



HARRODIAN

15S (YEAR 11)
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK
2025 - 2026

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide parents with concise information about the subjects taken by the 15s (Year 11 pupils) at Harroddian.

In the 15s, all pupils will be continuing their GCSE studies and will be studying the following subjects:

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Physics
Chemistry
Biology

In addition all pupils will be taught Sports.

Citizenship will be taught during morning registration, selected morning assemblies and occasional off-timetable events.

In the 15s, pupils must continue to study their option subjects chosen from the 4 option blocks offered at the beginning of the 14s. All option subjects comprise of three periods per week.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
French	Art	Geography	Art
Italian	Drama	History	Geography
Spanish	History	Religious Studies	History
	Business	Business	French
	Religious Studies	Media Studies	Business
	Geography	3D Design	Drama
	Media Studies	Physical Education	Classical Civilisation
	Music	Latin	3D Design
	Film Studies		Computer Science
	Classical Greek		

The table overleaf gives the examination board and specification number of each subject offered at GCSE.

Each department is responsible for implementing marking, assessment and recording within their department, which conforms to school policy. At the beginning of the academic year all subject teachers will explain to pupils how their work will be marked and assessed.

Pupils can expect to receive approximately two to three pieces of homework each night, which should take 45 minutes each. A homework timetable will be issued to each pupil at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Pupils will be formally assessed by end of unit or module tests, mock GCSE examinations at the beginning of the Spring Term and the final external examinations during the summer. Written reports will be uploaded onto the Parent Portal during the academic year. Parents will also be invited to attend one Parents' Evening where pupil progress can be discussed with subject teachers and there will be a chance to meet Form Teachers and the Head of Year.

Should you require any further information, please contact the relevant Head of Department or me for assistance.

Mr D Sanders

Head of Curriculum, Assessment and Monitoring (Upper)

GCSE Subjects and Examining Boards

Art, Craft and Design	1AD0	Edexcel
Biology	8461	AQA
Business	1BS0	Edexcel
Chemistry	8462	AQA
Classical Civilisation	J199B	OCR
Classical Greek	J292	OCR
Combined Science	8464	AQA
Computer Science	J277	OCR
Drama	C690QS	Eduqas
English Language	1EN0	Edexcel
English Literature	1ET0	Edexcel
Film Studies	C670QS	Eduqas
French	1FR1	Edexcel
Geography	8035	AQA
History	8145JC	AQA
Italian	1IN0	Edexcel
Latin	J282	OCR
Mathematics	1MA1	Edexcel
Media Studies	J200	OCR
Music	C660QS	Eduqas
PE (full course)	8582	AQA
Physics	8463	AQA
Religious Studies	8062BA	AQA
Spanish	1SP1	Edexcel
3D Design	J175	OCR

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

Art, Craft and Design GCSE - Edexcel (1AD0)

This final year of the two year course is more independent for the pupil. Directed by their own interests, pupils work with materials and artists of their choice with guidance from the teacher.

Drawing, photography, digital media, textiles, sculpture and conceptual art can be included. Any two disciplines can be used at any time.

Aims of the course

The GCSE is made of 60% coursework and a controlled examination worth 40% set by the examination board. Pupils carry forward the skills learnt in the 14s to enhance their coursework to the highest standard. By the end of the course each pupil submits a portfolio to be moderated by the examination board.

Pupils are encouraged to think for themselves and to be able to work unaided for homework. It is important that pupils have their own ideas about the work they are making.

Term One: Mock Project to conclude the coursework. Given project theme.

- Researching the context of the given project theme. Study of artists, analysis and gallery visit.
- Drawing in a range of materials, painting and the use of colour and mark, photography.
- Final piece - 1 day mock art examination to conclude the coursework.

Term Two: Conclusion to coursework - 3 weeks.

Exam project - 10 weeks (set by Edexcel examination board)

Pupils receive a themed paper and have ten weeks to develop an idea for the examination, supported by their classroom teacher.

- Researching the context of the theme, analysis of artists and gallery visit, drawing and recording ideas in response.

Term Three:

- Final piece - **Timed Test - 10 hour examination**

By the end of the year pupils should:

- be able to understand the importance of the context in which artists work
- be able to use a range of drawing and painting materials
- be able to identify different sources for project themes
- be able to explore materials in a controlled and experimental manner
- be able to research with purpose and to instruction as well as more independently

Assessment

Continual throughout the year according to the Pearson Edexcel guidelines.

BIOLOGY

Biology 15s – specification code 8461

Topics to be covered this year:

Autumn Term

- The kidney and control of water balance
- Cell division
- Variation and evolution

Spring Term

- Ecology: adaptations and interdependence
- Ecology: nutrient cycles and biodiversity
- Human influences on ecosystems

Summer Term

- Revision and examination preparation

By the end of the year pupils should:

- understand all topics in the GCSE as covered across the three years from the 13s to 15s
- develop good practical skills whilst completing the ten required practicals, including safe dissection techniques, accurate drawings of dissected specimens and competent use of laboratory equipment
- improve on examination technique through regular tests and continuous self-evaluation
- be able to form links between the topics covered and to understand the interdependence of all biological systems, and the relevance of the basic principles to each system

Assessment and Marking

Written homework will be marked according to department guidelines and accompanied by a comment or explanation to help pupils to understand how to improve their work. Folders will also be checked regularly to ensure the work is in order. When marking folders and worksheets, a mark based on the quality of the work will be given for academic attainment and (if appropriate) a number grade for effort. There will be regular end of topic tests as appropriate and a mock examination in January, followed by the GCSE final examinations in the June examination series. GCSE Biology is offered at higher tier (9-5) or foundation tier (5-1) and decisions about final tier of entry will be made after the mock examinations.

Textbook

AQA GCSE Biology (OUP) – Fullick

BUSINESS

The second year of the GCSE Business course focuses on Theme 2 of the course.

Pupils start by focusing on how businesses grow in both a national and international forum. Starting with a broad view of the external influences that impact on business decision making, the course includes an introduction to micro and macro economics as well as other external impacts on the business including: technology, legislation, environmental change, competitors' actions and changes in social outlook, particularly acting in a socially and ethically responsible manner.

Following this, the course focuses on how strategic decision making, in each of the businesses four functional areas, can make all the difference between success and failure.

Content of Theme 2

2.1 Growing the Business

This includes: finance, setting aims and objectives, ethics, environment.

2.2 Making Marketing Decisions

The marketing mix and business decision making focusing on each aspect of: product, price, place and promotion.

2.3 Making Operational Decisions

Managing stock, changing technology, managing quality and different operational options to maximise productivity and efficiency.

2.4 Making Financial Decisions

Business calculations and assessment of business performance.

2.5 Making Human Resource Decisions

How the structure of the business impacts on its performance and the methods used to improve staff motivation through: effective communication, recruitment, training and development.

Testing and assessment: Examination board: Edexcel: <https://qualifications.pearson.com> code 1BS0

Exams: Two externally examined 105 minute papers both assessed May/June in any single year

Paper 1 – assesses all of Theme 1 Paper 2 assesses all of Theme 2

Both examination papers consist of three sections containing: calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.

Textbook

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business, 2nd Edition Marcouse (Hodder Education)

CHEMISTRY

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- Organic Chemistry 2
- Chemical Analysis
- Using resources

Term Two

- Mock exam analysis and target setting
- Targeted revision: Chemical Bonding, Chemical Changes , and Quantitative Chemistry

Term Three

- Targeted revision: Pupil driven using past paper question material
- Examination preparation

By the end of the year pupils should be able to:

- explain how the yield of a reversible reaction is affected by changes to the environment of a closed system
- identify organic molecules and write chemical reactions
- carry out chromatography and analyse chromatograms
- test unknown samples of chemical compounds and make conclusions about their contents
- carry out a deep analysis into the key areas of the mock exam that suggest further review would be beneficial
- carry out targeted revision with a focus on fundamental concepts and ideas throughout, driven by pupils and their individual learning goals.

Assessment and Marking

Homework and other formative work will be marked according to department guidelines and accompanied by comments or explanations to help pupils improve their understanding. Folders will also be checked regularly to ensure the work is in order. There will be regular end-of-topic and synoptic tests combining multiple topic areas to ensure knowledge is deeply embedded, plus an end of year examination. GCSE grades will be reported 1 - 9, alongside a progress and attitude to learning score throughout the course to indicate growth against individual pupil targets.

Textbook

AQA Science: GCSE Chemistry (OUP)

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- Roman City Life: Roman Housing; Satire and Fiction; Pliny and his Letters; Experiencing Roman City Life; Relationships and Roman Society

Term Two

- The Thematic Study Module: Myth and Religion: Revision
- The Literature and Culture Module: Roman City Life: Revision

Term Three

- The Thematic Study Module: Myth and Religion: Revision
- The Literature and Culture Module: Roman City Life: Revision

By the end of the year pupils should:

- have completed and comprehensively revised the content of both their modules, including all visual and literary resources. They will have been prepared for and undertaken their final examination.

Trips

There will be a trip, if possible, during the Spring Term of the 15s, to a place of Classical interest.

Assessment and Marking

Pupils' work will be given a percentage mark and will be marked according to departmental guidelines. Pupils will also receive a comment appraising their work, setting targets to aim for and strategies to achieve those targets. Teaching staff are also available at the end of lessons, break times and during the weekly departmental drop-in session.

Textbook

Resources provided by the department. OCR Course Reader.

Course modules are subject to change.

CLASSICAL GREEK

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- Revision of prose set texts: Herodotus
- Verse set texts: Euripides' Medea
- Revision of syntax and grammar: revision and practice of GCSE grammar and syntax

Term Two

- Revision of syntax and grammar: revision and practice of GCSE grammar and syntax
- Revision of prose set texts: *Herodotus*
- Revision of verse set texts: Euripides' Medea

Term Three

- Revision of syntax and grammar: revision and practice of GCSE grammar and syntax
- Revision of prose set texts: *Herodotus*
- Revision of verse set texts: Euripides' Medea

By the end of the year pupils should:

- be able to translate and manipulate passages from original Greek authors
- have a very strong command of the GCSE Vocabulary and syntax
- be familiar with the translation, background and commentaries to Herodotus and Euripides' Medea.

Trips

There will be a trip, ideally during the Spring Term, to an area of interest in the Classical World

Assessment and Marking

Pupils' work will be given a percentage mark and will be marked according to departmental guidelines. Pupils will also receive a comment appraising their work, setting targets to aim for and strategies to achieve those targets. Teaching staff are also available at the end of lessons, break times and during the weekly departmental drop-in session. Pupils will also be frequently tested on vocabulary, grammar and translation.

Textbooks and equipment

Greek stories OCR textbook; Greek to GCSE books 1 and 1; department resources

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

Computer systems:

- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental implications of technology use
- Proprietary vs open source software

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:

- Algorithms for searching and sorting; using test plans and test data; logic diagrams and truth tables.
- Python programming: validation techniques and handling errors.

Term Two

Computer systems:

- Hardware, software and networks.

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:

- Python programming: extended project which consolidates the learning across the specification through practical activity by analysing a problem, designing a solution, implementing and testing the solution and concluding with an evaluation.

Term Three

- Revision, practice papers and preparation for final examinations.

Assessment and Marking

Number grades, 9-1, will be given for classwork and homework. Formal assessment takes the form of end-of-unit tests and of course the final examination. Homework is set once per week and should take no longer than 45 minutes. It will be related to work done in class, or research related to a new topic. Pupils will be using technology wherever possible to present their work and undertake research. Suitable websites will be given as guidance so access to the internet will be required.

Textbooks and equipment

Our main textbook will be: *OCR Computer Science GCSE, by Robson & Heathcote, published by PG Online*. Most work will be organised online, but paper-based resources will also be used, so standard class equipment will be required for writing and correction.

DRAMA

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- **Component One: Devising** performance examination (internal)
- Study of live performance

Term Two

- **Component Two: Scripted** performance examination (external)
- Study of live theatre
- Set text study
- Directing and designing for theatre

Term Three

- Set text practical exploration
- Written techniques
- Study of live theatre
- Examination preparation

By the end of the year pupils should:

- have developed and consolidated their understanding of the terms and ideas of Drama
- have had the opportunity to work individually, in pairs and groups
- have developed their understanding of theatrical styles and practitioner methods
- have rehearsed and performed a scripted piece of Drama
- have developed the skills required to analyse and evaluate a live piece of theatre

Trips

At least one trip per term will be organised, as a component of the course is writing about live theatre and the influence it has on practical skills.

Assessment and Marking

GCSE Drama is marked both as a practical and analytical course and this is reflected in Eduqas' assessment criteria. Practical work consists 60% of the final mark and 40% is from the final written examination. Pupils are assessed on their understanding of practical skills and practitioner methods, their ability to work cohesively within a group and their ability to understand how a set text could be directed, designed and performed. Alongside the marks given for examined pieces, on-going formative assessment takes place with pupils receiving a half termly grade and a full report in the Autumn Term, which includes marks for attainment and assessment.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Topics to be covered this year:

Coursework:

- English Literature - *An Inspector Calls*
- English Language Paper 1 - *Fiction and Imaginative Writing*
2 - *Non Fiction and Transactional Writing*

Examination Preparation and Revision: English Language

Paper 1 - Fiction and Imaginative Writing

Paper 2 - Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing

Reading - information retrieval; analysis of language; inference; comparison; summary

Writing - to adapt writing style to suit purpose, audience and form

English Literature

Novel – *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson

Drama – *An Inspector Calls*, J B Priestley

Shakespearean Drama - *Macbeth*

Poetry - *Relationships Anthology*

Pupils sit their mock examinations at the beginning of the Spring Term.

Final examinations begin in May.

By the end of the year pupils should be able to:

- read with insight and engagement, making appropriate references to texts and developing and sustaining interpretations of them
- distinguish between fact and opinion and evaluate how information is presented
- understand and evaluate how writers use linguistic, structural and presentational devices to achieve their effects; comment on how language varies and changes
- relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions
- participate in discussion by both speaking and listening, judging the nature and purpose of contributions and the roles of the participants
- spell all high-frequency words correctly, and use spelling strategies to meet personal spelling challenges
- use capital letters, full stops, question or exclamation marks, apostrophes, commas, speech marks, colons and semi-colons accurately

Trips

The English Department aims to arrange one theatre trip for each year group; however, this depends on the availability of appropriate plays and on the demands of the school calendar. Occasionally, theatre companies, cultural artists and authors are invited to give workshops in school.

Assessment and Marking

Types of marking will vary according to the type of work completed and will include ticked acknowledgement of notes, self and peer assessment; verbal feedback and detailed teacher marking.

Pupils' examination practice assignments and homework tasks will be marked at regular intervals and in accordance with Edexcel's marking and assessment policy.

FILM STUDIES

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- US Film Comparative Study: The study of a pair of thematically linked films, one from each of 1930-1960 and 1961-1990. This section is predominantly about textual analysis, context and genre conventions.
- Key Developments in Film and Film Technology: An examination of film history and technological progression within the film industry over time, from the birth of cinema and silent film through to the proliferation of CGI.

Term Two

- US Independent Film: An in-depth study of a single film, reflecting aspects of the US society in the 21st century. This module includes exploration of specialist writing on film, including film theory and film criticism.
- Pupils will complete work on their non-examinable assessment.

Term Three

- Revision and examination preparation.

By the end of the year pupils should:

- be able to read film with a critical perspective
- have developed and consolidated their understanding of the construction of film and how meaning is communicated to audiences
- be able to position texts within and understand how films reflect social and historical contexts
- be able to compare thematically linked films from different eras
- understand the significance of key developments within the film industry
- engage with specialist writing on film
- develop screenwriting skills
- develop filming skills
- develop video editing skills

Trips

There will be a trip to BFI Southbank and Imax.

Assessment and Marking

Pupils will be given a variety of written and practical tasks to prepare them for both the examination and non-examinable assessment. These will be marked according to departmental guidelines with feedback and targets provided each time, as well as strategies to achieve those targets. Teaching staff are also available at the end of lessons and during break times.

Textbooks

WJEC Eduqas GCSE Film Studies, Newman (Illuminate Publishing)

FRENCH

Topics to be covered this year:

- The planet, the environment, helping in the community and new technologies
- My neighbourhood and other towns
- Asking and giving directions
- My dream house
- Shopping for clothes
- Studying and my future

By the end of the year pupils should be able to:

- listen and respond to a variety of spoken sources in French
- read, understand and respond to a variety of written texts in French on the topics covered
- use orally and write key vocabulary and structures related to the topics covered
- express opinions on issues discussed in class
- take part in role-plays
- write for different purposes
- translate a passage from French into English and from English into French
- describe photos
- answer questions on topics covered
- discuss past, present and future events
- use knowledge of phonics to transcribe spoken French into written French
- use knowledge of phonics to read aloud a short passage using correct pronunciation
- have a sound knowledge of grammar points such as the main tenses, adjectival agreements, comparatives and superlatives, prepositions, emphatic pronouns, direct and indirect object pronouns, possessive and demonstrative adjectives, adverbs, negatives, present participle, “être en train de”, “venir de”, “si” clauses, use of “y”, asking questions and verbs followed by “à” ou “de”

Assessment and Marking

Pupils' progress will be assessed on a regular basis with small tests focussing on one skill. At the end of each module, pupils will be tested on a minimum of three out of four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Preparation for and practice of GCSE type questions for final examinations will take place during the academic year.

Pupils will also sit mock examinations.

Pupils will receive a grade or a percentage as well as targets.

Textbook

Pearson Edexcel MFL French Higher

GEOGRAPHY

We follow the AQA Geography 8035 specification.

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- Fieldwork skills
- The Changing Economic World (economic growth and the development gap)

Term Two

- Challenge of Resource Management (food, energy or water)
- Revision

Term Three

- Issue Evaluation
- Revision

By the end of the year pupils should be able to:

- understand there are variations in economic development and quality of life
- describe how changes in the UK economy have affected employment patterns and regional growth
- understand global inequalities in the supply and consumption of resources
- understand the demand for resources is rising globally but supply can be insecure which may lead to conflict
- describe different strategies that can be used to increase resource supply
- interpret photographs, maps, and graphs

Trips

A fieldtrip to Swanage will be organised in September to collect data for the fieldwork skills component of the course.

Assessment and Marking

When pupils' work is marked they will be given a target to improve their future work. For more substantial pieces of work, they will receive a formal grade (1-9) for attainment and effort (1-4). Teachers are available at the end of lessons, break times and lunch times for extra help. Formal assessment will take the form of written assignments, group work and debating, powerpoint presentations, end of unit tests and a mock examination.

Textbook

Oxford AQA GCSE Geography

HISTORY

Topics to be covered this year:

(AQA Understanding the Modern World and Shaping the Nation)

- Britain: Health and the People – Victorian and Twentieth Century Periods (Paper 2)
- Elizabethan England with a focus on the historic environment (Paper 2)

By the end of the year pupils should:

- have completed preparation for the main examinations; Paper 1 and Paper 2

Skills will include both structured answers and source analysis.

Assessment and Marking

Books will be marked at least once a fortnight and pupils will receive a letter grade for attainment and a number for effort. Regular factual tests will be marked numerically.

Pupils will sit both external examinations at the end of the 15s. There is no coursework.

All marking will include comments and targets for how to improve.

Textbook

The standard textbooks for pupils in the 15s are:

AQA GCSE History: Health and the People by Wilkinson

AQA GCSE History: Elizabethan England by Royle

All pupils will be issued with these books and they must be brought to all relevant lessons.

ITALIAN

Topics to be covered this year:

Two of the following five themes and revision of the others:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday, travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

By the end of the year pupils should be able to:

- communicate coherently in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy
- express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and at times fluently
- listen to and understand standard speech at near normal speed
- have a good understanding of how the language works, including knowledge of key grammar rules and use of tenses in order to be independent users of the language
- understand extended language in a wide range of contexts
- understand and respond to authentic spoken and written material, adapted and abridged, including literary texts
- be aware of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken
- use a variety of language strategies to deal with unknown language and unpredictable elements.
- use specific skills such as the translation skill and be able to describe pictures

Assessment and Marking

Pupils' progress will be assessed on a regular basis with small tests. At the end of each unit, a more thorough assessment will be done and pupils will be tested on a minimum of three out of four skills: reading/writing/listening and speaking. Pupils will also sit mock GCSE examinations in the Spring Term. Pupils will receive a grade or a percentage as well as a target to help them make progress in the subject. Preparation for and practice of GCSE type questions for final examinations will take place throughout the academic year.

Textbook

Amici student book (second edition)

LATIN

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- Revision of prose set texts: *Pliny: Avunculus Meus; Tacitus; Messalina*
- Verse set texts: Virgil, Aeneid 1.12-123
- Revision of syntax and grammar: revision and practice of GCSE grammar and syntax

Term Two

- Revision of syntax and grammar: revision and practice of GCSE grammar and syntax
- Revision of prose set texts: *Pliny: Avunculus Meus; Tacitus; Messalina*
- Revision of verse set texts: Virgil, Aeneid 1.12-123

Term Three

- Revision of syntax and grammar: revision and practice of GCSE grammar and syntax
- Revision of prose set texts: *Pliny: Avunculus Meus; Tacitus; Messalina*
- Revision of verse set texts: Virgil, Aeneid 1.12-123

By the end of the year pupils should:

- be able to translate and manipulate passages from original Latin authors
- have a very strong command of the GCSE vocabulary and syntax
- be familiar with the translation, background and commentaries to *Virgil, Tacitus and Pliny*

Trips

There will be a trip, ideally during the Spring Term, to an area of interest in the Classical World.

Assessment and Marking

Pupils' work will be given a percentage mark and will be marked according to departmental guidelines. Pupils will also receive a comment appraising their work, setting targets to aim for and strategies to achieve those targets. Teaching staff are also available at the end of lessons, break times and during the weekly departmental drop-in session. Pupils will also be frequently tested on vocabulary, grammar and translation.

Textbooks

Latin stories OCR textbook; Disce Latinum Latin grammar book; department resources

MATHEMATICS

15s pupils will continue to follow the GCSE Mathematics course, examined by Pearson Edexcel. GCSE has a Foundation tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher tier (grades 4-9); it is expected that most pupils will sit the Higher. The course will be assessed by three written papers, each 90 minutes' duration. The examination will be sat in the summer of 2026.

The top sets will study for the AQA Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) Further Mathematics in addition to the Edexcel GCSE Mathematics. **Entries for the final examination in Further Mathematics are made at the discretion of the school.** More information about this course can be found on the AQA website.

Topics to be covered:

The course content is divided into six areas, These are:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

The order and pace at which topics are taught will vary from year to year. The full specification can be found on the Pearson Edexcel website.

Assessment and Marking

Percentages are written into pupils' exercise books/Google classroom submissions only when appropriate. Comments or explanations are written by the teacher, where appropriate, to help pupils understand how to improve their work. Pupils are assessed during each term on topics covered over that period. All test/examination results are used to inform set changes.

Textbooks

All pupils use the OUP Edexcel GCSE textbook, supported by MyMaths.

MEDIA STUDIES

Topics to be covered this year:

- Exploration of the nine media forms through exploration of existing media products and creative tasks.
- Final productions (25-30 guided learning hours in total).
- Research and planning.
- Investigating the ethos, scheduling practices, regulation (including PSB) and funding model of the major television channels: BBC1 and ITV.
- In-depth studies – detailed comparisons: film/print advertising and marketing/online media.
- In-depth studies – differences between the three media forms.

By the end of the year pupils should:

- have learned to use appropriate technology
- be able to shoot and select images
- be able to edit/layout pages
- be able to soundtrack/write copy
- be able to use test audiences to check meaning has been communicated
- understand how to analyse camera angles, sound, mise-en-scene and editing
- have used a wide variety of media terms
- have gained knowledge about the British television industry
- have analysed unseen media texts with confidence
- understand how audiences 'read' media texts
- have gained knowledge and skills in research and planning
- have gained skills in the production areas associated with their choice of production project

Assessment and Marking

Marks are always accompanied with comments outlining improvements required. Work usually will be resubmitted with the improvements made as this enables pupils to make good progress. Pupils' progress will be assessed through essays, in class tests, past papers, vocabulary tests and textual analysis tasks. Pupils are encouraged to gather an understanding of the mark scheme's criteria. The final grade will be derived from one media portfolio (NEA) and two externally set examinations.

Textbook

OCR Media Studies, Aaron French

MUSIC

Topics to be covered this year:

In the 15s, pupils build on core skills developed in the 14s and work towards refining these skills ahead of their final assessments. Pupils continue to perform regularly. Using their composition 'sketchbook' from the 14s, pupils now complete two compositions (one to a brief set by the exam board and one to a brief of their choosing). Appraising skills are refined through regular appraising practice as well as through exam-style questions.

Autumn Term

- Composition: Exam-board brief composition and 'free composition'
- Performance: Prepare for solo performance for the GCSE and A-Level Recital
- Appraising: Revision of all four areas of study

Spring Term

- Record solo and ensemble performances for submission
- Complete all composition coursework ready for submission
- Appraising: consolidation and exam practice

Summer Term

- Revision and examination technique practice

Areas of Study:

1. Musical Forms and Devices
2. Music for Ensemble
3. Film Music
4. Popular Music

By the end of the year pupils should have:

- a sophisticated understanding of the four main areas of study and associated musical vocabulary
- completed two compositions and submitted as coursework
- recorded a solo and an ensemble performance and submitted as coursework

Assessment and Marking:

Pupils' work on all areas of the course will be regularly assessed through formative, summative and self assessment.

GCSE Music pupils are expected to practise their instrument consistently throughout the year and are highly encouraged to have an instrumental teacher supporting them with the development of technique and preparation of repertoire. Pupils are also expected to participate in at least one of the ensembles on offer to the Senior School including Senior Choir, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Senior Band Club.

Textbooks:

WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Music by Jan Richards (Illuminate Publishing)

WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Music Revision Guide (Rhinegold Publishing)

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

The aim of PSHE is to give pupils a better understanding of themselves, their environment and their society and how these interact. Pupils will be encouraged, through modules designed for their age and stage, to consider the choices they face in life and to build resilience and coping strategies for the modern world.

PSHE has been a long standing priority at Harrodian, but is now (since 2021) a mandatory aspect of schools' curricula. Our PSHE programme incorporates a dedicated half term of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), the teaching of which is also compulsory in British schools.

One 25-minute form time per week is devoted to PSHE or Current Affairs (in which PSHE issues and British values are linked to current stories and debates in the news) in the Senior School.

From 2021-22, there has also been an accompanying programme of 8-9 periods across the school year where all Seniors pupils are taken off timetable for more in-depth PSHE sessions. These may include presentations from visiting speakers, group workshops or lessons led by form tutors.

PSHE is also a key aspect of our 'Healthy Harrodian Initiative' to prioritise good mental health among young people, and to destigmatise issues around it.

The PSHE programme of study will include the following half termly headings:

Half Term 1 - Good Mental Health

Half Term 2 - Drugs and Alcohol Education

Half Term 3 - Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Half Term 4 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Half Term 5 – Practical PSHE

Half Term 6 – Study Leave and Exams

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Topics to be covered this year:

Applied anatomy and physiology

- The structure and functions of the musculoskeletal system
- The structure and functions of the cardio-respiratory system
- Anaerobic and aerobic exercise
- The short and long term effects of exercise

Movement analysis

- Lever systems, examples of their use in activity and the mechanical advantage they provide in movement
- Planes and axes of movement

Physical training

- The relationship between health and fitness and the role that exercise plays in both
- The components of fitness, benefits for sport and how fitness is measured and improved
- The principles of training and their application to personal exercise/training programmes
- How to optimise training and prevent injury
- Effective use of warm up and cool down

Use of data

- Demonstrate an understanding of how data is collected – both qualitative and quantitative
- Present data (including tables and graphs)
- Analyse and evaluate data

Assessment and Marking

Written homework will be marked according to department guidelines accompanied by a comment or explanation to help pupils understand how to improve their performance. There will be end of topic tests and failure to reach the pass mark will result in a re-test.

Practical assessment is continuous over the 2 year course and culminates in a live moderation or through video evidence. Practical marks will be finalised in the 15s, unless a summer sport in which case it is prudent to have completed in the 14s.

There will be 2 written examinations in the summer (both 1 hour 15 minutes) each worth 30% of their overall grade making up a total of 60% assessed theoretically.

The remaining 40% of the pupil grade is allocated for practical and written coursework.

Textbooks

AQA GCSE Physical Education [Third Edition]- Kirk Bizley

AQA GCSE [9-1] PE- Ross Howitt and Mike Murray

PHYSICS

Topics to be covered this year:

- Waves (including: refraction of light; lenses and visible light)
- Magnetism and electromagnetism (including: permanent and induced magnetism, magnetic forces and fields; the motor effect; and induced potential, transformers and the National Grid)
- Space physics (including: solar system, stability of orbital motions, and satellites and red shift)

By the end of the year pupils should:

- understand all topics in the GCSE as covered across the three years from the 13s to 15s
- have completed the required practicals for each topic
- have developed a variety of experimental skills and strategies, including: developing hypotheses, planning and carrying out experiments, recording observations, and evaluating methods
- have developed scientific thinking
- be able to apply the cycle of collecting, presenting and analysing data
- show knowledge of, and skill in use of scientific vocabulary, quantities, units, symbols and nomenclature
- have improved their examination technique through self-evaluation
- have developed knowledge and understanding of key ideas in Physics (e.g. the use of models and the concept of cause and effect)

Assessment and Marking

Written homework will be marked according to department guidelines and accompanied by a comment or explanation to help pupils understand how to improve their work. Folders will also be checked regularly to ensure the work is in order. When marking folders and worksheets, a mark based on the quality of the work will be given for academic attainment and (if appropriate) a number grade for effort. There will be regular end of topic tests as appropriate and a mock examination in January, followed by the GCSE final examinations in the June examination series.

Textbook

AQA Science: GCSE Physics, Ryan (OUP)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

We follow the AQA Religious Studies A (8062) specification.

Christian Beliefs and Teachings:

- **The Nature of God**
God as omnipotent, loving and just? The Trinity, beliefs about creation, the afterlife.
- **Jesus Christ and Salvation**
The incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension of Jesus; sin and salvation.

Christian Practices:

- **Worship and Festivals**
Different forms of worship and their significance; prayer; pilgrimage.
- **The Church in the Worldwide Community**
Christian persecution, food banks, street pastors, church growth.

Religion, human rights and social justice:

- Human Rights
- Wealth and Poverty

By the end of the year pupils should:

- be fully prepared for their GCSE, both in subject content and examination technique

Homework

Homework is set once a week and should take 45 minutes. Discussion about the ethical issues with parents, grandparents and older siblings is to be encouraged and is seen as a valuable asset to the course.

Assessment and Marking

Regular factual tests will be marked numerically, whilst research tasks will be given an attainment grade (A-D) and an effort grade (1-4) along with a target for improvement for their next piece of work. Pupils will also practise examination-style questions, which will be marked according to the AQA marking scheme. Pupils will sit an internally set mock examination in January, and two external examinations in the summer. There is no coursework.

Textbooks

AQA GCSE Religious Studies: Christianity Student Book (Spec A) - Bartlett, Fleming, Smith, Worden

AQA GCSE Religious Studies: Buddhism Student Book (Spec A) - Cynthia Bartlett and Kevin James

SPANISH

Topics to be covered this year:

- School life
- Neighbourhood
- Environment and helping in the community
- Studying and future plans
- Revision of topics covered during the two-year course

By the end of the year pupils should be able to:

- listen and respond to a variety of spoken sources in Spanish
- read, understand and respond to a variety of written texts in Spanish on the topics covered
- use orally and write key vocabulary and structures related to the topics covered
- express opinions on issues discussed in class
- take part in role plays
- write for different purposes
- translate paragraphs from English into Spanish and Spanish into English
- describe pictures
- answer questions on topics covered
- discuss past, future and present events
- have a sound knowledge of basic grammar points such as the main tenses, adjectival agreement, comparatives and superlatives, prepositions, question words, adverbs, negatives, possessive and demonstrative pronouns
- use knowledge of phonics to transcribe spoken Spanish into written Spanish
- use knowledge of phonics to read aloud a short passage using correct pronunciation

Assessment and Marking

Pupils' progress will be assessed on a regular basis with small tests usually focussing on one skill only. At the end of each unit, a more thorough assessment will be done, and pupils will be tested on a minimum of three out of four skills: reading/writing/listening and speaking. Pupils will also sit mock examinations. Pupils will receive a grade or a percentage as well as a target to help them make progress in the subject. Preparation for and practice of GCSE type questions for final examinations will take place during the academic year.

Textbook

Pearson Edexcel MFL Spanish Higher

SPORTS

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- Health Related Fitness (fitness training methods and the development of the 5 S's Strength, Speed, Stamina, Suppleness and Skill), Yoga.
- Dance, Handball, Futsal
- Football, Netball

Term Two

- Spinning/Fitness Development
- Health Related Fitness (fitness training methods and the development of the 5 S's Strength, Speed, Stamina, Suppleness and Skill)
- Yoga
- Rugby, Hockey

Term Three

- Swimming, Athletics, Strike and Field/Net Games (Cricket, Rounders, Tennis)

By the end of the year pupils should:

- have developed their understanding of the rules necessary to perform effectively and know how to apply tactics in response to these rules
- have developed skilful attacking and team play developing fluency and timing and consolidated on how to work well as a team when attacking and defending, and the changeover between the two
- be able to think about how to use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition using team play and quick effective decision making and communication
- be making good decisions about which techniques to use in specific situations
- be able to adapt to different situations quickly and begin to invent their own ideas, skills and tactics
- have developed skills during extra-curricular activities as academic pressure results in less sport contact time
- be able to perform a set dance and compose a small section with an understanding of rhythm and compositional ideas (girls only)
- develop knowledge and understanding of different training methods and activities to allow them to continue healthy active lifestyles.
- develop technique and fitness to increase performance levels in a range of athletics disciplines

Extra Curricular Activities

There are competitive inter-school fixtures available for all pupils in the main sports of the term. There are lunchtime clubs in each sport to augment the contact time of each pupil per week. For 1st team players training is compulsory at lunchtime clubs. There is strength and conditioning training to support team players wishing to perform at higher levels.

Assessment and Marking

Marks will be given for both attainment and effort. Marks are accompanied by a comment or explanation to help pupils understand how to improve their level of performance. Pupils are continually assessed and given 2 marks, one for attainment and one for effort. These are in line with GCSE levels.

THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

Three Dimensional Design was introduced to fill a gap in the curriculum regarding the provision of design-based education within the Senior School. A foundation has been laid by the introduction in the 13s of a design course of the same name. The subject as offered at GCSE will be structured around the principles of working through the design brief, understanding its core, researching good practice and the work of others. This is followed by sketching up concepts, digitizing and finally rendering in three dimensions using a range of materials from wood to 3-D printing outputs. Work will be centred around product, packaging, industrial design and architecture.

Aims of the course

- To gain an understanding of the design brief and the processes required to successfully execute it to conclusion.
- Learn to render ideas and concepts in sketch form so as to make them accessible to third parties and for the purposes of producing models and 3-D objects.
- Manipulate 3-D software to a degree of competency sufficient to produce designs which fulfil the brief's aims.
- Demonstrate problem solving thinking through sustained investigation and experimentation.

Topics to be covered

- Problem solving in a practical, non-theoretical environment
- Industrial, product and architectural design solutions
- Ergonomic principles

Unit 1 60% of total mark

Controlled Assessment – set and marked by centre and moderated by OCR.

Candidate portfolio selected from work undertaken during the course of study and must include more than one project.

Unit 2 40% of total mark

Question papers issued from 1 January in the 15s.

Marked by centre and moderated by OCR.

Unlimited preparation time.

10 hours of sustained focused study.

Candidates respond to their chosen starting point.

Assessment and Marking

Continual throughout the year according to the OCR guidelines. Staff are available at the end of lessons, end of day and lunch times for extra guidance.

Examination Board: OCR

There is a termly charge of £115.