

# KS4 OPTIONS BOOKLET 2017-2019

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# **Letter to Parents**



Tuesday 21st February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to present your child's KS4 Options Choices to you.

This is a crucial time in your child's education as they look forward to their GCSE subject choices and beyond.

This booklet provides an outline of the courses that your child will be taking and the options choices that they can make. We will aim to ensure that students get their choice of options subjects where possible although this cannot be guaranteed in all cases.

I would encourage you and your child to find out as much as possible about the courses on offer and the further study and career options that they lead to so that together you can make an informed decision.

If you have any questions or would like further information after the Options presentation at the Year 9 Parents' Evening please do not hesitate to contact the school to speak to your child's Head of Year, Miss Blandford, or their subject teachers.

Yours faithfully

Mr T Raymond

Deputy Headteacher

# Introduction

The curriculum offer for pupils starting Year 10 at St John Bosco College in September 2017 provides a broad and balanced programme of study and builds upon their prior learning in Years 7, 8 and 9. It will also provide them with a solid platform for further study, post-16, in our sixth form.

All pupils will study the 'core subjects' of English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, and, naturally in a Catholic School, Religious Education.

All pupils have the choice of three optional subjects. They should choose three subjects from the following list, at least **one** of which is from the subjects highlighted in bold:

**Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish); History, Geography,** Product Design, Art, Music, Business Studies, and Sociology.

By ensuring that each child studies a Modern Foreign Language and/or a Humanities subject all students can achieve the English Baccalaureate suite of qualifications.

The combination of courses that your child opts for will depend on a number of different factors. These include the suitability of the course, career aspirations and interest in an area of study as well as past performance in a subject. It is very important that you discuss all these factors with your child before the final choices are made.

The vast majority of students will take GCSE qualifications in the subjects that they choose. A small number of students may be directed to take a GCSE equivalent qualification, in those subjects, where appropriate.

Periods % Subject	English 16% 8 periods	Maths 16% 8 periods	RE 10% 5 periods	Science 18% 9 periods	PE 10% 5 periods	Options Blocks A, B and C 5 periods (10%) Three subjects	
GCSEs offered	English Language English Literature	Maths	RE	Core and Additional Science	PE practical PE Theory (GCSE PE)	At least one from: MFL ( <i>Spanish</i> or <i>French</i> ) History Geography	DT Product Design Music Art Business Sociology
No' of GCSEs	2	2	1	2	1		3

Some students will have the opportunity study for the GCSE PE qualification as part of their Core PE entitlement where appropriate. Computing and Citizenship will be covered through 'collapsed timetable days' and our tutor time study programme.

The pages that follow give more information about each of the subjects offered. These have been divided into the 'core' subjects: English, Mathematics, Science and RE; and the remaining 'optional' subjects.

# **Core Subjects**

# **Religious Education**

GCSE Religious Studies is a stimulating course, comprising two main areas of content, which aim to give pupils opportunities to:

- evaluate the impact of religion on society;
- develop their knowledge of Christianity and another faith;
- promote tolerance and understanding of views different from their own;
- argue coherently and cogently.

Assessment is by examination at the end of the course.

### **YEAR 10**

Component 1 The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices.

Catholic Christianity: Key beliefs, the 7 sacraments, worship and the work of the Church.

### **AND**

A study of either *Judaism* or *Islam*: Key beliefs, authority, worship, festivals and family life.

### **YEAR 11**

**Component 2 Thematic Studies.** 

**Four topics** will be studied from the following:

Relationships and families

Religion and life

The existence of God

Religion, peace and conflict

Religion, crime and punishment

Religion, human rights and social justice

## **English Language and Literature – AQA**

English is a core subject and therefore all students will study a course in English Language and Literature at GCSE level. Yr 9 students, when they reach Yr 11, will be sitting "exams only" for English Language and English Literature. Students will follow a linear course which means that all examinations will be taken in Year 11.

### **English Language AQA Examinations**

### Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

### What's assessed

### Section A: Reading

one literature fiction text

### Section B: Writing

descriptive or narrative writing

### How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

### Questions

### Reading (40 marks) (25%)- one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

### Writing (40 marks) (25%)

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

### Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

### How it's assessed

### Section A: Reading

one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

### Section B: Writing

writing to present a viewpoint

### Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

### Questions

### Reading (40 marks) (25%) - two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

### Writing (40 marks) (25%)

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

# **AQA** English Literature GCSE



Students will complete two external examinations. Students will study a range of texts including: Romeo & Juliet, An Inspector Calls, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and a selection of classic and contemporary poems from the AQA Anthology.

### **Examinations**

### Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

### What's assessed

- Shakespeare (page 11)
- The 19th-century novel (page 11)

### How it's assessed

- 1 hour 45 minute written exam
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

### Questions

**Section A Shakespeare:** students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

**Section B The 19th-century novel:** students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

### **Plus**

### Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

### What's assessed

- Modern texts (page 11)
- Poetry (page 12)
- Unseen poetry (page 12)

### How it's assessed

- · 2 hour 15 minute written exam
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

### Questions

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

**Section B Poetry:** students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

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

# **Mathematics**

A short description of the course....

In Year 10 and 11, all pupils study one of four courses depending on their aptitude for Mathematics and their prior attainment at KS3.

**FOUNDATION** Target 1-3 (extending to 4) OR

**FOUNDATION +** Target 2-4 (extending to 5) **OR** 

HIGHER Target 3-6 (extending to 7) OR

**HIGHER +** Target 6-9

All pupils study a range of topics within the four attainment targets of **Number, Algebra, Geometry and Handling data.** Embedded into each of these four courses are problem solving activities requiring pupils to apply their Mathematics to real life situations.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including sign- posts to higher/further education and careers.

Mathematics is one of the most desirable qualifications for entry into College and University. Most jobs and apprenticeships also require entrants to have a GCSE Mathematics at grade 5+.

The problem solving element of the GCSE Mathematics course is particularly important, as when pupils are presented with real life problems, it helps to develop their ability to analyze, generalize, communicate and interpret the problem clearly. These 4 'process skills', help to develop pupils as effective 'problem solvers' in society and in the work place. It also plays a major part in helping pupils to develop their 'quality of written communication'.

### Pupils who do well in this subject....

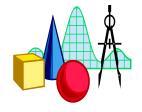
When they do all homework and regularly complete past exam papers and to revise for exams using <a href="https://www.mathswatchvle.com">www.mathswatchvle.com</a> and other 'online' resources (e.g.: online textbook). They are organized and always have a full pencil case and a scientific calculator to every one of their Mathematics lessons.

Assessment requirements: Three written examinations each for 1 hour and 30 minutes. One paper is a non-calculator exam and the other two papers are calculator exams. Pupils who do not have a scientific calculator will fail the exam!!

The average percentage of pupils gaining a 5 Grade or above over the last three years is 75%

This qualification forms part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)









# Science

The majority of students will study the GCSE Combined Science qualification. Those students getting level 6 or above at KS3 can choose to do the separate sciences (GCSE Physics, Chemistry, Biology) as one of their optional subjects.

### GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

### Double Award

This double award is equivalent to two GCSEs and covers much of the same content as the current core and additional science GCSEs..

### **Exams**

Six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics.

**Duration**: all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.

Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 mag

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.





# Sport/PE

All students will have the opportunity to study PE/Sport as part of their curriculum entitlement. Some students will be have the opportunity to complete a GCSE in PE as part of the course.

### **Edexcel GCSE Physical Education**

Students who are selected to to take the GCSE in Physical Education will attend practical lessons with the rest of the year group but will also attend theory lessons.

### **Outline**

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. You can perform in one or all of the following roles: player/participant, leader or official. You should have an interest in physical education and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy.

### Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

### What's assessed

- · Applied anatomy and physiology
- · Movement analysis
- · Physical training
- Use of data

### How it's assessed

- · Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 78 marks
- 30% of GCSE

### Questions

- Answer all questions
- A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

### Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

### What's assessed

- Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).
- Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

### How it's assessed

- · Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA
- 100 marks
- 40% of GCSE

### Questions

- For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity).
- Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

### Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

### What's assessed

- · Sports psychology
- · Socio-cultural influences
- · Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

### How it's assessed

- · Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 78 marks
- 30% of GCSE

### Questions

- Answer all questions.
- A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.







# Optional Subjects

# **Modern Languages**

# **AQA** GCSE French and Spanish

Pupils achieving Level 5a or above in French or Spanish by the end of KS3 are strongly advised to continue their language studies. Students who have a first language other than English are also encouraged to take a GCSE in their home language if appropriate.

### **AQA GCSE French or Spanish**

### Why study French or Spanish?

People with foreign language skills are highly sought after in the modern world and they stand out as talented and successful people with broad and exciting horizons. Since languages are highly valued by employers and colleges alike, a modern foreign language GCSE gives students a competitive advantage when applying for jobs, college places and university. In fact, many universities such as UCL require students to have a GCSE in a modern language before they will allow them onto a degree course. Find out more information at:

http://creative.dailymail.co.uk/dcsf/modernlanguages/ml-didyouknow.html

### Taking GCSE French or Spanish means you will:

- achieve the English Baccalaureate standard if you also pass GCSEs in English, Maths, Science and a Humanities subject.
- be able to go on to study for a French or Spanish A Level
- add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links, and will thereby improve you employability in this country and abroad.

### What do I need to be able to do before taking this course?

If you've reached level 5a in French or Spanish in KS3, you're well prepared to do this GCSE course! You'll build on the knowledge you have already acquired, as well as move on to new topics.

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

- if you have a good Grade you will be able to go on to study for a Spanish or French A-Level
- Further improve your language skills by working for a holiday company abroad or within the tourist industry in the UK
- Approach international companies to find out what job opportunities they have for linguists and pursue the required qualifications
- For further information consult:

http://www.languageswork.org.uk/resources/factsheets/factsheets 2 of 3.aspx

### **GCSE MFL Assessment**

The following four skills are assessed. This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

Listening: 25% Speaking: 25% Reading: 25% Writing: 25%

# **Geography GCSE**

Interested in studying Geography further? You should be...



Geography tackles BIG issues facing our planet today. The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years and Geography will help you prepare for and understand these changes. Times are changing – don't be left behind.

The transferable skills that Geography develops are an asset in the world of work today. Geography is all about the future, and encourages flexible thinking. Geographers are good communicators, spatially aware, problem solvers, computer literate and well rounded, flexible thinkers. This is achieved through a variety of thinking skills, field-visits, role-plays, and decision-making activities intertwined with current affairs, media and the actions of the world we inhabit.

What will I study and how is it assessed?

Living with the physical environment

3.1.1 Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

3.1.2 Section B: The living world

3.1.3 Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

- Assessed with a written exam, 90 minutes, 35% of total grade

Challenges in the human environment

3.2.1 Section A: Urban issues and challenges

3.2.2 Section B: The changing economic world

3.2.3 Section C: The challenge of resource management

- Assessed with a written exam, 90 minutes, 35% of total grade

### Geographical applications

3.3.1 Section A: Issue evaluation

3.3.2 Section B: Fieldwork

- Assessed with a written exam, 75 minutes, 30% of total grade



# **History GCSE**

### **Edexcel GCSE in History:**

What do you study and how is it assessed?

### Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment

You will study one of the following:

Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present *and* Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present *and* The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Warfare and British society, c1250-present and London and the Second World War, 1939-45

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes 30%\* of the qualification

### Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

You will study one of the following: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88 The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216 Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40 Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88.

And one of these:

Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555
British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution
The American West, c1835–c1895
Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95.

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Paper 3: Modern depth study

40%\* of the qualification

You will study one of the following:

Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41
Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39
Mao's China, 1945–76
The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad.

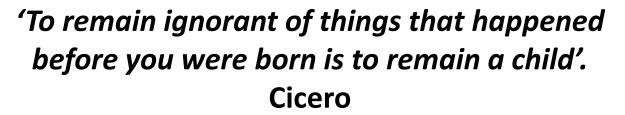
Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes

30%\* of the qualification









# **GCSE Art and Design**

### **Edexcel GCSE Art and Design**

The GCSE Art and Design is a Fine art based course. This means you will be expected to research, explore and develop visual ideas based on a theme in a sketchbook which will lead to a final piece of artwork. The artwork could be a painting, a sculpture, print or a fabric wall hanging. Students are expected to work in at least two different mediums.

### Why study GCSE Art and Design?

Consistently good grades and high pass rate at GCSE
Prestigious end of year exhibition to show case each students work
Benefit of using the art room after school to use facilities and have one to one support from the art teacher

An opportunity to visit London's leading art galleries and museums to see work by different artists from different times and cultures

**Assessment:** GCSE Art and Design is assessed through course work (60%) and an externally set examination (40%). All work is assessed both in school and externally.

### Skills required

Students following the GCSE Art and Design course should have some creative and artistic ability and a strong interest in the visual world. They should have the willingness to work hard and to meet deadlines.

Progression: Students may go on to study Art or an Art related subject such as graphics, architecture, game design, photography or fashion and textiles as an AS/A level option at sixth form. They can also study Art and Design as a Btec National diploma at sixth form. Even if you do not wish to pursue a career in Art, it is a highly creative subject which will show you are patient, motivated and have ideas which relate to the visual world.



# Business

# GCSE Business and Communication Systems

GCSE Business and Communication Systems 4134 ICT Systems in Business (Section 3.8)

Assessed by

Unit 8 – ICT Systems in Business Written Paper (1 hour) 60 marks/40% Using ICT in Business (Section 3.9)

Assessed by

plus

Unit 9 – Using ICT in Business Computer based Examination (1½ hours) 60 marks/35%

and

Controlled Assessment
Unit 10 – Investigating ICT in Business
40 marks/25%

# GCSE Business and Communication Systems Unit 8 ICT Systems in Business

Written Paper (1 hour) 60 marks / 40% and

# **Unit 9 Using ICT in Business**

Practical Exam Paper (1 hour 30 minutes) 60 marks/ 35% and

# **Unit 10 Investigating ICT in Business**

Controlled Assessment 40 marks / 25%







# Music GCSE Music

### **AQA GCSE Music**

You have already gained many of the basic skills needed for this course in your music lessons over the last three years at secondary school.

- You have been introduced to creating music of your own in class and this is developed on the GCSE course as you choose two topics for composition. For example, this could be a popular song and a dance track, a classical piece or some world music. There is a wide choice and it can be tailored to your own musical interests and strengths.
- You have already listened to a variety of music in class and these skills are developed as you study some set pieces taken from the classical, 20th century, popular and world music
- You enjoy making music, either as a soloist or in a group. The GCSE course encourages you to perform music of your own choosing and in any style, as a soloist and also in a group. To take this course, you must be able to offer at least one instrument/or voice.

### What will I learn?

You will learn how:

- to improve your performing skills
- music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product
- to analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed over the last 400 years or so.

### Assessment

Performing Composing Listening & Appraising  You will need to play one solo piece and one ensemble piece.  You will need to create two compositions.  You will need to to create two compositions.  You will sit a 90 minute written paper with questions on your prescribed set works. Questions such as these are asked:  'Name the instrument playing the solo'  'Give two musical reasons why you like or dislike this piece of music.'  'This theme is shared between two			
play one solo piece and one ensemble piece.  to create two compositions.  with questions on your prescribed set works. Questions such as these are asked:  'Name the instrument playing the solo'  Give two musical reasons why you like or dislike this piece of music.'	Performing	Composing	Listening & Appraising
instrumental families? What are they?'	play one solo piece and one	to create two	with questions on your prescribed set works. Questions such as these are asked:  • 'Name the instrument playing the solo'  • 'Give two musical reasons why you like or dislike this piece of music.'  • 'This theme is shared between two









# Design and Technology Product Design

### **Product Design**

The course is the process of creating a new product, you will learn how efficient and effective generating and development of ideas lead to a new product. Students conceptualise and evaluate ideas, making them tangible through products in a more systematic approach. Their role is to combine elements of Maths, Science, Art and Technology to create a three dimensional product.

The content is taught through real-life problem-solving and task oriented situations and students will be expected to show ability in a wide variety of communication techniques from sketching to Computer Aided Design. Throughout Year 10 they build upon experiences at Key Stage 3 to develop a vast bank of knowledge which will see them through their GCSE successfully. Their work will culminate with a single integrated controlled assessment project following guidelines set out by the exam board, AQA. This project will result in an artefact supported by a design folder and prototype models, of the highest standard. The Design and Technology Curriculum has been designed to support and enhance the experience of Product Design, focusing on the use of new technologies and processes such as Laser Cutting, CNC Machines, 3D Printing and CAD/CAM processes etc.



### Controlled Assessment Unit - 60%

Students will design and make a product based on a chosen design task set by AQA. The controlled assessment unit is intended to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their designing and making skills in order to produce a high quality product which fulfils a specific need or purpose. It will show evidence of knowledge gained throughout the course and be completed during year 10 and Year 11.

### Examination – 40%

A written 2 hour examination which will be untiered. The examination will be undertaken during the summer term of year 11. Students will use knowledge gained during controlled assessment unit as well as have the opportunity to complete revision topics well in advance of the exam.

### **Progression**

Following GCSE students can progress to study Product Design subjects at Level 3 enabling them to gain the background required to pursue employment in industries such as Architecture, Computer Aided Design, Graphics, Visual Marketing, Product Design, and Web Design, Engineering, Technologies.

# **GCSE Sociology**

### Why Choose Sociology?

Students develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society, and how sociologists study and understand its structures, processes and issues.

Sociology is exciting, interesting and relevant to students' lives. This specification encourages students to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing their critical, evaluative skills.

### What will I study and how is it assessed?

### **Unit 1: Studying Society; Education; Families (41901)**

Social structures, including the family, education and stratification systems
Social processes, including socialisation, social control and social change
Social issues, including the causes and consequences of inequality, and the sources, distribution and exercise of power and authority

Written Paper – 1 hour 30 mins 90 marks – 50%

# Unit 2: Crime and Deviance; Mass Media; Power; Social Inequality (41902)

Crime and Deviance; Mass Media Power Social Inequality

Written Paper - 1 hour 30 mins 90 marks - 50%



# **Making your Option Choices**

### Step 1

Identify which options are the most suitable for your child. For some subjects it is essential that your child has reached an appropriate level by the end of Key Stage if they are to follow a GCSE course successfully. If you are in any doubt about this please speak to Miss Blandford, Head of Year 9, your child's tutor, or the subject leader who can give you further advice.

### Step 2

Use the form on the next page to write down your child's choices.

### **Choose three subjects**

You should choose three subjects from the list of optional subjects. At least one should be from the subjects highlighted in bold (GCSE French/Spanish, History, Geography). You can choose two or three from these subjects if you wish. Please note that French AND Spanish is not offered as a combination.

### **Reserve Choice**

It is necessary to choose two **reserve** options from the list of optional subjects in case the combination of first choice subjects cannot be accommodated on the timetable. Please indicate your reserve choices by writing these in the appropriate box.

### Step 3

Please check the form and ensure that all the details are correct. It should then be handed in to the student office on or before **Friday 10**<sup>th</sup> **March 2016.** 

# **SJBC Options Form 2017**

# Please choose three subjects from the list of options and two reserve choices

Choose <b>three</b> of the follow	wing at least one of which sho	uld be from the					
subject highlighted in bold (You can choose two, or all three of these if you wish).							
	•	, ,					
Please indicate your choices in order of preference (1, 2, 3).							
GCSE French or GSCE		(=, =, =, =,					
GCSETTERICITOR GSCE	Spanisn						
000511111							
GCSE History							
GCSE Geography							
GCSE Art							
GCSE Business Studies	5						
GCSE Product Design							
3							
GCSE Music							
GCSE Sociology							
GCSL Sociology							
Please nominate two	reserve choices below						
Reserve choice 1							
Reserve enoice 1							
Reserve choice 2							
Punil Name:	, E	orm:					
r upii Name	(capitals please) FC	JIIII					
Parent/Carer signature:							