



King's Norton Boys' School

HUMANI SEMPER CONTENDIMUS



YEAR 9 OPTIONS INFORMATION FEBRUARY 2020

INTRODUCTION

Dear Year 9 student,

You are about to start on a new stage in your education.

So far, all the decisions about courses you have followed have been made by the school. Now you have the chance to choose some of the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11.

Start by reading this booklet carefully. Show it to your parents too, so that they can help you in your decision making.

If there is any further information you need, do not hesitate to ask Mr Butcher, Deputy Headteacher, your subject teachers, form tutor or any other member of staff you know well. We are all available and keen to help you make the choices which will make your next two years as enjoyable, successful and rewarding as possible.

Good Luck!

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Clayton
Headteacher



Mr J Butcher
Deputy Headteacher

OPTIONS PROCESS

OPTIONS EVENING

THURSDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2020

1

This is a presentation for students, parents/carers where you will be introduced to the scheme and the various steps which have to be taken. There will also be information available the next two years focussed on ensuring our boys are ready for post 16 study.

YEAR 9 PARENTS EVENING

THURSDAY 12th MARCH 4PM – 6.30PM

2

This is the most convenient occasion for gathering advice from tutors and individual teachers, an opportunity to double check on progress, courses and potential in your subjects.

OPTIONS FORM

DEADLINE: THURSDAY 19th MARCH

3

Once the choices have been made, the forms are handed to the Year 9 tutors. We shall do our best to provide you with courses that you have chosen, but it may be that we run out of spaces in a particular subject. If there is a problem of this kind, we shall discuss it with the students concerned. It is essential that you nominate reserve subjects, so that we can do our best to accommodate students' wishes closely in the event that they may not be able to study their original choices.

COMPULSORY CURRICULUM

Some subjects are followed by all students. These form the compulsory part of the curriculum. They are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- RE/ PSHE & Careers
- Physical Education (CORE)
- Social, Personal and Health Education

OPTIONAL CURRICULUM

In addition to the compulsory curriculum, students also study up to four further subjects. These are GCSEs, applied courses such as a BTEC, or a combination of both.

It is vitally important at this stage that students select courses which are most suited to their interests, abilities and learning styles. You are encouraged to discuss your preference with course leaders, form tutors and learning support staff.

- Art & Design
- Business Studies*
This course is being reviewed and will be offered as either a BTEC or GCSE qualification
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Creative iMedia (ICT)
(Cambridge National)
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education
- Sport (BTEC)

GCSE ENGLISH

GCSE English Language and Literature (AQA)

In years 10 and 11 you will be taking a double GCSE in English Language and Literature. There is no longer a controlled assessment element; assessment is wholly exam based for both strands and you will be examined at the end of Year 11.

English Language

There are two written exams, each 1 hour 45 minutes

What is studied: a variety of texts from 19th, 20th and 21st centuries

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing (50% overall)

Section A: reading (40 marks) (25%)

Section B: writing (25%)

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (50% overall)

Section A: reading (40 marks) (25%)

Section B: writing (40 marks) (25%)

English Literature

There are two written exams:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (40% overall)

Exam: 1 hr 45 minutes

Section A - Shakespeare: you will answer one question on the play you have studied (20%)

Section B - The 19th-century novel: you will answer one question on the novel you have studied (20%)

Modern texts and poetry (60% overall)

Exam: 2hrs 15 minutes

Section A - Modern texts: you will answer one essay question from a choice of two on your studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B - Poetry: you will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from your chosen anthology cluster.

Section C - Unseen poetry: you will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

In addition to these, there is a speaking and listening element that is assessed through the completion of a presentation to a group. This is a separate qualification but a compulsory component.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics GCSE will consist of three equally weighted papers, one calculator and two non-calculator, each 1 hour 30mins in length. You will be awarded a 9-1 grade, with questions targeted at grades 5-1 at Foundation tier and at grades 9-3 at Higher tier.

Students will be allocated a tier in Year 11 when their performance has been reviewed, and these will be continually reviewed throughout Year 10 and Year 11.

You will need to be able to apply techniques and processes, reason, interpret and solve problems across a range of topics, including: Number, Algebra, Interpreting/Presenting Data, Fractions, Ratio & Percentages, Angles & Trigonometry, Graphs, Area & Volume, Transformations, Equations & Inequalities, Probability, Multiplicative Reasoning, Similarity & Congruence, Circle Theorems, Vectors, and Geometric Proof.

Our department uses a significant amount of assessment with personalised feedback and personalised follow up tasks.



GCSE SCIENCE

You will begin studying a combined Science programme which leads to a double graded GCSE being awarded following examinations in the summer of Year 11. This double grading reflects how you have performed on average across all three sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

We also offer the separate Science GCSE's allowing you to gain individual qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This route is particularly suited to you if you are planning to continue to study Science at post 16 level. We do not select students for the separate sciences until the end of Year 9, however, we ask that if you are interested that you indicate this on the options form in the appropriate place.

We use the Pearson Edexcel examination board for all of our Science qualifications. The syllabus contains a mixture of traditional and modern Science content which is assessed through six examinations in the summer of Year 11. There is no longer a controlled assessment or coursework element for GCSE Science however, practical work still takes a prominent place within the syllabus.



PSHE & CAREERS

The PSHE events in Years 9, 10 and 11 places strong emphasis on the areas of Careers Education, Information and Guidance, Work Related Learning [WRL] and Enterprise Education.

In Year 9 you will have received a series of career -focused lessons and have been made aware of where you can go to find additional information about your post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

In Years 10 and 11 more time is given over to WRL, which has three strands: **Learning about work** (developing knowledge and understanding of the workplace), **Learning through work** (acquiring practical skills in a real working environment) and **Learning for work** (knowledge and skills developed in a way that is directly relevant to the workplace).

Throughout these two years you will be given more guidance on routes beyond Year 11. The majority of this work is student-led in an effort to help you develop your time management skills.

Year 10 students will undertake work experience. We encourage you to find your own placement and recommend that you begin your search well before September of Year 10.

In Year 11 all students have a minimum twenty-minute interview with an independent Careers Advisor. At this time, you will be able to talk about future plans, e.g. continuing your academic studies, following a vocational course, entering into a modern apprenticeship programme or beginning full-time work and training programme.

By the time you reach the end of your compulsory education we would hope that you will have been able to make an informed choice on the next stage in your life.

More information on careers, education information and guidance at KNBS is available on the Career pages on the school's website.

CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education in Years 10 and 11 allows a more in-depth study of team games, athletics and health-related fitness principles.

In Year 10 you will follow a set programme of activities that develops your understanding and skills from Key Stage 3. There is a greater opportunity for independent learning, and the development of leadership and social skills is a key feature within lessons. You will have the opportunity to use the Fitness Suite, developing your knowledge, understanding and application of fitness concepts whilst planning your own training programme.

In Year 11 you will opt to participate in activities and study these sports for a term at a time to allow you to develop an enjoyment and high level of skilled performance in your chosen activity.

By offering a wide variety of sports, both in and outside school, it is hoped that you will be able to find an activity you will want to pursue on leaving school.



ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

In order to satisfy the criteria for the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc), students need to study and pass a particular suite of subjects.

These are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (double award)
- History or Geography
- A modern foreign language (French)

There has been huge emphasis on Ebacc over the past few years, and there is growing evidence that in order to progress successfully to higher education, Ebacc qualifications provide candidates with a clear advantage over those without them.

Success in Ebacc subjects is regarded as evidence of a well-rounded academic preparation for work or further study, and we strongly recommend that if you are capable of studying these subjects, then you should do so.

For many students who show potential to succeed with Ebacc, we have prescribed a further Ebacc subject, so that the full suite of Ebacc subjects will be studied. For these students, there will be the freedom to select two further option choices.

HIGH QUALITY VOCATIONAL COURSES

What are BTECs and Cambridge Nationals?

BTECs are vocational qualifications offered by the Edexcel exam board. Cambridge Nationals are a similar type of course offered by OCR. They are nationally recognised by employers and further education providers, and are offered in many schools as alternatives to GCSE qualifications. All vocational courses offered at KNBS are high quality courses, approved by the government for inclusion in 2020 performance indicators.

What are they worth?

Vocational courses are predominantly coursework based, using a mixture of projects and assignments, and offer a different learning experience to GCSEs. Vocational courses also have an examined component. Each pass is equivalent to at least a C grade at GCSE. It is possible to achieve the equivalent of a B with a "merit" and an A with a "distinction".

What vocational courses are offered at KNBS?

We will be offering BTEC courses in Sport and Business Studies. We will offer a Cambridge National in 'Creative iMedia' (this is strongly ICT based, and replaces our previous ICT offer).

Will I be studying vocational courses or GCSEs?

Most students who opt for PE will follow a GCSE course, but some will study BTEC Sport if that would be a more successful option for them. Other choices are made by you after close consultation with staff at KNBS.

What can a BTEC / Cambridge National lead to?

Level 2 vocational qualifications are particularly good preparation for level 3 BTEC qualifications, which are specialist qualifications offered at many sixth forms. These are equivalent to A-levels and are recognised by universities, further education colleges and employers alike. These qualifications are suitable for students aged 16 upwards and are recommended for those who have achieved at least four A*- C grade GCSEs or have passed a vocational qualification at level 2 (GCSE equivalent).

GCSE ART & DESIGN

Examination Board:	AQA
Coursework:	Minimum two projects 60%
Examination:	One project 40%

What am I expected to produce in the GCSE Art and Design course?

You will create two exciting sketchbooks full of drawings, ideas and artists research which will result in several original, larger final pieces in a range of 2D and 3D media such as colour pencil, paint, clay, lino printing and photography. You will have the opportunity to explore lots of new materials throughout the two years.

How much will I be expected to do over the two year course?

You will produce two coursework projects and one exam project.

Will I be able to choose what media I work in?

During the first project we will encourage you to use a variety of different media and demonstrate how to use them successfully. During the second project and exam project, you can choose what media you work in, and your teacher will guide you in this.

What media can we use for GCSE?

Painting, drawing (in pencil, biro, crayon, pastel on paper, fabric, scratchboard) printing in various forms, sculpture, photography and photoshop, large-scale ceramics and illustration. And anything else you can think of!

Are there any trips involved?

There will be two exciting day trips (one in Year 10 and one in Year 11) which will help you to gather your research. In Year 11 you will get the opportunity to go to a variety of art galleries in London to gather ideas for your exam unit.

What about the exam?

In Year 11 students are put to the test in a ten hour examination spread out over several days. Your topic will be set by the AQA examination board. However, understanding the exam is nothing to worry about as it's very similar to completing a piece of coursework and your teacher will guide you through this.

What can I do with my Art GCSE after Year 11?

Many students have enjoyed success in this subject with excellent examination results leading on to complete A Levels in a Sixth Form or going on to various colleges and Universities.

What will I need?

An A4 ring bound sketchbook, pencils, rubber, sharpener, coloured crayons, watercolours, a fine-liner and an A2 portfolio.

BTEC BUSINESS STUDIES

The information below is based on what was offered to students in Sept 2019 – this may be subject to change

Examination Board:	Edexcel
Coursework:	Component 1: 30% Exploring Enterprises
	Component 2: 30% Planning for and running an Enterprise
Examination:	Component 3: 40% Promotion and Finance for Enterprise

You will gain grades equivalent to GCSE grades A* - F on successful completion of the course (Pass, Merit, Distinction/*).

What does Business Studies involve?

Marketing – how products are presented and sold

Finance – how money is essential to the business

Production – how things are made

Why choose business?

It is relevant to the world of work. Employers value the qualification. There are **real** opportunities to progress in education or employment. You will gain valuable skills. When you leave school and wish to get a job, you will understand a little more about the way a business works. If you choose not to become an employee, you will perhaps have the skills and knowledge to start your own business. This course will teach you the basics of setting up your own enterprise.

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

It is unlikely that you will have studied Business Studies before taking this course, but that does not matter. You will have come across business terms in your ICT lessons. You may have enjoyed this part of the ICT course and have an interest in business technology, or perhaps want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and the systems that help businesses communicate effectively.

Is this the right subject for me?

This course is both active and enjoyable. You will need to be good at communicating and explaining your ideas, and not be afraid of learning new things and working with numbers to solve business problems. You will learn how to be a creative thinker and how to make decisions. What's more, you will also learn about the world of business through research and investigation, as well as through practical tasks. A strong desire to develop word processing, database and spreadsheet skills through business applications is a very good reason for taking this course.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Examination Board:**OCR GCSE****Examination:**

The course is structured with all exam assessments at the end of the two years. The controlled assessment section will be completed early in Year 11.

If you have an aptitude for how computer systems work, programming and wanting to gain a greater understanding of these concepts then this course is for you.

CONTENT OVERVIEW**Computer systems - 50% of total GCSE**

- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 50% of total GCSE

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

Programming project – pass/ fail

- Programming techniques
- Analysis
- Design
- Development
- Testing and evaluation and conclusions

GCSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

What's your big idea?

Our world is changing rapidly – your generation needs to prepare for the unknown. Design and Technology is about solving real world problems.

The OCR specification encourages creative thinking leading to design innovation, it is centred on the iterative design processes of 'explore / create / evaluate', preparing learners to become critical and creative designers and informed consumers of the future.

Principles of Design and Technology

100 marks – 2 hour's written paper

This component brings together the learners' 'core' and 'in-depth' knowledge and understanding.

- 'Core' knowledge of Design and Technology principles demonstrates learners' broad understanding of principles that all learners should have across the subject.
- 'In-depth' knowledge allows learners to focus more directly on at least one main material category, or design engineering. The question on paper is split into two sections. A minimum of 15% of the paper will assess learners' mathematical skills as applied within a design and technology context.
- To assess this knowledge, you will be given weekly theory homework.

50% of total GCSE (9–1)

Iterative Design Challenge

100 marks Approx. 40 hours

Non-exam assessment

This will involve designing and making a prototype to solve a Real world problem. You will be expected to:

- Generate creative solutions to benefit people and the planet
- Communicate and develop ideas through sketches, models and computer aided design
- Learn how products are manufactured in industry
- Manipulate materials and use tools to create your ideas.
- Get regular feedback from your client to improve your product
- Work with leading edge technology and manufacturing techniques such as 3D printing and other computer aided design and manufacturing skills.

GCSE Drama

The Drama GCSE follows the AQA syllabus and is divided into three components:

Component 1: Understanding drama

Component 2: Devising drama

Component 3: Texts in practice

Component 1 Understanding Drama

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes. 40% of GCSE.

- Section A: multiple choice (4 marks)
- Section B: four questions on a given extract from the play Blood Brothers
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on a piece of live theatre we have seen

Component 2 Devising Drama

Practical element: 40% of GCSE

- Devised practical performance
- Rehearsal log book

Component 3 Texts in Practice

Practical element: 20% of GCSE

- Performance of two extracts from one play

Why take GCSE Drama?

- There are so many transferable skills that will be beneficial in many aspects of life and work e.g. public speaking, team work, leadership, problem solving.
- Opportunities to work with professional actors and practitioners through our connection with the Birmingham Hippodrome.
- Opportunities to perform on professional stages.
- Trip to go and see a piece of live theatre as part of a review.

Is this subject right for me?

- You do not need to have any prior acting experience. Instead you need to be confident to perform in front of others and be ready to be creative.
- It is a chance to learn differently, to be active, take initiative and build confidence.

“Universities, like many employers, value a rounded education. Why shouldn't they vary their experiences with an arts subject? Academic versatility can only be a good thing.”

Tim Bradshaw, Chief Executive, Russell Group

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

The AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure you develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing your practical cookery skills to give you a strong understanding of nutrition. You will also study a wide range of theory topics, which will require an interest in the mechanics of cooking as well as food science and hygiene practices.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

You will be expected to provide ingredients and cook at least once a week throughout Year 10 and 11.

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

Assessment:

Controlled assessment - 50% -

- 15% food investigation in to the scientific and functional characteristics of an ingredient (30 marks).
- 35% Food preparation project – you will need to research, plan prepare and cook a range of dishes to a theme set by the exam board. There is a three hour practical exam where you will need to present three dishes at a specific time (70 marks).

Examination - 50% - 1 hr 45minutes:

- 20 marks – multiple choice;
- 80 marks written answer questions. A single examination testing theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board: Edexcel Specification B (From 2016)

Examinations: 3 X 1hr 30-minute examinations

What will I Learn?

The world is always changing. This specification gives you the chance to learn about those changes.

There are three components:

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues 1hr 30 minutes exam (37.5% of final mark)

- Topic 1: Hazardous Earth
- Topic 2: Development dynamics
- Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

Component 2: Geographical Issues 1hr 30 minutes exam (37.5% of final mark)

- Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape – including sub-topics 4A Coastal change and conflict and 4B: River processes and pressures.
- Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape – including a case study - Dynamic UK cities.
- Topic 6: Geographical investigations – including one physical fieldwork investigation and one human fieldwork investigation linked to topics 4 and 5.

Component 3: People and Environment Issues- Making Geographical Decisions 1hr 30 minutes exam (25% of final mark)

- Topic 7: People and the biosphere
- Topic 8: Forests under threat
- Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

You will have learned a number of geographical skills and a body of geographical knowledge at Key Stage 3. These will be developed further during the GCSE course to give you a deeper understanding of the world. Much will be new but your previous study of geography will have helped prepare you to think like a geographer, so the development of new skills and concepts will be easy.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

Geography really is an education for life. Employers and universities value the broad range of transferable skills that geography delivers. Geography fits neatly with science, arts and humanities.

Geographers also tend to have very good ICT skills. A GCSE in Geography is excellent preparation for a career in planning, resource and country management, tourism and recreation and environmental management and development. Many geographers also move into general management careers or branch out into journalism.

GCSE HISTORY

Why study History?

A study of History allows you to better understand the world around you, current affairs, your local community and your place in it. It encourages independent thinking and promotes cultural awareness. If you have an interest in how society has changed in the past and your place in it now, then History is for you.

You will learn and develop the following skills:

- How to interpret and evaluate pieces of evidence from the past;
- How to effectively communicate and apply knowledge and skills;
- How to describe and analyse the key events and people of the periods studied, using problem solving, critical thinking and judgment under pressure.

All of the above are transferrable academic skills which are highly sought after by colleges, universities and employers.

What will I study?

GCSE History follows the AQA specification and you will study the following:

Paper 1:

Section A: Period Study - Germany 1890 -1945: Democracy and dictatorship

Section B: World Depth Study – Conflict and Tension: The First World War 1894-1918

Paper 2:

Section A: Thematic Study – Britain: Health and the people c1000 to present

Section B: British Depth Study with historical environment – Norman England

Assessment:

All assessment in History is linear, which means students will take their exams at the end of Year 11. Students will be assessed by two separate exams, each 2 hours long. There is no coursework/controlled assessment unit.

Is GCSE History right for me?

To achieve high grades in History you must have a natural interest and engagement with the past and enjoy learning about political, social, economic and military events. You will need to read and write in depth, have a good level of written and verbal communication and be prepared to think for yourself and reach your own conclusions.



Cambridge National **Creative iMedia (ICT)**

It has four units, three of them are based on your coursework in making and changing images using Photoshop, making webpages and creating digital marketing animations. One unit has a written exam, which is taken in the January of Year 11.

All four of the units are worth 25% of the overall grade each. All coursework units require extensive planning and evaluating of each task. Each unit is assessed in controlled assessment conditions and will be marked at the end of each project. This will then be externally moderated by OCR.

By taking this option you will be taking a Level 2 VCF course (not a BTEC) from OCR.

On this course students can achieve a level 1 or 2 pass, a merit, a distinction or distinction*. These are equivalent to a GCSE Grade 9 – 1.

Year 10

R085: Creating a multiple website

- In this unit, students will have the opportunity to understand the basics of creating multiple websites. They will also be able to demonstrate their creativity by combining components to create a functional, intuitive and aesthetically pleasing website using Dreamweaver.

R086: Developing digital animations

- Through this unit, students will examine the basics of creating digital animations and their environments for the creative and digital media sector. They will work to a specific client brief and will need to show detailed planning skills, complex animation techniques and analytical conclusions.

Year 11

R081: Pre-production skills (Exam)

- This is a compulsory unit, based on all aspects of planning projects from mood boards to Gantt Charts. It will also develop their understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.

- **R082: Creating digital graphics**

This is also a compulsory unit, in which Photoshop is used to edit photographs and images to suit given situations. Students will learn how to effectively use the software and how to use tools to meet a client brief in the business world.

GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

60% of the world's population speak more than one language. You can too!

Why study for a GCSE in French

English is not enough...More and more colleges and universities are asking for a GCSE in a language as part of their requirements for being accepted onto a course. Learning a language is a challenge and can be tough, but why not use it as an opportunity to show future employers or colleges / universities what you are made of?

We live in an increasingly globalised society where knowledge of another language is seen more and more as a valuable asset and one that can increase your earning potential.

Language learning is a life skill and much more!

Did you know that studying a second language can improve your skills and grades in Mathematics and English and can improve chances to access many university choices?

Research has shown that mathematics and verbal exam scores climb higher with each additional year of foreign language study, which means that the longer you study a foreign language, the stronger your skills become and you'll be better equipped to succeed in school.

What will I learn at KNBS?

This exciting GCSE courses is based on a practical language that is relevant to you and the world around you. French is based on the following three themes:

- Identity and culture: including family relationships, free time activities, media and talking about local customs.
- Local, international and global areas of interest: including holidays, the environment and talking about where you live.
- Current and future study and employment: including talking about school, and discussing future study and job plans.

How will I be examined?

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. Achievement in French will be certificated by a GCSE from the AQA Examination Board. French is examined in four parts:

Listening 25% - One 45-minute exam.

Reading 25% - One 1-hour exam.

Writing 25% - One 75 minutes exam for Higher and 60 minutes for Foundation, with two pieces of extended writing and a translation.

Speaking 25% - 12minutes for Higher – 9 minutes for Foundation

Speaking exam, including a role play exercise and a conversation about the GCSE themes.

GCSE MUSIC

The Music GCSE course follows the AQA syllabus and is divided into three components:

- Unit 1 - Understanding music
- Unit 2 - Performing music
- Unit 3 - Composing music

Unit 1 Understanding Music

1hr 30mins listening examination (40% of the final mark)

You will need to answer questions based on short musical excerpts of music from four areas of study:

- Western classical tradition 1650–1910
- Popular music
- Traditional music
- Western classical tradition since 1910.

You will also need to complete essay questions based on study pieces from two of these also.

Unit 2 Performing Music

30% of the final mark

One solo performance and one group performance.

The recordings of these are made during the second year of the course. You will need to be able to perform to a minimum of G3 standard by Year 11 to achieve a GCSE grade 4.

Unit 3 Composing and Appraising Music

30% of the final mark

Students compose two pieces of music:

Composition 1: Composition to a brief

Composition 2: Free composition

Course Content

You will learn about a variety of styles of music from Classical Pop and develop listening, performing and composing skills using keyboards or your own instruments.

Can anyone take Music GCSE?

Yes, but you will need to play an instrument at Grade 2 standard or equivalent at the beginning of the course. (audition may be required).

You must be willing to practice regularly to further improve performance standard by Year 11.

You will need to be interested in different types of music and be willing to be creative and learn new skills.



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

'Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools speak because they have to say something.' Plato 429-348BCE

The purpose of RS is to help you develop into the wise man who has something to say. RS will give you the tools to be able to reason and negotiate with the fool.

You have now been studying RE at KNBS for nearly three years. Over that time, you have extended your knowledge on the world's greatest influence; Religion. RS is an academic subject which builds on the knowledge you have gained so far. However, it is no longer just about being educated in religion.

The course is broken down into three sections:

1. A study of two religions.
2. Philosophy - a study of the nature of existence, knowledge and values.
3. Ethics - a study into moral principles that govern a person's behaviour.

During the course, pupils will examine a range of issues including scriptural authority, key beliefs, forms of religious expression, diversity within and between Christianity and Islam, and the place of these religions in the 21st century in the context of relationships, science, conflict, human rights and social justice.

How is the course examined?

The course is 100% examination and consists of three examinations.

2 x 1 hour (25% each)

1 x 2 hours (50%)

Skills required for success

- Inquisitiveness, critical thinking, interpreting and evaluating.
- An appreciation of human diversity.
- A willingness to keep an open mind – no one is expecting students to change their belief or opinion but be aware how and why others think differently to them.
- A willingness to read newspapers and watch the news – faith issues come up all the time and these are always discussed in lessons.
- A willingness to contribute to discussions and debates – be willing to share viewpoints and learn from others.
- A willingness be ready to challenge ideas – including your own – but respect and value the views of all.

Looking into the future.

RS is looked on favourably by colleges, universities and employers. Why? Because by studying RS you demonstrate that you are an open-minded person who has an understanding of the life, beliefs and culture of others. This is a necessary skill for the modern world. You will also develop your written skills as well as learning to support your points of view and argue logically. Skills any future employer will see as an advantage.

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Subject to final accreditation we will follow the new OCR specification. This comprises two x one hour examinations (30% each), practical assessment in three sports (10% each) and a piece of written coursework (completed in controlled assessment conditions).

The Physical Education course offers you an opportunity to develop an understanding of Sports Science and apply this knowledge to your own practical performances.

Theory Lessons:

Theory lessons investigate the following areas:

- Paper 1 – Physiology and the effects of exercise on the body
- Paper 2 – Social-Cultural and Psychology issues in Sport

Lessons draw on many different resources, and homework is used to further learning.

Practical Lessons (30%):

The following practical activities are taught as part of the course:

- Football
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Badminton
- Cricket
- Athletics (including Cross Country running)
- Table tennis

Each activity will be covered in Years 10 and 11, thereby enabling you to show progression in all sports. You will be assessed in all activities, with your best three taken forward to your final grade, with the marks making up **30%** of the final grade.

A small number of alternative sports are available for assessment on the new specification. Please speak to PE staff if you have an enquiry

Coursework (10%) Analysis task:

The coursework is an analysis of performance task, which focuses on how well tasks are performed and how performance can be improved further.

An average two week GCSE PE timetable would look like:

2 x Practical lessons

3 x Theory lessons

It is strongly recommended that students who choose GCSE PE are playing regular sport, both inside and outside of school. Such is the levels required to obtain practical marks.

PE Staff will communicate with parents and students over which PE pathway is best for them. Please ask if interested.

BTEC SPORT FIRST AWARD

The information below is based on what was offered to students in Sept 2019 – this may be subject to change

You may prefer and be more suited to the BTEC Sport course. This course is **75%** assignment based with one computer based exam worth **25%** of your final grade.

During your assignments you will have the opportunity to improve work following suggestions from the teacher. You are required to have an interest, in-depth understanding and knowledge of sport and will be required to complete a lot of practical PE also.

The Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Award in Sport consists of four units selected in response to the interests and ambitions of the group from the options below:

Core units:

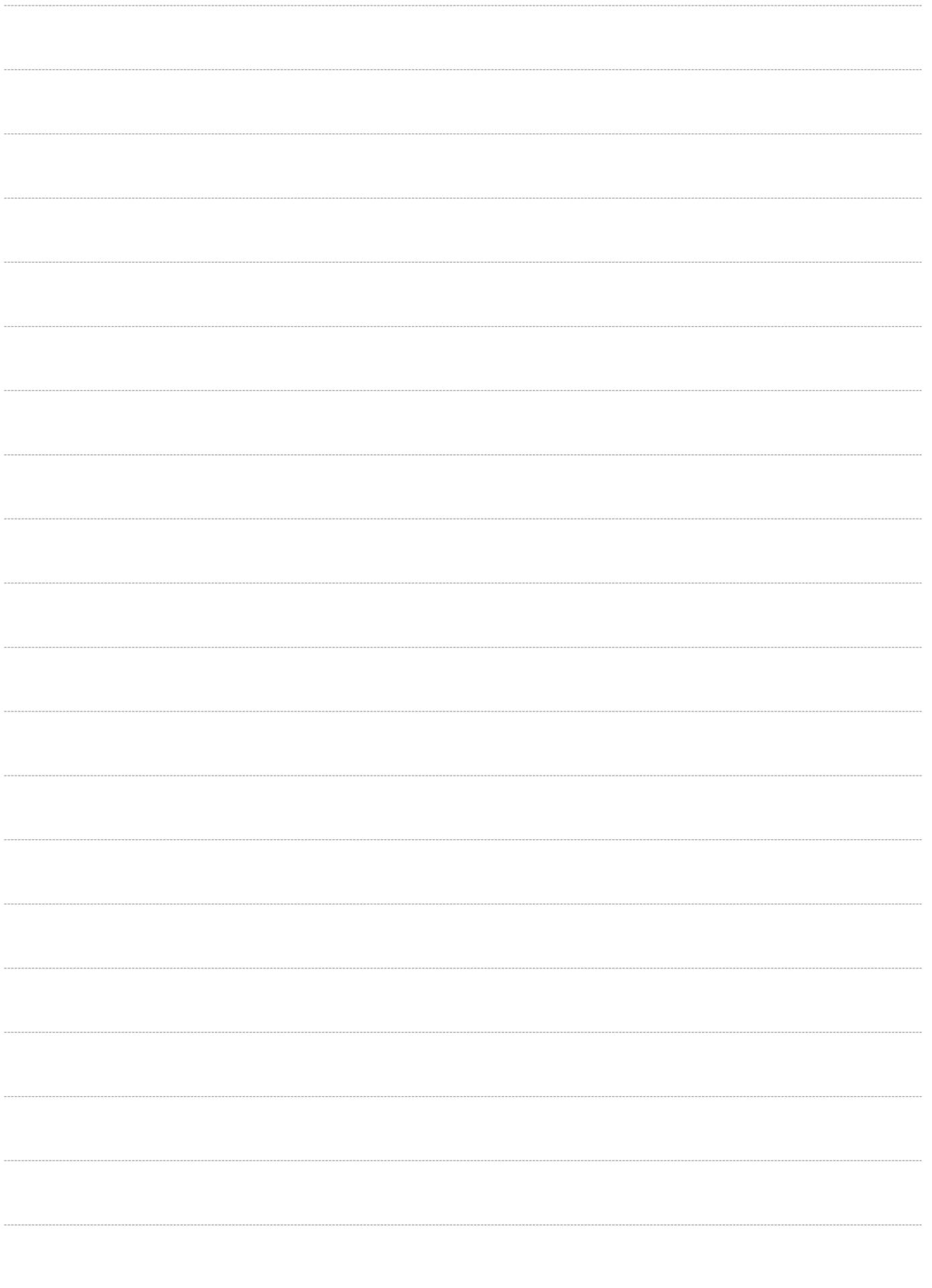
Fitness for Sport and Exercise
Practical Sports Performance

Optional Units:

The Mind and Sports Performance
The Sports Performer in Action
Training for Personal Fitness
Leading Sports Activities

PE staff will advise you as to the best option for you, as to whether GCSE or BTEC will be most beneficial for each individual person.





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