



Year 9 Options 2018

Introduction

This booklet is designed to help you to make your option choices for the subjects that you want to study in years 10 and 11 at the Cedars Academy. All pupils will continue to study core subjects at Key Stage 4, but you will also be able to choose four option subjects that you are interested in and feel you will be successful with.

Take your time when deciding your options. Use this booklet to talk it over with your parents/carers, speak to your teachers, ask their advice and think carefully about making the right decisions for your future. The GCSE and BTEC subjects that you will study in years 10 and 11 will play an important part in your future and we want to help you to make the right choices.

How to choose your options

- What subjects are you interested in and what lessons do you enjoy? Remember that you are committing yourself to a further two years of study in this subject, so enjoyment will be important. You will probably do well in a subject that you are interested in.
- What subjects are you good at? Try to play to your strengths and pick subjects where you get high grades in tests and key assessments.
- Careers, Further Education and Higher Education. If you have an idea about the type of career, college course or University degree you want to pursue post-16 then this can help you to make decisions about your options.
- Year 9 options - if you are already studying a subject in year 9 as part of the option choices then it makes sense to continue with this option in years 10 and 11.
- DO NOT choose an option because your friends have picked it. Obviously, the options that are right for your friends may not be right for you. Also, there is no guarantee that you will be in the same class as your friends even if you choose the same options.
- DO NOT choose an option because you like your current teacher for that lesson. There is no guarantee that you will have the same teacher next year.

Core Subjects

All pupils will study the following 'Core' subjects in years 10 and 11:

GCSE English Language

In GCSE English Language, pupils will deepen and broaden their core reading and writing skills. Through studying fiction and non-fiction texts, from a range of authors and contexts, pupils will further develop their analytical and evaluative skills and their appreciation of a writer's style, method and purpose.

The writing aspect of the course will require pupils to write creatively and imaginatively. They will produce both fiction and non-fiction, allowing them to demonstrate how they can use language, form and structure to achieve specific meaning and effects.

What will you study?

- Creative Prose Reading
- Creative Prose Writing
- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (non-fiction reading)
- Non-fiction writing

How will you be assessed?

2x written exam papers at the end of Year 11

Spoken presentation (non-exam assessment, unweighted)

GCSE English Literature

In GCSE English Literature, pupils will study a variety of literary texts ranging from the modern era to the 18th and 19th centuries. Pupils will explore all aspects of literary fiction, from character and narrative, to theme, subtext and social, historical and cultural context.

Study will include close analysis of language, form and structure and will cover the core literary genres of prose, drama and poetry.

What will you study?

- One Shakespeare play
- One 19th Century novel
- One 20th Century play
- An anthology of poetry
- Responses to unseen poetry

How will you be assessed?

2x written exam papers at the end of Year 11

GCSE Mathematics

Builds on the mathematical skills and understanding developed during KS3 Maths. You will learn new mathematical techniques and develop problem solving, creativity and reasoning skills. You will also develop your decision making when selecting appropriate methods to solve mathematical problems.

Assessment - Three exam papers at the end of year 11. All are 1 hour 30 minutes long, and cover the whole of the GCSE content. Paper 1 is non-calculator, Papers 2 and 3 are calculator.

Exam board is AQA.

Key topics include: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change, Geometry and Measures, Probability and Statistics. New topics include: Irrational numbers, Surds, Circle Theorems, Trigonometric graphs, Volume of cones and spheres.

GCSE Combined Science

This is a double award subject and is worth two GCSEs. Students will study a range of topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which are designed to help understand the world around us. The course is designed to build upon and extend knowledge of topics already introduced in Key Stage 3 Science.

Science learning involves practical work and students will gain experience of handling a range of scientific equipment and learning to analyse and interpret scientific data.

What will you study?

Biology Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Inheritance, Ecology

Chemistry Atomic Structure, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Change, Energy Changes, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Earth's Atmosphere

Physics Energy, Electricity, Particle Model, Atomic Structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism

How will you be assessed?

There are six exam papers in total: two each for Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

Each paper lasts for 1 hour 15 mins.

GCSE Religious Studies

At the start of year 9, students begin their GCSE Religious Studies course. This GCSE provides an opportunity for students to build upon and develop further, the foundation gained in Key Stage 3. Students are encouraged to incorporate their understanding of their own beliefs and experiences in their learning. They examine in depth the beliefs and practices of both Christianity and Islam looking at a variety of topics such as the nature of God, pilgrimage and religious festivals. Students also explore a range of ethical and contemporary issues as diverse as abortion, war and the death penalty. Students are encouraged to discover these topics from both a religious and secular perspective.

What will you study ?

- Christian beliefs and practices
- Islamic beliefs and practices
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Relationships and families
- Religion and Life
- Religion crime and punishment

How will you be assessed ?

2 x written exam papers at the end of year 11

Core PE

Core PE will allow students to keep physically fit throughout years 10 and 11 as well as mentally and socially developing their skills. Students will have two lessons per week on a variety of different options, giving them the freedom to choose their desired activities.

At the start of every term students will have the ability to choose the route they wish to follow. The routes are: boys, girls, mixed. The sports on these routes are very different and are normally in blocks of 3/4 weeks per activity. This means in a term they will complete at least 4 sports.

Some of the sports build on from Key Stage 3 but also we offer new sports that students won't have experienced before in school such as Boxing, Gaelic football, Ultimate Frisbee, Aerobics and Dodgeball.

Option Subjects

Most pupils will select four options from the choices below. You need to select subjects using the options form you have been given by your form tutor which will guide you towards certain subjects. This helps to ensure that all pupils study a broad and balanced curriculum. If you are unhappy with the courses you have been guided towards then speak to your form tutor and we will try to accommodate any reasonable requests.

Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA)- Level 2

The UK is a world leader in the creative digital industries, such as in the creation of visual effects for films and computer games. However, there is growing recognition that we need to build on and improve the UK's capability and capacity for technical innovation and creativity in this area.

If you enjoy using computers to be creative, if you enjoy designing and making digital products to express, inform, persuade and entertain then his course is for you.

There are two modules

- Developing web products is compulsory
- One from Creative Multimedia, Artwork and Imaging, and finally Game Making

This is a 'hands on' practical course, it will require hard work and dedication to achieve outstanding digital products

GCSE Computer Science

If you enjoy problem solving and are interested in the internal workings of a computer then GCSE Computer Science is the course for you. Computer Science centres around three units of work; Computer Systems, Computational Thinking and programming.

In the Computer Systems unit student will gain knowledge about how computers work in the real world, how they process information, legislation related to the introduction of computer systems and the effect of computer systems in the real world. Students will be introduced to the internal workings of a computer system including hardware, software and storage. Students will look at networks and the protocols applied to ensure security of data as well as system security.

In the Computational Thinking unit students start to gain an understanding of the need for planning algorithms before undertaking a project and start to plan out projects in a logical manner. They are introduced to data representation and look at how sound and images are stored as a binary pattern. Students will look at how computers interpret, process and decode instructions, how decisions are made and how computer logic is applied to make a computer work.

In the programming unit, a more advanced programming language is introduced. Students complete a short project using Python which will introduce the key programming constructs such as variables, data types, string manipulation, if statements and loops.

GCSE Fine Art

You will work over two years to complete two coursework projects on Portraits and Animals. These will count as 60% of your final mark. The remaining 40% is a practical exam at the end of year 11.

You will be taught a variety of drawing and painting skills in year 10. Over two years these techniques will be developed to include different mediums and ways of communicating ideas.

The Fine Art course requires dedication and organisation at home. Expectations are extremely high. You must be motivated and willing to work in your own time and complete all of the set homework to a high standard. You should be able to draw reasonably well and enjoy drawing, in order to communicate effectively.

On this course you will:

- Learn Sketching and drawing skills
- Use a variety of media including watercolour, acrylics, charcoal, oil pastels and mixed media
- Learn about other artists
- Visit galleries and sculpture parks
- Keep sketchbooks of your work and ideas
- Produce a portfolio of Fine Art that demonstrates your skills

GCSE French

The GCSE French course will build on key aspects of language study developed in KS3. Pupils will revisit some topic areas and study them in more depth, as well as learning about a wide range of new topics relevant to France and other francophone countries. Pupils will develop their ability to communicate in range of contexts and build on their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

What will you study ?

- 3 main themes:
 - *Identity and Culture*
 - *Local, national, international and global areas of interest*
 - *Current and future study and employment*
- You will develop your skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the context of these topic areas.

How will you be assessed ?

Four exams at the end of Year 11 (each worth 25% of the GCSE) which cover each skill: listening, speaking, reading and writing at either Foundation or Higher level.

GCSE Geography

If you have enjoyed Geography at KS3 and you are interested in environmental issues and current affairs then you will enjoy GCSE Geography. Some of the topics that we cover will be new to you. Some you will have covered at KS3 so will have a good introductory understanding to some topics.

Assessment - Students will sit three examination papers at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 will cover all PHYSICAL Geography topics.
- Paper 2 will cover all HUMAN Geography topics.
- Paper 3 will cover a mixture and is a SKILLS based examination.

We study both Human and Physical Geography. Physical Geography studied in Year 10 includes: Global Hazards, Sustaining Ecosystems, Changing Climate and Distinctive Landscapes

Human Geography studied in Year 11 includes the topics Urban Futures, UK in the 21st Century, Resource Reliance and Dynamic Development.

Students have to go on Physical and Human Geography fieldtrips in order to collect data. These fieldwork skills will be tested in the examination papers.

Health and Social Care (OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate)

This qualification introduces students to the biggest employment sector in the UK, which includes elements of the NHS, local authority adult and child care services as well as a range of independent providers which provide care in a variety of settings. It introduces students to this vocational sector and the role it plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals across all age ranges. Students will also develop transferable skills, in particular communication, aspects of team working and the essential life skill of first aid.

Assessment

RO21 is an examined unit covering the essential values of care for use with individuals with a 1 hour externally marked examination.

All the other topics are assessed through assignments and practical assessments.

Topics

Unit RO21 Essential values of care for use with individuals.

Unit R022 Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings.

Unit RO27 Creative activities to support individuals in health, social care and early years settings.

Unit RO31 Using basic first aid procedures.

GCSE History

The GCSE History course will engage students with a broad and diverse study of the history of Britain and the wider world and give them skills that will support progression to further study of History and a wide range of other subjects.

Builds on Key Stage 3 - we have designed our GCSE History course to extend students' knowledge by studying new areas of content and by revisiting and deepening their knowledge of content studied previously.

What will you study ?

- Superpower Relations and the Cold War (1941-91)
- Early Elizabethan England (1558-88)
- Weimar and Nazi Germany (1918-39) Depth Study
- Crime and Punishment through time (c1000-present)

How will you be assessed ?

3 x written exam papers at the end of year 11

GCSE Media Studies

The GCSE Media Studies course will allow pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of media texts and industries, including television, music, marketing, magazines, newspapers and online media.

By studying print, audio/visual and online texts, pupils will learn to apply theoretical frameworks and understand how texts use techniques to convey different messages to different audiences.

Pupils who are good at English will do well in Media Studies, as there are a lot of cross-over skills, including the ability to analyse, evaluate, and communicate. There is also a creative element to the course.

What will you study?

- Media language and representation
- Media industries and audiences
- Television (sit-com)
- Music videos and online media
- Creative print production

How will you be assessed?

Two exams and one non-exam assessment (in class)

Written exam on 'Exploring the Media' (35%) + Written exam on 'Understanding Media Forms and Products' (35%)

Non-exam assessment - Creating Media Products (Print) (30%)

GCSE Music

Exam board: Eduqas

Music has always been about performing, composing and listening and these activities remain the foundations of our course.

Who is GCSE Music for?

- Someone who has enjoyed music in years 7, 8 and 9, and wants to take a subject with a lot of practical work.
- Someone who likes performing in front of others, and wants to practice and attend their instrumental/singing lessons.
- Someone who has the patience to stick at long-term composition tasks, and is happy to take constructive criticism and refine their work.
- Someone who likes listening to a wide variety of music, and is prepared to be open-minded about different styles.

FAQs / dealing with misconceptions about GCSE Music

Do I need to be having instrumental/singing lessons already to do well at GCSE?

No, but once you commit to taking GCSE Music, it would be a very good idea to start them. The individual tuition and attention to detail that you get from a specialist teacher is extremely valuable, and will have a positive impact on your grade.

Do I need to have passed any music exams to succeed as a GCSE musician?

No, not at all. Many students who have never taken grades can achieve levels 8 or 9 (A*) in performance. However, if you do take exams, you can use the same material for GCSE Music.

Do I need to be able to read music fluently to do well?

Not at the start of the course, but this is something that you will need to work on. There is more emphasis placed on musical literacy in the new course than there was previously, and students will have to be prepared to work on this. However, you will be given plenty of help, so don't panic about this - again it will improve with practice.

How will I be assessed?

30% Performance (Internally marked) - You will perform two pieces, one must be an ensemble performance and the second can either be ensemble or solo.

30% Composing (Internally marked) - You will compose two pieces of music. One will be a 'free' composition to your own brief and the second will be composed to suit an exam board brief. Both pieces can be in any style/genre of your choice!

40% Listening and Appraising (Externally marked) - Over the course you will study music from a range of styles, historical contexts and traditions. Your final exam will be a listening paper which tests your knowledge and understanding of music gained from across the two years.

Performing Arts - BTEC Tech Award - Level 2

If you aspire to perform, have enjoyed Drama and Performing Arts at KS3, and you are interested in being able to explore, challenge and reach your potential in Performing Arts, then this may be the course for you.

The course is a practical course which not only gives you the chance to perform, but also develops valuable skills and techniques in different performance disciplines and explores potential careers in the industry. The course allows you to focus on either Drama, Dance or Musical theatre skills.

Assessment - You will study three components:

- Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (30%)
- Component 2: Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts (30%)
- Component 3: Performing to a brief (40%)

The components build on each other to motivate and help you put what you have learned into practice and grow in confidence.

- Component 1: This component allows you to get a taste of what it is like to be a professional performer across different styles. It also gives you an insight into the industry as a whole as you will look at roles such as the director, choreographer and stage management. This is an internally assessed component.
- Component 2: You will develop skills and techniques in your chosen discipline(s) of acting, dance and musical theatre through workshops and classes and evaluate your skill development. This is an internally assessed component.
- Component 3: You will consider how practitioners adapt their skills for different contexts and put them into practice in performance. This is an externally assessed unit and the performance will be based on a set brief from the examination board.

GCSE Product Design

Whatever you like about D+T you will find part of it in this exciting course. Pupils will study materials of all disciplines and develop skills and techniques using a vast array of different media. In year 10 pupils try out all the different areas from metal work to textiles to become an expert in a chosen area for year 11. Not only will you develop practical skills but you will learn about Design in the real world and how technology pushes change and progress in our society. We are looking for exciting, creative and dedicated students with a passion for 'hands on' learning.

Assessment - Students will sit a single two hour exam at the end of the course. In year 11 students conduct a major project in a chosen material area. This controlled assessment counts for 50% of the final grade.

Exam Paper content:

- Designing to a given problem
- Core learning Wood - Metal - Plastic - Card - Fabric
- Specialist materials knowledge - Detailed question on a chosen material type
- Design in society - sustainability - new technology - smart materials

Year 10 involves a number of small projects that include: Wooden box, Lamp, Jewellery, Magazine cover, Fabric purse/pencil case.

In year 11 our focus is on the controlled assessment and choosing a specialist area.

We are also planning a number of day trips to learn about methods of manufacture and to be inspired by amazing design creations..

GCSE Spanish

The GCSE Spanish course will build on key aspects of language study developed in Year 9. You have to have studied Spanish in year 9 to be able to choose this option. Pupils will revisit some topic areas and study them in more depth, as well as learning about a wide range of new topics relevant to Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. Pupils will develop their ability to communicate in range of contexts and build on their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

What will you study ?

- 3 main themes:
 - *Identity and Culture*
 - *Local, national, international and global areas of interest*
 - *Current and future study and employment*
- You will develop your skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the context of these topic areas.

How will you be assessed ?

Four exams at the end of Year 11 (each worth 25% of the GCSE) which cover each skill: listening, speaking, reading and writing at either Foundation or Higher level.

Sports Studies (Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport)

The Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport (Sports Studies) course will engage students with a diverse study of many different sporting sectors, whilst also encompassing some core sport/Physical Education themes. Students will have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport as well as sport in the media.

This course will give students a variety of skills and experience that will support progression to further study of Sport and a wide range of other subjects.

What will you study?

- Unit 1: Contemporary Issues in Sport will allow students to work through a wide variety of topics such as funding, participation, ethics, role models and the media.
- Unit 2: Developing Sports Skills allows students to develop their sporting performance in a team and individual sport as well as developing their theoretical knowledge of these sports.
- Unit 3: Sports Leadership will give students the opportunity to develop their theoretical and practical characteristics of a leader by leading sessions of different activities. This includes advancement of skills as an official/umpire, where students will officiate an activity.
- Unit 4: Sport and the Media will enable students to study a wide variety of sport in the media, how it is presented positively and negatively via analysing the relationship between these 2 factors.

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1: 1 written exam paper

Unit 2: Coursework and practical performance

Unit 3: Coursework and leadership/officiating performance

Unit 4: Coursework

GCSE Textiles

You will work over two years to complete three coursework projects. These will count as 60% of your final mark. Projects- Textile Jewellery, Corsets, Illustration. The remaining 40% is a practical exam at the end of year 11.

You will be taught a variety of textile skills in year 10. Over two years these techniques will be developed to include different mediums and ways of communicating ideas.

The Textiles course requires dedication and organisation at home. Expectations are extremely high. You must be motivated and willing to work in your own time and complete all of the set homework to a high standard. You should be able to draw reasonably well in order to communicate effectively.

On this course you will:

- Learn machine skills and use a variety of mediums and techniques
- Study textile artists and visit galleries
- Keep sketchbooks of your work and ideas
- Produce a portfolio of Textiles that demonstrate your skills

GCSE Triple Science

This is a triple award subject and is worth three GCSEs. The course is aimed at students who really enjoy science and wish to study the subject at a higher level - post 16 and university. It is a challenging option choice and therefore we will guide students who are suitable towards this choice.

Students will study a range of topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which are designed to help understand the world around us. The course is designed to build upon and extend knowledge of topics already introduced in Key Stage 3 Science. Science learning involves practical work and students will gain experience of handling a range of scientific equipment and learning to analyse and interpret scientific data.

What will you study?

Biology Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Inheritance, Ecology

Chemistry Atomic Structure, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Change, Energy Changes, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Earth's Atmosphere, Using Resources

Physics Energy, Electricity, Particle Model, Atomic Structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism, Space Physics

How will you be assessed?

There are six exam papers in total: two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each paper lasts for 1 hour 45 mins.