



**CENTRAL
FOUNDATION**
BOYS' SCHOOL

GCSE Choices

SUBJECT GUIDE
2023 – 2024

Year 9 GCSE Choices Booklet

At Central Foundation Boys' School, we believe every student should be encouraged to achieve their full potential. We focus on developing student ambition as well as their academic and personal achievement. Our aim is to support our students to progress onto the future pathway of study, and career, of their choice.

Students that make the most progress at Central Foundation Boys' School have the below habits in common. These factors are extremely important in Year 9, at GCSE and beyond.

1. **Attend school every day**
2. **Excellent behaviour in lessons**
3. **Complete every homework**

GCSE Core Subjects

Students at Central Foundation study the following subjects at GCSE: **English Literature, English Language, Maths, Science, a language, and Religious Education**. These subjects are compulsory at a national level and a language provides students with the Ebacc qualification. Students may also be able to take their home language at GCSE.

GCSE Options Subjects

The choice of GCSE courses is an extremely important step on a student's educational journey. Our aim is to ensure each individual chooses subjects that spark their curiosity, and that they will enjoy studying.

- Students are invited to choose **three option subjects** to study alongside their core subjects.
- Students must share their **options order of preference**; subjects which they most want to study.
- We can recommend which options choices will support students to access a specific career or study pathway eg: Engineering, Medicine or Law.
- We aim to offer students their three first choices subjects. However, this is not always possible.

What does this booklet contain?

This booklet contains information about the courses students could follow. It contains an explanation of what each course of study involves so that students understand what they will need to do to be successful at GCSE.

We strongly suggest that students discuss their options choices with family members and carers, with subject teachers, and with our careers service.

What happens next?

Students will hear from members of staff who teach each GCSE option subject during their lesson time.

You will be invited to ask questions on **Parents' Evening on Tuesday 23rd April**

We ask that you share your final choices with us by the **GCSE Options Choice Deadline Tuesday 7th May**.

This is an online form which allows you to choose your options and share any questions you have.

You will receive confirmation of confirmed subjects during the summer term.

How does my choice change my pathway?

What you study at GCSE can often lead onto further study. For example, the study of Computer Science at GCSE, significantly supports students to access Computer Science at A Level. A Level subjects require students to have achieved at least a grade 6 or 7 in that subject at GCSE. To take a Level 3 Qualification at Sixth Form (which is equivalent to 3 A-levels) you will need to have achieved Maths and English as well as a number of other GCSEs.

What are universities interested in?

Oxford and Cambridge and other highly selective universities are particularly interested in students who study “**facilitating subjects**” or **EBACC subjects**. These subjects include: English, Maths, Science, Humanities (Geography and History), Computer Science and a language. However, universities also consider GCSE attainment; students are often expected to gain number of GCSEs at grade 6 or 7 in order to apply to a university.

What to consider when choosing your options:

1. **Your attainment in the subject:** are you making progress, achieving well and could you achieve well in the future?
2. **Your curiosity for learning this subject:** do you find this subject interesting?
3. **Your pathway in the future:** how would studying this subject help you to achieve your future aims?
4. **Your combination of subjects:** consider whether you have chosen subjects with significant coursework requirements, or subjects that are exam based.

Option Choice Rules

- You can only do one of **Food Preparation and Nutrition** or **Design and Technology**.
- You must be secure or consolidating with target grade 5+) in **Computer Science** and secure or consolidating in **Maths** to pick Computer Science, if you haven't got this or are unsure please discuss with Ms Kennedy.
- For **Music** you need to play an instrument or have experience in singing.
- It is possible you will only be able to do one of **Music** or **Art**. If you'd like to do both, put them both down but have a reserve choice you have thought about and are happy with
- You can only do **PE** if you play for a club outside of school.
- Please select 3 reserve options.

We may then discuss with some of you whether extra English / Maths would be a better option than a language.

Whilst we would like to meet student subject requests; we also have limitations on what is possible. If a subject is over subscribed and we are unable to offer two groups or if a course is not viable due to insufficient students, then we may have to direct you to a reserve choice.

The most important aspect of choosing GCSE's is that you can achieve on the course selected therefore we may come back to you to consider different options if there are any concerns.

CORE SUBJECTS

...your questions answered

English Literature

Examination Board: AQA

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Mr D. Adams

Head of KS4 : Ms I Hudson

Email: adamsd@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Email: hudsoni@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

You will study and analyse a range of texts. These include:

- Power and Conflict Poetry
- DNA by Dennis Kelly
- Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson.

English Language

Examination Board: AQA

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Mr D. Adams

Head of KS4 : Ms I Hudson

Email: adamsd@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Email: hudsoni@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

- You will study a number of skills:
- Non-fiction writing
- Non-fiction reading and analysis of writer's viewpoints
- Fiction / creative writing
- Fiction reading / language and structural analysis

Maths

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Mr I Mahmoud

Email: mahmoudi@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

Students gain a comprehensive understanding of mathematics ranging from number, to geometry and statistics. This supports many students at CFBS to gaining access to Maths A Level.

Maths is a tiered GCSE which means that a number of students are entered at the Foundation Tier to support their success.

Religious Education

Examination Board: AQA

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Ms Akdag

Email: akdage@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

You will complete your GCSE in this subject in Year 10.

- Christianity
- Islam
- Ethical studies
- Peace and conflict
- Human rights and social justice

CORE SUBJECTS

...your questions answered

Languages

In each language you learn how to write, speak and listen to the language. However, you also gain a deeper understanding of the linguistic culture, identity and history.

French

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of French: Ms Ashby

Ahsbyk@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Mandarin

Examination Board: AQA

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of Mandarin: Ms Wang

Wangy@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Spanish

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Ms Welsby

Welsbya@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Science

Examination Board: Edexcel

Biology Chemistry and Physics Combined Science:

This subject is a blend of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is the most popular route for students at CFBS.

Students who study Combined Science gain two GCSE grades.; these grades are dependent on each other which means that students may gain a 5:6 or a 8:8 but not a 7 and a 9.

Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Students who study triple science, take Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate GCSEs. This means that they gain three GCSE grades.

This is a course which is available to students who show significant scientific and mathematical aptitude. The grades in each science are separate so students may achieve 6 (Bio) 9 (Chem) 7 (Physics), for example.

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Mr S Mounsey

Email: mounseys@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

ART AND DESIGN

...your questions answered

Examination Board: AQA

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Ms A Levis

Teacher: Ms R Linton

Email: levisa@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Lintonr@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

Art and Design is the only subject to still be wholly practical with no written exam. You will have time that will allow you to be imaginative, creative and thought provoking, as we have been in class. With three sessions a week you will have the opportunity to develop your skills when using a range of media. We have good links with a number of galleries and museums in the area, with opportunities to exhibit art & work with artists on a range of topics.

What will I learn to do?

You are free to choose your own working practise to achieve all AOs. This way you can use the skills you are best at.

You could use a range of skills, exploring different mediums - such as ink, oils, pastel and pencil - when drawing, painting and making sculptures. We offer a wide range of print making, such as lino cut and screen printing alongside photography workshops.

You will be able to analyse art and use it to inspire your own work. You will also understand why artists work in different styles and how they inspire the world around them, from artwork and adverts to politics and even clothing.

A range of GCSE art can be seen opposite.

What skills do I need?

- Confident when faced with a challenge
- Hard working, prepared to test yourself
- Able to present your ideas clearly
- Able to explain your thoughts and ideas
- Happy to experiment when trying new skills

Beyond Year 11

Education:

A-level and University; any creative course

Employment:

Art & Design gives you creative and thinking skills so you will be able to do any creative job, such as artist, graphic designer, making adverts, magazines or packaging, interior designer, fashion designer, website designer or game designer. You could work for a film studio designing monsters or futuristic worlds; designing and making sets and props at a theatre or for TV; working for a brand, like Nike, designing trainers or football kits; work in a gallery or museum. There are so many companies in London and especially the Old Street area, the opportunities are endless.

Assessment

Coursework Unit 1 : **60%** of final mark

External set task Unit 2: **40%** of final mark

BUSINESS

...your questions answered

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of Department: Mr Seery

Email: seeryj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

This course is both active and enjoyable. You need to be good at communicating and explaining your ideas, and not 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 and group tasks.

What will I learn to do?

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business (Y10)

You will be introduced to the world of small businesses and will look at what makes someone a successful business person. You will find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business.

Theme 2: Building a Business (Y11)

You will understand how to make a business effective and manage money, people and resources well. You will see how the world around us affects businesses and all the people involved.

What skills do I need?

You might have an interest in business, and 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 what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur.

Beyond Year 11

The business course can help you prepare for further and higher education. They prepare you for AS/A-levels as well as vocational courses in many different subjects. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of team.

Even if you do not want to go on to study business further you will have benefited from studying a GCSE Business course because many jobs you do will involve working for a business. However, a GCSE Business course could lead to work in a related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

Assessment

50% Theme 1 Exam (Investigating Small Business)

90 marks, written exam paper.

50% Theme 2 Exam (Building a Business)

90 marks, written exam paper.

Both papers consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short and extended answer questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

...your questions answered

Examination Board: OCR

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Miss Lassami

Email: lassamil@cfbs.islington.sch.uk
nazarethc@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

Computer science is a new and exciting subject that will give you the opportunity to develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies and develop computer programs to solve a variety of problems.

You will gain an insight into what goes on behind the scenes, including computer programming.

However, it is not just about practical programming skills. The course also requires a good understanding of computer science theory. It is a very different subject from ICT although there is some cross over. ICT focuses on 'using' software whereas computer science focuses on what goes on behind the software.

What will I learn to do?

You will learn a range of skills during the course including technical skills such as the use of algorithms in computer programming to solve problems. You will become an independent and discerning user of ICT that is able to make informed decisions and is aware of the implications of different technologies.

Throughout the course you will work individually and collaboratively. You will cover topics such as computer systems and hardware, databases, networking and programming concepts.

What skills do I need?

To be successful in computer science, you need to think logically. You need to be able to approach a problem and split it into smaller 'chunks' in order to achieve your end goal.

Other required skills include:

- High level of maths and literacy skills
- Dedication and patience
- Problem solving skills & lateral thinking
- An interest in computer programming
- High levels obtained in Python Programming (KS3 ICT Unit) – this GCSE will be a lot more advanced.

Beyond Year 11

Education:

A-level computer science or BTEC Level 3 IT, Degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Game Design.

Employment:

Computer science will equip you with problem solving skills that can be applied to many jobs, not just those revolving around ICT. If you are looking for a career in computer science, this GCSE is the first step towards careers such as computer programmer, web developer, systems analyst, games designer or database administrator.

Assessment

Unit 1 Computer Systems: Written paper (1.5 hours) 50%

Unit 2 Computational thinking, algorithms and programming : Written paper (1.5 hours) 50%

Required practical: Programming Project

DRAMA

...your questions answered

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Ms Russell

Email: russellk@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

Drama is a practical and written subject.

You will participate in workshops led by teachers, professionals and visiting practitioners. You will have the opportunity to devise your own pieces and work from set texts.

There will be theatre trips which will broaden your ideas and perceptions of theatre, allow you to make critical judgements and enhance your appreciation for the arts.

There will be various performances throughout the course, with the chance for invited audiences to view your work and see your development.

A passion for drama and good communication skills are a must at GCSE level. You will be expected to commit to rehearsals and line learning throughout the course as well as working on written coursework and exam preparation.

What will I learn to do?

- Naturalistic, abstract, physical theatre/movement based pieces
- Use work of drama practitioners to create exciting pieces of drama
- Create drama from a variety of stimuli
- Analyse texts and performances
- Perform pieces of devised or scripted drama in front of an audience with confidence and utilising a variety of techniques
- Take constructive criticism and use it to create better performances
- Put yourself into a variety of possible situations which will benefit you in the future
- Use your voice and body with confidence
- Effectively evaluate the work of yourself & others
- Consider the design and technical elements of a performance
- Build confidence, communication skills and directing
- Analyse & interpret theatre through writing

What skills do I need?

- Ability to write confidently
- Confidence in expressing yourself in front of others, physically and verbally
- Creativity
- Ability to work independently and in a group
- A positive attitude
- An open mind
- Energy, enthusiasm and passion
- Willingness to try new things

Beyond Year 11

- A-level drama/theatre studies or BTEC performing arts
- Jobs in theatre, film and television
- Acting/directing/writing
- Confidence with public speaking and working in groups which will benefit all job choices
- Working in any business sector, utilising the host of transferable skills you will acquire on the course
- Giving presentations
- Ability to work with people from all ages and backgrounds

Assessment

Component 1: Devising Theatre (40%)

- Responding to stimulus to create a performance (**Performance**)
- Production of written evidence & evaluation (**Written coursework**)

Component 2 Performing from a text (20%)

- The study of two texts in performance (**Performance**)

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (40% written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes)

- Set questions based on Dennis Kelly's *DNA*. You answer questions from the perspective of an actor, director and designer.
- Live theatre review (**Written exam**)

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

PRODUCT DESIGN

...your questions answered

Examination Board: AQA

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Mr Lowe

Email: Lowen@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

Product design will be your first step towards your future in design and engineering. The course is focused around developing, designing and making solutions for real world problems. You will be expected to develop models and prototypes using a range of 3D software and machinery .

- Learn and understand how to design and manufacture products
- Learn about 3D printing and model making
- Learn industry standard 3D modelling software such as Solidworks

What will I learn

- You will learn about the properties and characteristics of different materials
- You will learn about how products are made using various manufacturing methods
- You will learn about new and modern materials
- You will learn what it means to design for a sustainable future
- You will learn how to develop ideas using advanced 3D modelling software

What skills do I need?

You need to be able to make things in 3D and be able to show a creative flair by designing innovative ideas. Enjoying making and designing things are essential requirements for the course.

A good understanding of maths, science and English is beneficial to support the theory components as well as the coursework.

You should also enjoy using Computer Aided Design as this is a requirement for GCSE resistant materials.

Beyond Year 11

Careers that D & T supports, or is essential for:

- Product designer
- Engineer
- Furniture designer/maker
- Architect
- Interior designer
- Landscape architect
- Surveyor
- Website designer
- Car designer
- Mechanical engineer
- Many more.

Assessment

Unit 1: Practical coursework **50%**

Unit 2: Written examination **50%**

FRENCH

...your questions answered

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Ms Van Eck

Email: vaneckd@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

GCSE French aims that pupils will:

- Understand spoken language
- Communicate in speech
- Understand written language
- Communicate in writing

What will I learn to do?

Talk about and understand written texts. Understand recorded French and write about:

- Identity and culture ("who am I?", daily life, cultural life)
- Local area, holiday and travel (holidays, travel and tourist transactions, town, region and country)
- School (what school is like, school activities)
- Future aspirations, study and work (Using languages beyond the classroom, ambitions, work)
- International and global dimension (bringing the world together, environment Issues)
- School and college
- Pressures and problems

What skills do I need?

A desire to learn a major world language. The ability to learn new words regularly. 10 minutes a day, every day, is ideal.

The ability to see patterns in language.

The ability to take a risk and not be scared to learn by making mistakes.

The ability to look for mistakes in your work and redraft your work until it is correct.

The ability to listen out for the words you understand and then work out the whole message.

A desire to put forward your opinion and give reasons why you think this way.

To understand that other people see things differently and to begin to listen to the points of view of others.

Beyond Year 11

French is a stepping stone to learning other romance languages such as Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and others.

You can continue to study French at IC6.

Having another language can make you more employable in many professions, especially if a company deals internationally.

Assessment

All assessment takes place at the end of Year 11.

Speaking exam **25%**

Writing exam **25%**

Listening exam **25%**

Reading exam **25%**

FOOD AND NUTRITION

...your questions answered

Examination Board: AQA

Course title: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Mrs Linton-Hemmings

Email: lintonhemmingsl@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on theory and practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics: Food, Nutrition and Health; Food Science; Food Safety; Food Choice; Food Provenance. The range of food and ingredients studied should reflect the recommended guidelines for a healthy diet based on the main food commodity groups focused around The Eat Well Guide.

What will I learn to do?

Through theory and practical lessons, you will learn how to plan, prepare and cook a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.

Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills.

Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional and chemical processes and nutritional content of food and drink.

Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health.

Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food.

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and food safety when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.

To inspire new ideas and modify recipes

Further details are available from:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food-preparation-andnutrition>.

What skills do I need?

Creativity to develop new recipes and make modifications using feedback.

Ability to use different textures, flavours and contrasting colours when presenting food.

Ability to work independently and to problem-solve.

You will develop 12 different skill groups: general practical skills, knife skills, preparing fruit and vegetables, use of the cooker, use of equipment, cooking methods, prepare, combine and shape, sauce making, tenderise and marinate, dough, raising agents and setting mixtures.

A good understanding of maths and English would be beneficial to support the NEA.

Beyond Year 11

The hospitality industry is a huge employer in the UK and there are a wide variety of jobs in the food industry. Chef, Catering Manager, Food scientist, engineering, Food technologist, food product developer, Food Editor/Food Stylist, Food writer, Dietician, Nutritionist, Retail, Purchaser (food buyer), Quality assurance manager, Management, Marketing/Public relations/research, Food science degree, Nutrition studies, Analytical chemistry, Hospitality, Restaurateur, Trading Standards Office.

Assessment

Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition

Written examination of theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from Sections 1 to 5 of the specification.

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE qualification. Multiple choice questions (20 marks) and five questions each with a number of sub-questions (80 marks).

Non-examination assessment (NEA): 50% of GCSE

Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks) Written or electronic report (1500-2000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment: (70 marks) To prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of three hours, including planning. Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence of final dishes.

GEOGRAPHY

...your questions answered

Examination Board: Edexcel Spec A

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Mr Sharp

Email: sharpj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

Component 1: The Physical Environment—Content overview

- Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK – including optional sub-topics from which students choose two from three, 1A: coastal landscapes and processes, 1B: river landscapes and processes and 1C: glaciated upland landscapes and processes.
- Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change
- Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Component 2: The Human Environment—Content overview

- Topic 4: Changing cities
- Topic 5: Global development
- Topic 6: Resource management – including optional sub-topics from which students choose one from two, 6A: energy resource management and 6B: water resource management

Component 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges— Content overview

- Topic 7: Geographical investigations – fieldwork
- Topic 8: Geographical investigations – UK challenges

What will I learn to do?

- Actively engage in the process of geography to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world.
- Develop a framework of spatial awareness in which to appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments from local to global.
- Appreciate the differences and similarities between people's views of the world, its environments, societies and cultures.
- Understand the significance of values and attitudes to the development and resolution of issues.
- Develop their responsibilities as global citizens and recognise how they can contribute to a future that is sustainable and inclusive.
- Develop and apply their learning to the real world through fieldwork and other out-of-classroom learning.

What skills do I need?

The specification requires the assessment of the candidate's ability to:

- Identify, analyse and evaluate relevant geographical questions and issues.
- Establish appropriate sequences of investigation, incorporating geographical skills, including enquiry skills.
- Extract and interpret information from a range of different sources, including field observations; maps (including Ordnance Survey maps of different scales); graphs; drawings; photographs (ground, aerial and satellite imagery); diagrams and tables.
- Describe, analyse and interpret evidence to make decisions, draw and justify conclusions and communicate findings in ways appropriate to the task audience.
- Evaluate methods of collecting, presenting and analysing evidence, and the validity and limitations of evidence and conclusions.

Beyond Year 11

Geography is a broad based academic subject which can open up options in your future.

Employers and universities see geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences it is highly flexible.

"An Institute for Fiscal Studies report placed Geography among the top subjects for graduate earnings" (RGS 2021)

Assessment

Component 1: The Physical Environment (*Paper 1 code: 1GA0/01) - Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 37.5% of the qualification, 94 marks

Component 2: The Human Environment (*Paper 2 code: 1GA0/02) - Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 37.5% of the qualification, 94 marks

Component 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges (*Paper 3 code: 1GA0/03) -

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification, 64 marks

HISTORY

...your questions answered

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Ms McMahon

Email: mcmahonh@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

We study five topics over the two year course:

Year 10:

Weimar and Nazi Germany c.1918-39

Superpower relations & the Cold War, 1941-91

The reigns of Kings Richard I & John, 1189-1216

Year 11:

Warfare and British Society, c1250-present

London and the Second World War, 1939-45

What skills do I need?

You will need to be able to:

- Read and write well: history requires a very high level of literacy.
- Have a good memory: there is a lot in the past that you will need to remember in detail.
- Plan essays and follow your plans carefully.
- Understand the different viewpoints of people in the past.
- Keep your work up to date and complete all homework to a high standard.
- Work on your own, to research and to revise effectively.

What will I learn to do?

- Analyse and evaluate different types of source material, including written sources, photographs, cartoons, statistics and videos.
- Make clear inferences from sources, and explain the message and purpose of different types of evidence.
- Write thoroughly explained answers, supported by selected evidence.
- Explain and discuss causes and effects of key events.
- Describe and explain changes over time.
- Debate the impact of events & individuals.
- Carry out your own research project.
- Plan and organise essays on important historical issues.

Beyond Year 11

We offer an A-level course which builds on the GCSE topics, and enables the development of essential skills in research and writing. These transferable skills are vital for the study of history at a higher level, and the study of law, and complement other humanities areas. A good history GCSE shows future employers and colleges that you can think independently and convey your ideas clearly.

History is a highly respected qualification, listed as one of the "facilitating" A-level subjects by Russell Group universities.

Assessment

Three written exams

A: 1 Hour 20 mins (30%)

B: 1 Hour 45 mins (40%)

C: 1 hour 20 mins (30%)

SPANISH

...your questions answered

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Ms Welsby

Email: welsbya@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

GCSE Spanish aims that pupils will:

- Understand spoken language
- Communicate in speech
- Understand written language
- Communicate in writing

What will I learn to do?

- Pupils who study GCSE Spanish will learn how to listen and respond to different types of spoken language, they will communicate in speech for a variety of purposes and will also be able to read and respond to different types of written language. They will develop their understanding of a range of vocabulary and structures and apply a variety of grammar rules to their language.

Topics include:

- Identity and Culture ("who am I?", daily life, cultural life)
- Local area, holiday and travel (holidays, travel and tourist transactions, town, region and country)
- School (what school is like, school activities)
- Future aspirations, study and work (using languages beyond the classroom, ambitions, work)
- International and global dimension (bringing the world together, environment issues)

What skills do I need?

A desire to learn a major world language. The ability to learn new words regularly. 10 minutes a day, every day, is ideal.

The ability to see patterns in language.

The ability to take a risk and not be scared to learn by making mistakes.

The ability to look for mistakes in your work and redraft your work until it is correct.

The ability to listen out for the words you understand and then work out the whole message.

A desire to put forward your opinion and give reasons why you think this way.

To understand that other people see things differently and to begin to listen to the points of view of others.

To understand that other people see things.

Beyond Year 11

Spanish is a stepping stone to learning other romance languages such as French, Italian, and Portuguese .

Having another language can make you more employable in many professions, especially if a company deals internationally.

It is also looked upon favourably by top universities.

Assessment

Speaking exam	25%
Writing exam	25%
Listening exam	25%
Reading exam	25%

MUSIC

...your questions answered

Examination Board: Eduqas

Who can I speak to about this course?

Head of department: Mr Haylor

Email: haylora@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

The main aim of the course is to empower you into becoming a confident musician who can take musical skills into future learning and the wider social, spiritual and professional world.

All students receive free instrumental lessons for the duration of the course.

High levels of one-to-one support and a huge range of extended learning opportunities before and after school ensure all students achieve their potential.

What will I learn to do?

You will learn how to do all the following with skill and confidence:

- Play and sing music of your choice as a soloist and as part of a group
- Compose music for your own and other instruments in a live setting and with the use of music technology in the Mac Suite
- Develop compositional skills and techniques
- Identify, compare and analyse music from contrasting styles, cultures, traditions and periods of music history, including classical, rock/pop, and film

What skills do I need?

Good listening skills. A large part of the course requires you to listen analytically to music from lots of different genres and styles.

Commitment to developing skills on your chosen instrument. You need to be practising your chosen instrument regularly throughout the course, outside of lesson time.

You need to be comfortable in working as a team. Part of the course requires you to perform as an ensemble member.

Problem solving skills. Writing a composition takes time, creativity and patience

Beyond Year 11

Beyond Year 11 the department offers Eduqas A level to those students who have achieved at least a 7 at GCSE level.

However, there are other post 16 options that allow for progression beyond GCSE

These include:

- A-level Music Technology
- BTEC Music

Assessment

Coursework **60%**

Listening exam **40%**

45 minute creative task **20%**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

...your questions answered

Examination Board: Edexcel

Who can I speak to about this course?

KS4 Coordinator : Mr Richards

Email: Richardsc@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

About the Subject:

This is a two year study in the theory and practice of sport. The assessment of the course is divided into three parts:

30% - Practical assessment

60% - Theoretical understanding of sport
(EXAM)

10% - Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

What skills do I need?

To achieve a level 5 grade or above for the practical element of the course, a strong level 4 grade is required. Students will need to participate fully in all practical lessons.

To achieve a level 5 grade for the theoretical element of the course, students will need strong level 4 grades or above in both English or Science. The ability to study independently, for example complete homework tasks fully, is a prerequisite for success in the two final written exam papers.

What will I learn to do?

Practical

During this part of the course, students will study the technique and tactics of a range of sports. Sports covered include football, badminton, basketball and athletics. Any other sport studied outside of school may also be considered.

Theory

Students will study the theory of sport in the classroom. Topics include:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Principles of movement (mechanics)
- Methods of training
- Principles of training
- Planning a personal exercise plan
- Basic body systems required for sport

Beyond Year 11

With a level 6 grade, students can take sports studies at A-level or Level 3 BTEC.

With these qualifications, students can follow a sports science degree at university.

Assessment

Practical

Students will be assessed by the teacher. The three highest scoring activities will be chosen for each student.

Personal Exercise Programme

This is assessed by the class teacher by controlled assessments. Students choose one sport in which to specialise.

Theory

The theory element of the course is assessed through **two final written exams** lasting 1hr 45 minutes and 1hr 15 minutes.

NOTES

KEY DATES FOR PARENTS

6th February	Options Information Evening
13th March (In Lessons)	Students to ask Questions Regarding Options
Tuesday 23rd April 4-6pm	Parents' Evening
Tues 7th May 5pm	Online Options Form Returned