final decision on the topics of study will be made by the department before January 2016.*

GCSE ICT

Why Study ICT?

The bureau of labor statistics has consistently ranked the IT profession as one of the fastest growing professions. IT offers fascinating, mission-critical, high-paying jobs with the potential for multiple career paths.

While Computer Science will teach how to problem solve and use technology as a tool, it does not equip you with the skills needed to make full use of modern technology. In this way, Computer Science and ICT have been compared to the motor industry: Computer Science is like the engineering component, while ICT is like learning to drive and maintain the car. Not everybody needs to learn how to design and build an engine, but everybody should learn how to drive a car, and in this way, ICT should form the skillset of all future job applicants.

What Will I Learn?

Today, students live in a world of technology and know how to use it. The AQA specification moves from 'how to use it' to exploring how technology is created and the effects it has – not just in their daily lives, but in everything from commerce and communication, to politics and the music industry. This course was updated in 2012 and features a fresh and highly relevant course structure aimed at students wishing to pursue an academic entry into either further/higher education or the workplace. The course differs from vocational courses in that emphasis in that a greater demand is placed on the theoretical side of ICT application and requires a deeper level of understanding about the use and role of ICT.

Students will:

- Learn what ideas and resources are needed to create the latest technologies, by exploring companies such as Apple or Google.
- examine how people and organisations solve problems using ICT tools and techniques.
- Explore a variety of technologies that interest them, from communication tools, like Facebook and the Internet to tools predicting natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis.
- Investigate the impacts that ICT has on society and develop transferable skills such as problem solving and thinking logically and critically.

The units studied are:

- Unit 1: Systems and Applications in ICT - Exams Based
 - Examination unit covering a wide range of current and emerging technology related concepts and theory including collaborative tools, computer systems and mobile technologies, digital media, communications and entertainment and productivity applications.
- The Assignment: Applying ICT - Controlled Assessment
 - Candidates are each required to produce a report that will demonstrate their ability to identify requirements, and make appropriate use of ICT in providing solutions which they will analyse, design, implement, test, produce a report on and evaluate (self-evaluate and evaluate other's use of ICT).
- Practical Problem Solving in ICT - Controlled Assessment

- Students will be required to solve practical problems which they may meet in education, the community or in the work place. ICT must be used to solve the problem.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is 60% coursework based via controlled assessment and 40% examination based. Work is graded from A* to G.

Future Opportunities

This course is an ideal stepping-stone into the ICT workplace; however, many of the skills learnt on the course extend well beyond ICT employment and can be used, in conjunction with other qualifications, to build a strong skills portfolio with relevance to many different types of career path.

C grade or above must be achieved to progress to AS level IT or B (including maths and physics/chemistry) for entry onto the GCE Computing course.

A student guide to the course is available from the exam board's website:

<http://store.aqa.org.uk/resourceZone/pdf/ict/AQA-4520-W-SG-WHY-ICT.PDF>

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Beverley.Sydney@Mybiddenham.com

More details are available on the AQA website:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/ict-and-computer-science/gcse/information-and-communication-technology-4520>

OCR Nationals ICT

Why Study Vocational ICT?

The Vocational course in ICT is different compared to GCSE ICT, as this provides ICT learning in a vocational, that is practical context. A qualification in Information Technology opens up an incredible world of opportunities for work, not only within the technology industry but also in supporting roles within other industries.

While the GCSE ICT will equip you with the skills needed to make full use of modern technology. Students will find that the vocational course develops more technicals ICT skills.

What Will I Learn?

This vocationally-related qualification takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, impacts all of our lives. The new Cambridge Nationals in ICT reflects this and provides students with a solid understanding of the subject which they can use in their working lives. Three themes are covered: business information systems, creative and technical.

Students can:

- discover computer systems and what they mean including using ICT to create business solutions
- explore the ICT needs of businesses and provides students with transferable skills necessary for the workplace or as they progress to further study

- express their creative side with units focusing on multimedia components, the power of digital imagery or creating a dynamic product using sound and vision

Core units are:

Unit R001: Understanding computer systems

- This unit will provide learners with the underpinning knowledge and understanding required to use computer systems effectively. Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of the systems they use both at home and at school and will explore how these same technologies are used by business organisations

Unit R002: Using ICT to create business solutions

- Learners will use a wide range of applications that are commonly used in the workplace, schools, and in further and higher education. They will learn how to select the most appropriate software to complete tasks to meet specified business requirements in a variety of contexts. They will learn how to use software tools to handle data and communicate information for a range of business purposes, and how to apply formatting to enhance those documents to suit their purpose and intended audience.

Optional Units include:

- Business • R003: Handling data using spreadsheets • R004: Handling data using databases
Creative • R005: Creating an interactive product using multimedia components • R006: Creating digital images • R007: Creating dynamic products using sound and vision

How Will I Be Assessed?

25% R001: Understanding computer systems will be externally assessed in at the end of year 10.

75% will be internally assessed via coursework tasks.

Future Opportunities

This qualifications opens doors to diverse career paths: roles within the games design industry, web and animation development or network management or perhaps network security, digital forensics or mobile app development.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Beverley.Sydney@Mybiddenham.com

Exam board: OCR National

GCSE Law

GCSE Law gives students an understanding of the role of law in today's society. In addition to helping students to acquire subject knowledge, studying law helps to develop skills of selection, analysis, critical thinking and decision making, and an awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals.

What Will I Learn?

This course provides a basic understanding of the English Legal System and the relevant skills for progression to A Level Law, Applied Law at level 3, or employment in the legal sector. It provides grounding in civil and criminal law, focussing on courts and processes, legal personnel and sources of English law. It

encourages candidates to develop the skills of problem solving, interpreting legal material, analysis, evaluation and extended writing. The specification is relevant to the everyday life through the study of Law in Action which will include: The Law of Tort; Criminal Law; Family Law and Rights and Responsibilities.

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Previous knowledge of law is not necessary though you should try to keep informed of legal matters through news, current affairs and documentaries.

How Will I Be Assessed?

There are two units of study which will be examined at the end of Year 11:

Unit 1: The English Legal System

- Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes
- 90 marks, 50%

Unit 2: Law in Action

- Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes
- 90 marks, 50%

What Are the Costs?

Students are expected to purchase the set textbook. In addition we may visit the local and central London law courts, the Houses of Parliament and attend conferences which may incur travel costs.

Is There Anything Else I Need to Know?

Though there is a lot of detail to learn, your teacher will use a variety of methods to deliver the subject. There will be teacher input, question & answer sessions, individual task work, group work, discussions, role-play and student presentations. You will be expected to read a lot to reinforce your knowledge and understanding, apply the law to problems and issues; carry out independent research, willingly contribute to class discussions and activities and be committed to hard work.

Future Opportunities?

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to progress on to Level 3 Applied Law, AS/A2 Law or employment.

Comments Written By Law Students

"Studying Law was something I was eager to do. It was exciting to participate in the lessons, it opened my eyes about a lot of misconceptions that I had about the law. I can truly say I have a better understanding of the world we live in."

"Law gives you the opportunity to learn about many different areas of the law. It gives you an advantage if you then go on to study A Level Law. I managed to achieve a B grade at AS Level Law."

"Law is very interesting as it helps you to understand your rights and duties. It is very beneficial for the day to day decisions you have to make."

"The Law course helps boost your grades up to help you carry on with higher education. It is fun and achievable and motivates you to do better."

Who should I contact for extra information?

Contact: Mrs Kuldip Saggu - Head of Law & Assistant Head of Sixth Form

Class Room – R6 and office upstairs next to the sixth form study suite.

Course contact: kuldip.saggu@biddenham.beds.sch.uk , tel: 01234 334546

Exam board information: http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/business/new/law_overview.php

GCSE Music

What will I learn?

The Edexcel GCSE Music course has been designed to enable students to enjoy and appreciate the benefits of being involved in playing music, making music and understanding music. There are exciting opportunities for performing, composing and appraising their music. The course offers:

- A 30% weighting given to performing. We know that most students choose music because they want to perform; we want to reward and recognise their ability and enthusiasm.
- The opportunity to perform individually and in groups of any size.
- A wide choice in composing (30%) featuring broad Areas of Study.
- An accessible approach to formal listening skills and dictating skills.
- A strong emphasis on academic music skills providing a solid foundation for AS and A Level as well as preparation for a music-related career.

Set Works for study include:

- **Instrumental Music 1700–1820:** J S Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major & Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique'
- **Vocal Music:** H Purcell: Music for a While Queen: Killer Queen (from the album Sheer Heart Attack)
- **Music for Stage:** S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked) J Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope)
- **Screen Fusions:** Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album Volume 2: Release) Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album Esperanza)

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Performing 30% of the qualification

- Solo performing
- Ensemble performing
- Approaches to performing Assessment overview
- Students perform two separate pieces, of at least four minutes' combined duration.
- One solo performance, of at least one minute in duration.
- One ensemble performance, of at least one minute in duration.

Component 2: Composing 30% of the qualification 60 marks

- Developing musical ideas
- Compositional techniques and strategies
- Ensuring technical control and coherence
- Methods of notating composition scores
- Students compose two compositions, of at least three minutes' combined duration
- One composition to a brief set by Pearson, of at least one minute in duration.
- One free composition set by the student, of at least one minute in duration.

Component 3: Appraising Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 40% of the qualification

- Musical elements, musical contexts and musical language

- Areas of study:

Instrumental Music 1700–1820

Vocal Music

Music for Stage

Screen Fusions.

Section A – Areas of study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)

- Six questions related to six of the eight set works.
 - One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

Section B – Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)

- One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music. A CD with the music extracts will be played to all students at the same time and will repeat the extracts a set number of times.

What are the entry requirements?

Students taking GCSE music will need to be able to play a musical instrument or sing to Grade 1 standard although all committed and interested students are welcome to opt for one of our courses. There is open access to most music facilities at school and we encourage students to make use of them. A willingness to get involved in group activities and enjoyment of performing in front of others is a basic requirement of this course.

What are the costs?

The Music department aim to offer you concert trips and workshops both in and out of school at a cost to cover travel and tickets for events when appropriate. We encourage students to buy, from CGP, its guides relating to this course as an additional resource for the course and for revision. We are able to pay for one term's worth of instrumental or singing tuition per student per year on submission of an already paid termly invoice.

Is there anything else I need to know?

There is a rich and diverse set of activities to get involved in at Biddenham International School: from Musical Theatre, Stars in their Eyes, performance showcases, events at lunchtime and after school as well as visits to concert halls and local cultural events. There are also opportunities to get involved in other extra-curricular opportunities (such as working to develop work for an annual International Arts Festival hosted at the school) and students will showcase their final exam work.

Students are also encouraged to take part in the concert visits that are arranged throughout the course. This course provides a sound basis for the study of Music at A Level and provides opportunities to develop the key skills of working with others, solving problems and presentation that are invaluable in a wide range of careers.

Our current Head of Music is a trained classical recorder player and violinist.

Course contact: georgina.murphy@mybiddenham.com

Exam board information:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html>

GCSE Physical Education

What will I learn?

In Year 9 the GCSE PE course is taught over 3 lessons a fortnight. In Year 10 this becomes 4 lessons over a fortnight. Due to the high percentage of the GCSE Physical Education grade coming from theoretical work all lesson will be theoretical based in a classroom and with some practical elements interspersed throughout the course. Further practical lessons will be taught through core Physical Education lessons.

The GCSE PE theory section of the course is split into different areas:

- Healthy active lifestyle
- Your healthy, active body.

During theoretical lessons students will be expected to develop the ability to analysis information, discuss the importance of physical activity, label anatomical diagrams, interpret information from graphs, and recall factual information. It is also vital that students learn how to apply their understanding of theoretical elements to specific practical activities.

It is expected that students take part in physical activity outside of the curriculum to allow for them to improve their practical ability as well as during their core Physical Education lessons.

How will I be assessed?

Written exam (60%)

Students will sit a written exam in the summer. This contains a combination of multiple choice, short and long answer questions assessing all theoretical concepts covered through the theory lessons.

Controlled assessment (40%)

Students will be assessed in a range of practical activities, this will be during their core Physical Education lessons. The strongest three marks will make up 30% of the final grade. Students will also be required to carry out an analysis of performance in one of their chosen practical activities this will be a written piece of coursework. This will count for 10% of their final grade.

Is there anything else I need to know?

GCSE Physical Education is weighted heavily towards the theory of Physical Education so you need to enjoy learning about the body and the importance of physical activity not just taking part practically.

Future opportunities

The sports industry is an ever expanding part of our society and culture. There are more and more sports related careers available and there is a huge emphasis on the need to adopt healthy lifestyles in the 21st Century. Qualifications in sport such as GCSE PE look great on your CV and can provide you with huge options for further study in the field of sport and physical activity.

Extra costs

Students studying GCSE will potentially have the opportunity to purchase a GCSE PE polo shirt at a cost of approximately £18.

Recommended revision guides cost T.B.C due to new specifications.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact; phillipa.copley@mybiddenham.com

Exam board: Edexcel

GCSE Resistant Materials Technology

If you enjoy designing and sketching combined with exploring potential ideas through modeling and prototyping in the workshop, this course could be suited to you

What will I Learn?

A full GCSE in Resistant Material Technology prepares students to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing technologies. You learn to think and challenge creatively whilst acquiring expertise using specialist design software, equipment, machinery and hand tools. Students are encouraged to become creative problem solvers, as individuals and members of a team whom develop successful verbal, visual and written communication skills. Students are encouraged to become objective and critical thinkers in order to help make independent decisions throughout the design process from initial ideas to creating 2D and 3D outcomes.

To assist them in their design work at Biddenham we have 2 well equipped rooms with computers with specialist software enabling students to experience Computer Aided Design, and Computer Aided Manufacture. We have four workshops that are equipped with traditional and modern manufacturing machinery that allow students to experience, discover and develop a degree of expertise whilst working with a wide range of materials including woods, metals, plastics and electronic components.

What are the Entry Requirements?

There are no formal requirements that you should have before embarking on the Resistant Material Technology GCSE course. However, you should be interested in current product design and have a keen eye for accuracy and precision, combined with an artistic creative flair and imagination. You must be someone who can problem solve effectively and who enjoys the challenge of complex and difficult design problems.

Is there anything else I need to know?

There are strict Health and safety controls in the workshop environment. Students are expected to have the highest regard for their own and others' safety. Failure to comply will lead to temporary exclusion from workshop lessons.

How will I be Assessed?

Unit 1: Written Paper (45601) 2 hours - 40%

Candidates answer all questions in two sections

Pre-Release material issued

plus

Unit 2: Design and Making Practice (45602) Approximately 45 hours – 60%

Consists of a single design and make activity selected from a range of board set tasks

What are the costs?

Students may need to purchase some specialised materials and will be advised to purchase revision booklets.

Future Opportunities?

A GCSE in Resistant Materials will give you essential life skills of independence and creative, objective thinking however, your qualification in this subject can also open the doors to related design / manufacture apprenticeships, National Diplomas and A-Levels if you choose to gain further expertise and knowledge in the subject. Careers that can potentially develop from these GCSE's are: *product design, architecture, theatre design, Interior design, jewellery design, exhibition design, engineering and manufacture, mechanics, carpentry, building Industry, project management, electrical and electronic engineering, armed forces, computer engineering, television and broadcast.*

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: nicola.pearson@mybiddenham.com

Exam board information: AQA Resistant Materials Technology 4562

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-resistant-materials-4560/why-choose>

GCSE Spanish

What will I learn?

The course is AQA GCSE Spanish specification number 4698. The course will help you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand Spanish in speech and writing. You will benefit when you come into contact with Spanish speaking people both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people in these countries.

Key features of this course are:

- Development of language skills in a variety of contexts.
- Flexible, unitised structure allows students to maximise achievement.
- Choice of contexts and purposes for Writing and Speaking units.
- Development of ability to provide and understand information and opinions on a variety of topics relating to both own country/community and those where Spanish is spoken

There are 4 topic areas:

- Lifestyle.
- Leisure.
- Home and Environment.
- Work and Education.

What are the entry requirements?

An interest in Spanish/Spain and Latin America, communicating with others and a desire to break down language barriers are very important (and you are expected to have achieved at least level 5 in Key Stage 3). We try to accommodate anyone with a genuine interest and strong work ethic. If you want to study for a GCSE in a Modern Language ab initio, then please come to talk to us in the Department first.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is based on the following principles:

- English is used for questions and instructions so that understanding the task is straightforward and not made unnecessarily complex by the language used.
- A broad range of test types is involved so that candidates are not disadvantaged by performance in any one test type.
- Test types are selected for their effectiveness in allowing candidates to show what they know and can do.

There are 4 areas of assessment:

- Listening exam (20% of the GCSE).
- Reading exam (20% of the GCSE).
- Speaking controlled assessment (30% of the GCSE consisting of 2 tasks taken during the 2 year course).
- Writing controlled assessment (30% of the GCSE consisting of 2 tasks taken during the 2 year course).

What are the costs?

You will be expected to have your own bilingual dictionary or purchase one from the school for £4.00 (2009 price). Revision guides can be loaned or brought (£7.50 approx). A trip to the target-language country may take place in the summer, where numbers permit. Costs are likely to be in the region of £650 (to include all expenses: travel to and from school, accommodation, food, language activities and excursions – 6 nights/7days).

Is there anything else I need to know?

Please come to see us in the Department, or contact us by telephone or email if you would like to know more.

Future opportunities

It is worth considering the study of a foreign language at GCSE level as some universities now insist that applicants have a modern foreign language qualification (even if not immediately relevant to the course of study being applied for).

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: maria.tavera@mybiddenham.com

Head of Department: caroline.piotrowski@mybiddenham.com

Exam board: AQA

GCSE Separate Sciences

What will I learn?

Separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. For those students who have proven ability and a healthy curiosity of the scientific world, and are potentially considering a university course or career in the Sciences then the separate Science GCSEs are recommended. This will mean students will obtain three separate GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each of which will be a separate GCSE.

Triple Science comprises modules which assess scientific method:

What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that all students whose teachers' assessment is a level 6 or above should opt for Triple Science. Although, if students are passionate about science and are willing to take on the extra work, they can complete the course at a foundation level.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be using the new 9-1 grading system, replacing the A*-G. The foundation tiers will cover grades 1–5 and the higher, grades 4-9. There are no controlled assessments in the new science qualification however the questions assessing students' use of mathematical skills will make up 15% of the assessments. The exam will be 3.5 hours per subject with the biology paper carrying a 10%, chemistry 20% and physics 30% mathematical assessment.

Future opportunities?

The course prepares students for progression onto A level sciences, however if you are interested in taking a science at A level then the Triple Science option is advised, due to additional skills and content covered. The development of science in a modern society is essential for economic growth. It increasingly plays a part in our everyday lives. The list of career opportunities is almost endless. They range from the medical profession, i.e. doctor, nurse, pharmacist, public health and dentistry, to construction engineering, chemical engineering and mechanical engineering. Opportunities also occur in computing, electronics, telecommunications and electrical engineering. Scientists also form an important part of the aerospace industry, industrial chemical manufacturing, textiles and car industry.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: elise.berrill@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Exam board information: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/new-science-gcse-specifications>

