

INTRODUCTION TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

This booklet is a guide to the school's curriculum for Year 10 and 11 students (2015-2017). I hope you find it helpful. Firstly, it will give you a broad outline of the subjects you will continue to study and secondly, it will ensure that the choices made are the best for each student. Please keep this booklet in a safe place at home as you may find some sections useful to refer to during Year 10 and 11.

The following staff are available to give guidance on your Options and career choices.

Mrs L Phippen	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs K Robson	Assistant Headteacher
Ms S Squibb	Assistant Headteacher
Your Subject Teachers	
Your Form Tutor	

Lorraine Phippen

Deputy Headteacher

February 2015

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THE YEAR 9 OPTIONS PROCESS

The Year 9 options process will help students and their families make informed decisions about the subjects they wish to take in the future. Choosing which subjects to study in Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) is probably the most important decision students have yet had to make. The subjects chosen could influence the range of courses the student can take later in life and could possibly affect future careers. Having said that, the core of subjects offered at Lady Lumley's School ensures that every student has a broad and balanced education through to the end of Year 11. The options process allows students (and their parents/carers) to choose additional subjects that complement the core offer and allows the student to develop his or her knowledge and skills in particular areas.

There are two particular areas that we want to give students and their parent/carers more information about at this stage: vocational subjects and the English Baccalaureate.

Vocational Subjects

At Lady Lumley's we see vocational subjects as an important part of our offer to Year 10 and Year 11 students. These courses offer a more practically based style of education which really suits some of our students. These courses also have to be economically viable so we may not be able to meet all of the students' requests should numbers for a particular course be too small (or too large). Any students affected will be consulted and given individual advice and guidance about alternative choices.

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is a measure brought in by the Coalition Government in 2011. The Government possibly intends that the English Baccalaureate will develop into an overarching certificate awarded to students who have achieved GCSE passes at A* to C (or equivalent) in: English, mathematics, dual science, history or geography, and a modern or ancient language. It could affect students in Year 9 if it develops in importance for students considering entering university. It may be that some universities will want students to have the English Baccalaureate when they apply for places in the future. This may influence the choices made during the options process at Year 9 as it appears that some subjects are "more important" than others. We genuinely believe that every subject is equally important and that students should follow courses that are most appropriate to their needs and desires. We believe good teaching and learning leads to the best possible results for the students and this is helped when students have a choice and can fully engage with their subjects. We want the students to choose subjects that allow them the widest possible range of future careers and choose subjects where they have the best possible chance of achieving well. More changes have been brought in by the Government and these will have impact on the Options Process in 2015. This year, students will be asked to choose one subject from a prescribed list of subjects and then have free choice for their other 3 options. Any student or parent/carer who would like further, specific advice can talk to a member of the senior staff on the Options Information Evening or contact the school at any time.

Richard Bramley
Headteacher

INTRODUCTION

WHAT ARE OPTIONS?

For you, this year is a milestone. Until now you have taken the same subjects from year to year. Next year will be different. You will continue with some subjects but will drop others. The point is that for the first time the choice is yours and this will affect you in the following ways:

- you will need to choose the subjects and pathway that suit you;
- you will start preparing for public examinations;
- the subjects you choose (and those you leave out) may affect your future after you are sixteen.

Choosing subjects at this stage is often difficult and needs a lot of thought. You should:

- know about yourself – your likes and dislikes, your strengths and weaknesses;
- know how good you are in your present subjects;
- know what each course involves;
- discuss your ideas with others, including your parents;
- go to the careers room and use the information available there to help you.

WHICH SUBJECTS SHOULD I CHOOSE?

There are several reasons why you may want to continue studying a particular subject:

- you may be interested in it and therefore enjoy it;
- you may be good at it;
- you may need it for your career or course of training;
- you may want to keep a balance in your subjects to keep a wide choice available at sixteen.

It may be necessary to choose between a subject you like and one which is needed for a particular career. In a case like this the subject **NEEDED** must take priority but check very carefully that it is crucial and no alternatives are possible.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS AND OPTIONAL SUBJECTS.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is made up of two elements; compulsory subjects and optional subjects. You will all continue to do the following: English, Maths, Science, R.E. and P.E. PSHCCE - (personal, social, health, citizenship, careers and economic education) is also an important element of every student's education and helps to develop wider life and work skills. This is delivered in a cross curricular way with all subjects contributing, for example, in RE, the Religion and Society Unit deals with such issues as the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Issues such as bullying and cyber-bullying are explored during assemblies and in tutor time. In addition students complete a one week work experience in July and, throughout the year, have access to quality careers advice.

WHAT GRADES WILL BE AWARDED?

We are, again, in a time of change. For most GCSE courses students will be awarded grades from A* to G (with a U grade for unclassified).

GCSE grades	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
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For mathematics and English GCSEs, students will be awarded grades from 9 to 1 (with a U grade for unclassified).

GCSE grades	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
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Some subjects follow different tiers of work and enter for different examinations, which means the grades available are limited to a smaller range. **Check** which subjects these are and what final range of grades will be available to you **very carefully**.

Some of the courses offered are not GCSEs. Level 1 courses are equivalent to one GCSE grade D-G. Level 2 courses are equivalent to one GCSE grade A*-C. For more information please see the details of each individual course.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY COURSEWORK/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS?

In subjects with coursework, the final GCSE result is not dependent solely upon one examination. The coursework/controlled assessments contribute varying percentages of the final mark dependent on the subject.

Coursework and controlled assessments allow students to be assessed throughout the period of the course and not only by the final examination result. Some advantages of this are that:

- it helps students whose work is usually good but who find examinations difficult
- it includes marks for care and skill in doing experiments or handling equipment
- it gives value to the week-by-week work of students

It is important that students and parents understand that this type of continuous assessment demands high standards of work over a long period. Students will need to plan well ahead in order to avoid work "piling up". Regular attendance is also very important.

WHAT ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES?

Equal opportunities are important. The curriculum in its widest meaning will be organised, structured and resourced in such a manner that no student will be denied opportunities or receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, level of ability or social circumstances.

Everybody has the same choices and will be treated equally, although the guidance you might receive may point you in one direction rather than another.

CAREERS ADVICE

Impartial information, advice and guidance is available in school from Anna Lowe. Sessions will be offered to young people to assist them with their Year 9 option choices. If your son/daughter requires more in depth one to one guidance they can request an interview via their form tutor. If parents/carers wish to attend the interview this can be arranged by contacting school.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- don't choose a subject because your friends have. Their aptitude and interests may be different from yours
- don't let like (or dislike!) of a teacher influence your choice. You do not know which teachers you will get in Years 10 and 11 when you make your choices
- don't panic! There are lots of people who are willing and able to help you.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We are holding an Information Evening on **Wednesday 25th February 2015** about the courses available. We strongly recommend that you attend to find out more information.

PARTNERSHIP COURSES

We are aiming to offer courses in partnership with other educational providers: Currently we offer Engineering Technology (Motor Vehicle) and Hair & Beauty. More details about both these courses will be available at the information evening.

WHAT IF I HAVE A PROBLEM?

Don't be afraid to ask for help and advice from any of your teachers. If you are unsure which subjects to take, and are already starting to think about the Sixth Form, please talk to Mrs Phippen or Mrs Robson as some subjects can be picked up at AS/A2 level without following the subject at GCSE level.

We hope you find the rest of this booklet helpful. A young person's learning between 14 and 19 is of great importance in preparing them for life and work. It is crucial that we work together to help them have the best possible life chances.

We will make every effort to place students in their chosen subjects but please be aware that this is not always possible. The final range of subjects will depend on staffing and the number of students interested in each course.

Lorraine Phippen

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Why study English and what skills will it develop?

An ability to communicate well with other people is fundamental to your success both in your private life and at work. In fact employers regard a qualification in English as a basic requirement of any prospective employee. Our aim is to improve your confidence and your skills in speaking and listening, reading, and writing.

Course Content

Students study an integrated GCSE English Language and a Literature course for which they are awarded two GCSEs. The course involves the study a wide range of material both fiction and non-fiction literary and journalistic texts. Literary texts include plays (by Shakespeare and contemporary playwrights), poetry, and prose (novels and short stories). The non-fiction texts will include advertising campaigns, newspaper reporting, radio and television programmes, and films. The course provides considerable opportunities for reading, engaging with live or recorded performances, producing original creative responses, and developing high-level reading and writing skills.

Coursework

From 2017 English and Literature GCSEs will be assessed by examination only; there will no longer be either a coursework or a controlled-assessment element.

Examinations

For examinations from 2017, grading will be by numbers 9-1 rather than by the current letters A*-G, with 9 being the highest grade. The value of the new grading has yet to be confirmed; but it would appear that the lower end of Grade 4 will equate to what is currently a low Grade C. There will no longer be the possibility of English and Literature to be taken as modular courses, instead a single full exams will be taken at the end of two years, as is currently the case at Lady Lumley's. Higher and Foundation levels of entry will no longer apply and students will be entered for a single examination.

Progression Route

At Key Stage 5 we offer Advanced Level courses in English Literature and English Language. Both A levels are independent of each other and students may opt to study both.

In conclusion

We hope that studying English and English Literature will provide you with important skills and qualifications, as well as giving you an enjoyment of speaking, reading, and writing which will last long after you have left school. For more information please see Mr T O'Cleirigh or any member of the English department.

MATHEMATICS

Why study Mathematics?

The GCSE course enables students to extend their knowledge and understanding of mathematics so that they can study the subject further post 16 or have the vital 'life skills' necessary for day to day living. The course will also develop your ability to use mathematics as a tool in problem solving. Mathematics is a compulsory subject and as such has to be studied by all students at GCSE.

What skills will it develop?

Students will develop the experience to solve a range of practical problems, use mathematics as a means of communicating, work with maths related software and develop confidence in their own ability. To facilitate these key aims students can expect opportunities to work collectively as a class, individually and in groups, according to the demands of the individual topic being studied.

Course content

Students will study topics in Mathematics in the following main areas; Number and Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures and Statistics and Probability. In addition pupils will learn skills to enable them to solve practical problems and how to use maths software effectively. Functional skills approaches are embedded within the GCSE specification, which means that you will solve real life problems using your mathematical skills.

Coursework

There is no coursework component to the course.

Examinations

In September 2015 we will be following the Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics (1MA1) This specification consists of three written exams, taken at the end of Year 11. There is one non-calculator exam and two calculator exams, each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. There is no coursework or controlled assessment component of this course. Students will be entered at either Higher or Foundation level. The decision of which tier of entry is appropriate will not be decided until around Christmas of Year 11. Students can gain grades 9 - 4 (9 being the highest grade) at the Higher tier, and grades 5 - 1 at the Foundation tier.

Progression Routes

Numeracy skills are a prerequisite for most career paths.

Gaining the best possible grade at GCSE is vital for future study or career paths. Many courses or employees will require a grade 4 or above. At Key Stage 5 we offer AS and A levels in both mathematics and further mathematics.

In conclusion

Maths is an exciting and enjoyable subject and we hope that you enjoy the course. For further information please see Mrs Lloyd.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why study Physical Education?

Physical Education, as a National Curriculum foundation subject, aims to develop control of the body, to improve physical skill and give students the ability to make decisions and to apply their growing knowledge in a variety of activities. A good Physical Education programme will promote positive attitudes to an active and healthy lifestyle. It lays the foundation for further development of interest in sport and physical activity after school and in the community.

What skills will it develop?

Key stage 4 Physical Education has the following main aims:

1. Further develop skills and understanding in the activities.
2. Students will explore and experience a variety of different roles such as performer, referee, coach, scorer, timekeeper and teacher.
3. Students should have the opportunity to specialise in specific activities.
4. Students should monitor and undertake health-related exercise and gain a greater understanding of the principles involved.

In conclusion

Physical Education is a brilliant subject that will engage your brain as well as your body! For more information talk to Mrs Taylor or any member of the PE Department.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All students will follow a GCSE Course. At the end of Year 11 they will sit two exams, which will provide a GCSE qualification.

Why study Religious Education?

Religious Education is interesting and gives you an insight into what people believe and what has shaped their belief. The course will look at Christianity and Islam and how a belief might shape a person's response to modern day moral and social topics. These are questions everyone thinks about and Religious Education will enable you to look at both sides including the views of non religious people.

What skills will it develop?

You will start to answer why things have happened rather than concentrating on what has happened. When studying modern topics you will develop skills of critical analysis and see both sides of an issue. This skill is very useful in all aspects of your schoolwork.

Course content

You will study 8 areas:

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Environmental and Medical Issues
- Peace and Conflict
- Crime and Punishment
- Belief in God
- Life and Death
- Marriage and Family Life
- Community Cohesion

Examinations

You will sit two exams at the end of Year 11

In conclusion

Religious Education at GCSE builds upon the foundations laid from Years 7 to 8 and is started in Year 9. You will be required to think for yourself, whilst appreciating other points of view. Employers are keen to see Religious Education as a GCSE as they realise the value of the ability to consider both points of view. It will help you understand the traditions of the world you live in.

For more information see Mrs Bartlett or any member of the RE department.

SCIENCE

Why study Science?

GCSE Science will help you to appreciate how science affects everything you do. From what constitutes a healthy diet to how to make fertilisers for crops; from what happens when you get ill to how you can get better; from how electricity is made to light your homes to how we are affecting our environment. These and many other things will be explored.

What is science like at GCSE?

Science is a compulsory subject for all students in Years 10 and 11. There are six lessons per fortnight taught by three specialist teachers. By the end of Year 11, students will have studied topics in biology, chemistry and physics.

What is the course?

Students will study the Edexcel Science Certificate course. This is a traditional GCSE level science course which provides a firm grounding in science whether or not you decide to study sciences beyond Year 11. The course offers rigorous content in each of the three sciences and allows students to enter examinations for separate or dual sciences at the end of the course. The decision about which examination route to be taken by individual students will be made in Year 11 and will be informed by the progress made so far. The examinations will be either three separate two hour examinations (biology, chemistry and physics) for the dual science award and three additional one hour papers in each science for the separate awards.

What will I study?

Students will experience topics in biology, chemistry and physics which largely expand upon concepts covered during Key Stage 3. Each topic is relevant to and explores current scientific issues and is designed to help students to develop and use scientific skills and ideas to make sense of information they are provided with; not only from schools but also from other sources such as the media. Students will have plenty of opportunity to develop their practical investigation skills throughout the two year course and will be able to plan their own investigations independently.

Grouping

As there are no tiers of entry for the final examinations, all students will be taught the same material and will have access to all the concepts and content in the course. There will be assessments twice every half term to measure progress with the assessment activities varying in nature.

What skills will it develop?

In the science department, we aim to develop self-discipline and a sense of responsibility for your own learning. The course will develop your knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, and your ability to apply these ideas to everyday situations. Practical skills such as planning and carrying out investigations, analysing results and evaluating methods are useful life skills as well as good scientific skills.

Controlled Assessment

There are no controlled assessments in this course.

Summary

Science is a fascinating and enjoyable subject and an understanding of science is so important in everyday life. We hope all students enjoy studying science and consider continuing to do so after Year 11.

For further information, please see Dr. Simha, Miss Laverick or any of your science teachers.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

ART & DESIGN

Why Study Art & Design?

Are you interested in Art? Do you enjoy the challenge of creating paintings, drawings, designs and objects in different ways? Do you want to find out how artists and designers, past and present, in Europe, America and other cultures tackle the same subjects? Do you want to develop your own artistic skills? Do you want to use your ideas and imagination creatively? If the answers to these questions are mainly YES then Art is designed for you.

What skills will it develop?

Skills you already have will be developed and improved and you will learn some new techniques in a whole range of different materials. Drawing and painting are the means by which you will develop investigative and decision making skills but you will also be involved in evaluating, appreciating and understanding the work of other artists and designers.

Course Content

Drawing and Painting from imagination and observation, printmaking, three dimensional work and graphic design are all part of the course. You will have the opportunity to study at least three of these areas. Also, photography and digital imagery are an important addition to studies

Coursework

Coursework counts for 60% of your total GCSE mark so you must be prepared to work very hard on each project. Producing ideas and plans and investigations both at school and in your sketchbooks at home is part of the coursework. Set home learning tasks are designed to improve your drawing and observational skills plus competent use of materials are very important. At the end of the course each of you will put up an exhibition of your coursework assignments plus your examination work.

Examinations

The examination at the end of the course takes place around March/April and the themes are set by the Exam Board. It is designed to allow you to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have acquired during the course. You will be expected to plan and develop ideas and artwork from the theme before the exam date. A month is allowed for preparation and ten hours for producing the final piece of work. This will count for 40% of your final grade.

Progression

Many students go on to study Art & Design related courses followed by a career in certain areas e.g. fine art, photography, product design, computer imaging and animation, theatre and costume design, education, architecture and interior design to name but a few.

In conclusion

Art is a subject that enables you to think for yourself and develop your own individuality. Through projects set to improve and extend your skills you will learn to express yourself confidently and creatively using a wide range of materials and techniques. If you need further information or have any questions please see Mr McGrath or Mrs Chaddock.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Real life and relevant

The Business Studies GCSE is both innovative and enlightening and the emphasis is on giving students the opportunity to apply their own knowledge to specific business and economic situations. Enterprise is the key! Business will enhance learning and understanding across a wide range of skills. The course is very dynamic and students will constantly refer to real life situations and events in business. An awareness of local, national and global news is essential as part of the course and outside speakers and visits are used to enhance their studies. As ICT plays such a critical role in 21st Century business we have regular access to computer facilities for all our GCSE students.

Why study Business

Life isn't like the Dragon's Den or The Apprentice all the time but we will ensure you are very well equipped for your own future if you choose Business Studies as one of your GCSE options. It is an exciting time to study business. Do you really understand what is going on in the economy? Could you set up and run your own business? Do you understand how businesses market their products and services to us? This course will provide all the answers and more and could genuinely set you up for life.

Assessment and Content of the Course

The course is divided into three key elements.

- The first exam focuses on 'An Introduction to Small Business' which is data response based and worth 25% of the overall grade
- Unit 2 is a Controlled Assessment which is based on Entrepreneurship and Marketing issues and again forms a further 25% of the overall grade – this is usually completed in Term 1 of Year 11.
- The final 50% of the course is based around a case study based exam relating to Unit 3 'Building a Business'.

Progression

Following completion of this course students will be very well equipped to move onto a wide range of business and economics based courses particularly the Edexcel AS/A2 Business Studies course which is an excellent progression and run here at Lady Lumley's. A high proportion of our students also continue their studies at university or through apprenticeships in industry. Who knows, we could see some genuine entrepreneurs of the future produced through this course.

Conclusion

If you enjoy:

- Communicating and explaining your ideas.
- Thinking creatively and making decisions.
- Working with numbers to solve business problems.
- Learning about the world of business through research and investigation.

Then GCSE Business Studies is for you.

For more information please see Mr Varey

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

What's on offer?

This year students will be able to select **one** of two options in Design and Technology. The two courses being offered by Lady Lumley's are:

Design & Technology: Food

Design & Technology: Product Design

What's different about GCSE Design & Technology?

The work you have already done in Years 7, 8 and 9 in Design & Technology has prepared you well for the GCSE courses on offer. You have learned how to *design* your own products working to a design brief, and you have also developed some of the skills necessary to *make* the products you have designed working with a whole variety of different materials, ingredients and components.

Your GCSE will enable you to continue to develop these skills and to undertake more exciting and ambitious projects. The two options available this year are described in more detail below.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment of both Design & Technology options is carried out in the same way:

Coursework	60%;
Examination	40%.

Well over half your marks are awarded for coursework. This will consist of an extended project which you will select towards the end of Year 10 and the majority of your work in Year 11 will be spent designing and making your chosen product. It provides you with an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to design and make a quality product in an area that interests you. Both options allow you to achieve the full range of grades A* to G.

The use of ICT

Both D&T options necessitate the use of ICT and will provide an ideal opportunity for you to apply the skills you have learned with computers in both ICT and D&T during Years 7 to 9. In addition to this you will continue to develop new skills and knowledge in ICT such as the use of computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM)

The courses in more detail:

Design & Technology: Food Technology

You will be taught the use of food as a material in order to explore, investigate and develop products, which have a specified function or fulfil a special need. The course involves the investigation and production of marketable food products. Food is a material with unique properties, but like other materials, it has specific characteristics, which must be considered and understood before products can be successfully designed and made. You will need to develop an in depth knowledge and understanding of the properties and working characteristics of food. You will develop a wide range of making skills, which draw upon your knowledge and understanding.

Design & Technology: Product Design

This is an exciting course in D&T which gives you the opportunity to work in a whole variety of different materials including paper, card, wood, metal, plastics, textiles, and more! Rather than specialising in one material, Product Design recognises that designers need to consider many different possible materials when designing products for the modern market. You will study the work of designers, both past and present, and analyse their work as well as working on design and make projects of your own. Did you know that Jonathan Ive, the Design Director of Apple and responsible for the Apple Mac and the iPod studied A-level Design & Technology and a degree in design at Newcastle. He is now one of the most successful and influential designers in the world and we shall look at products like his and those of other designers to develop a greater understanding of the role of the designer and the ways in which designers work. You must study and work with a minimum of two different materials areas (one of which must be paper and card) in order to fulfil the requirements of this course. The course will however allow you to specialise predominantly in one additional materials area if you wish. The idea is that you are then able to concentrate on a materials area of your choice when working on the major design and make project in Year 11. You will however be encouraged to consider as wide a range of materials as possible when considering solutions to your design problem.

For more information please see Mr Higham.

DRAMA

What is GCSE Drama all about?

GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people.

What skills will you develop?

As well as acquiring the skills involved in creating and performing Drama, you will also develop skills required when working as part of a team, problem solving and communication. Drama will help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations and people.

The course is in three parts:

- In part one you will use your ideas to express your feelings and ideas about a range of issues
- In part two you will study a play to see how the playwright expresses their ideas about a theme or topic, and explore ways of making the play work on stage.
- In part three you will be involved in the performance of a play from an existing script or one you create yourselves

Coursework

60% of the course is coursework. This consists of practical performance and a written portfolio of evidence. During the course you will take part in two different workshops that will be marked by your teacher. You will be assessed on your practical work and on the written work relating to the workshops.

Examination

The final examination for GCSE Drama is a practical performance. It is worth 40% of the marks. You will take part in a play that you have created as a group or rehearsed from a script. You will perform the play in front of an audience and the examiner will be present at one of the performances.

What could I do next with GCSE Drama?

You could go on to take AS or A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies, or you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Drama. These might include careers in such fields as retail, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or any career that involves meeting people face to face. The study of Drama can help you develop transferable skills which you can take into any career or job.

Conclusion

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative and you enjoy working as part of a team.

For more information see Mr Silburn

GEOGRAPHY

Is Geography the right subject for me?

In order to answer this question, ask yourself what you enjoy about studying geography. Do I want to:

- learn about and understand the world I live in?
- develop skills that will help me in other subjects and in employment, such as ICT and research?
- complete practical work away from the classroom?
- learn how to work in a team with other students?
- learn through investigating, not listening and reading?

What will I learn?

The world is ALWAYS changing. This specification gives you the chance to learn about those changes. There are **four** units:

- **Unit 1: Dynamic Planet**

This will give you a sound understanding of important physical processes such as geological processes, ecosystems, the atmosphere and climate, and the hydrological cycle. These topics are designed to show you how physical geography combines to create a '*life support system*' for the planet.

- **Unit 2: People and the Planet**

This focuses on human geography. In a similar way to Unit 1, it links together to build an overall understanding how populations grow and change, where people live and work, and how they exploit and use resources.

There are also options in Units 1 and 2 so you will study some topics in more depth such as coasts, countryside, development or extreme climates.

For the core Units 1 and 2, exam papers are resource based. Questions will range from short questions up to larger extended writing questions.

- **Unit 3: Making Geographical Decisions**

This is a decision making exercise, where you study a specific topic, such as Antarctica, in detail. This topic is designed to teach you how to make decisions about a specific topic, based on the evidence studied. The *skills* you will learn in this topic will be valuable in all aspects of this GCSE in geography, and the rest of your life.

Questions will assess your understanding of the resources in relation to environmental issues and sustainability.

- **Unit 4: Researching Geography**

This will involve undertaking *research*, carrying out *fieldwork* and then writing it up. The research and fieldwork will be undertaken **out-of-class**, but the writing up will all be in class time. This means you have to spend **far less time** at home doing geography coursework.

What can I do after I've completed Geography GCSE?

GCSE Geography leads on well to many Sixth Form courses at Lady Lumley's from all areas of the curriculum, but is especially suited to AS/A2 Geography within the department. Employers and Universities value the broad range of transferable skills that Geography delivers. A GCSE in Geography is excellent preparation for a career in planning, resource and countryside management, tourism and recreation, environmental management and development. Many Geographers also move into general management careers or branch out in journalism.

Next steps

The Geography specification is specially designed to inform you about some of the most important issues that will affect your present and future life as you grow up in today's modern world. It should explain why things are like they are and get you to think about what you feel should be done about them.

For further information talk to Mrs Pye or any of the Geography team.

For more details of the specification: www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/geography/b

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

What is BTEC Health & Social Care about?

Health and Social Care will help you to develop an understanding of the way in which individuals grow and develop throughout the course of the lifespan. Studying the subject equips young people with the knowledge and skills that create a basis for a career or further study in the health and social care sector.

The course

We follow the BTEC Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care specification. This specification consists of 4 units;

- **Unit 1 Human Lifespan Development:** How do people grow and develop throughout their lives? How can factors such as lifestyle choices, relationships and life events affect your growth and development?
- **Unit 2 Health and Social Care Values:** What is good practice in health and social care? What ensures that good practice is applied to support individuals who use health and social care services?
- **Unit 3 Effective Communication in Health and Social Care:** Communication skills are vital for those who choose to work in health and social care. Clear communication is important to enable service users to understand and agree to the care they are receiving. Good communication between care professionals allows them to perform their roles effectively.
- **Unit 6 The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing:** Have you considered the effects of what you eat on your health and wellbeing? This unit provides you with some answers and extends your understanding of how important a balanced diet is to your health.

Assessment

Unit 1 is assessed by external examination which is taken in the January of Year 10. Units 2, 3 and 6 require students to produce internally assessed portfolios based around a given assignment brief.

What could I do next with BTEC Health and Social Care?

Many students go on to study Health and Social Care at A level followed by further study at university and enter professions such as nursing, midwifery, teaching or physiotherapy. There are many career opportunities for Health and Social Care students working in the health or social care sectors or using the transferable skills they have gained in unrelated areas.

Enrichment

Students are advised to complete their Year 10 work experience placement in a health and social care setting to support their learning, and provide first-hand experience of working in a relevant setting.

For more information see Ms Heyes.

History GCSE

Why Choose History?

Throughout the course, students will be given the opportunity to study from a variety of perspectives, including political, social, economic and cultural. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the diversity of the societies studied and the experiences of the people in these societies.

- The course provides the opportunity to study 20th century history in both breadth and depth.
- It builds on KS3 study; preparing students for A-level study.

Assessment:

We will be following the AQA Specification B, Modern World Course. Students will sit two exams at the end of their study in year 11. Controlled assessment will be taught and completed in class, under exam conditions. This will take place in the summer term of year 10.

The Modern World History course includes the study of:	
Unit One: International Relations, 1918-55 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The causes of the First World War• Peacekeeping in 1918 and the League of Nations• Origins of the Second World War	37.5% of final grade
Unit Two: Depth Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nazi Germany, 1929-45• America in the 1920's; The 'Roaring Twenties'• Vietnam War	37.5% of final grade
Unit Three: Controlled Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'The British People in War' Students will answer two questions that focus on the utility of sources within structured lessons in school time. This will be an evidence based investigation into how people's lives changed during the First and Second World Wars. Aspects of the 'Home Front' will be studied including recruitment, rationing, evacuation, the role of women and the changing attitudes to warfare in general.	25% of final grade

Enrichment:

GCSE History will use a variety of resources and activities including interactive methods, role-play, ICT and audio-visual aids. Students will also have the opportunity to visit the World War One Battlefields of Belgium and France, just before the February half term in year 10. Students will also be given the opportunity to subscribe to hindsight magazine to further their understanding and general interest in history.

Support:

The department offers a structured revision session in year eleven, both in and out of classroom hours. This starts from the Christmas of Year 11. After the completion of the mock exam each student is given the opportunity to individually review their performance with their class teacher. Beyond this the history department offers regular support and catch up sessions on Wednesday lunchtime.

Home Learning:

Students will be given a variety of tasks to complete to consolidate their learning and prepare for the next lesson. Students are expected to complete 45 minutes of home learning each week. Students will be able to access their home learning on Fronter.

Progression Routes

Developing the disciplines involved in the study of History will equip students well for a range of career opportunities including law, management, administration and education.

Subject Leader Contact

If you have any queries regarding Key Stage 4 History please contact Mrs Thompson through the school office or via email; sthompson@ladylumleys.net

History next year will be a subject which will make you think for yourself, and a subject where independent study habits will be encouraged. It will help you to make more sense of the world in which you live!

Computing GCSE

Why should you study Computing?

This carefully planned course gives students a real, in depth understanding of how computer technology works. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming which many students find absorbing.

- It's a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life.
- Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science will find it provides a superb stepping stone.
- Students will develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work.
- Students will acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts.
- Students will evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of computer technology in society.
- Students will develop computer programs to solve problems.

So... what does the new Computing course offer? – It consists of three units:

1. Unit A451: Computer systems and programming	Assessment and duration	Weighting
This unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems on which the examination will be based.	1 hour 30 minutes Written paper 80 marks	40%

2. Unit A452: Practical investigation	Assessment and duration	Weighting
An investigative computing task, chosen from a list provided by OCR, Controlled assessment which assesses the following: research, technical understanding, analysis of problem, historical perspective, use of technical writing skills, recommendations/evaluation.	Investigative task. OCR-set scenario with a choice of research tasks. 45 marks	30%

3. Unit A453: Programming Project	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Students will need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand standard programming techniques • Be able to design a coded solution to a problem including the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop suitable algorithms - Design suitable input and output formats - Identify suitable variables and structures - Identify test procedures. • Create a coded solution fully annotating the developed code to explain its function • Test their solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To show functionality - To show how it matches the design criteria - Identifying successes and any limitations. 	Controlled assessment Programming task. Design, develop and test a solution to a problem within the OCR-set scenario. 45 marks	30%

The LLS Key Stage 3 course has already prepared you for most of the skills required. Mr. Lech will be available to tell you more about the course on Year 9 Information Evening. Come see him in IT2 to find out more.

For more details – please contact Mr. Lech – or Google “OCR GCSE Computing J275”

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY GCSE

Why should you study Information Communication Technology?

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is so important for so many parts of our lives; in the home, in our leisure but especially at work. If you apply for a job and you have ICT qualifications you are more likely to get it than someone without the ICT skills and qualifications.

Setting

Depending on the take up for the new Computing GCSE, we will have one or two mixed ability groups, taught by Mr Lech or Mr Sharples.

Assessment

UNIT 1 Theory: Living in a Digital World – this is studied in ICT lessons, is worth 40% of the final grade and is assessed with a written exam which must be taken at the end of year 11.

- In this unit, students explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society.
- Students learn about current and emerging digital technologies and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts (learning and earning, leisure, shopping and money management, health and well-being, on the move).
- They develop awareness of the risks that are inherent in using ICT and the features of safe, secure and responsible practice.

UNIT 2 Skills: Using Digital Tools - This is a practical unit and assessed in a series of controlled conditions ICT lessons – called a Controlled Assessment Brief – and is worth 60% of the final grade. It takes 40 hours of lesson time.

- Students broaden and enhance their ICT skills and capability.
- They work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts.
- Students learn to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice.
- They put into practice what they learned about digital technology in Unit 1.

The LLS Key Stage 3 course has already prepared you for most of the skills required. In addition, you'll find Unit 1 really interesting as it allows us to study the use of up-to-date technology – things that many of you are using and doing all the time. Mr Lech and Mr Sharples will be explaining both the Computing and the ICT GCSE to classes leading up to the Year 9 Information Evening – then come and see us in ICT2 to find out the latest news.

Enrichment

We are continually enriching our course. Every year we run joint trips for Year 11s and Year 12s to either Leeds Met or Teesside University to find out more about ICT at University AND in future careers.

Support

IT2 is open most lunch times with support from Mr Lech and Mr Sharples. The teaching and learning will be supported by an online scheme of learning on Fronter with a wide variety of electronic resources. Nearly all the software that students use in lessons can be installed free at home. Use of a computer at home, with internet access and/or a memory stick for transferring files to and from school will be essential.

For more details - please see Mr Lech or Mr Sharples and Google "ICT" "GCSE" "Edexcel" "2014"

MEDIA STUDIES

What is Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award?

Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award is all about understanding the world around you. We are surrounded by the mass media. It affects the way we lead our lives in an increasingly diverse way. To fully understand the influence it has, you will study texts from the worlds of television, film, the print media, advertising and popular music and respond to them critically, before using your knowledge to create your own media products.

The qualification is equivalent to a GCSE, with the grades as follows:

Distinction = A at GCSE

Merit = B at GCSE

Pass = C at GCSE

What skills will you develop?

You will learn how to analyse a wide range of media texts. You will develop your skills in the planning and creation of media texts and your communication skills will be enhanced. You will develop your investigative skills. You will also learn to engage with the developing media technologies, utilising your ICT skills in the process.

The course is made up of two core units and two optional units.

Core Units

Unit 1: Digital Media Sectors and Audiences – assessed through externally set exam

Unit 2: Planning and Pitching a Digital Media Product - controlled assessment

Optional Units

Unit 3: Digital Moving Image - controlled assessment

Unit 4: Digital Audio Production - controlled assessment

Unit 5: Digital Publishing Production - controlled assessment

Unit 6: Website Production - controlled assessment

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1 is assessed through an externally set exam, whilst the other units are all assessed through controlled assessments.

What could I do next with Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award?

The BTEC course is designed to link into the AS and A2 course in Media Studies, which will allow you to develop your skills and knowledge even further. Also, there are many varied and exciting careers which Media Studies can be used for and you can use the skills gained on this course to prepare you for any of them. If you would like a career in Film and Television Production, Journalism, Public Relations or Advertising, then this may be the course for you.

Conclusion

Media Studies is an exciting addition to the curriculum at Lady Lumley's School and will offer those students who opt for it a wide ranging view of the world as well as a unique opportunity to produce original and creative media products of their own.

For more information, please see Mr Wilcock.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Studying a Language at GCSE

We strongly recommend that students continue with the study of at least one language at GCSE. As well as enabling you to speak a specific language, studying languages teaches you how to learn a language, showing you how languages fit together. Furthermore, being successful at learning a language shows an employer that you have good communication skills and that you are able to apply rules and patterns.

“Speaking another language is not merely a skill to be admired today but a vitally important business asset” Source: Managing Director York Place Company Services

Studying one language

Students have the choice of continuing with French or German to GCSE level or starting Spanish and taking it to GCSE level. Students should choose a language according to personal preference and which language they consider they would achieve best at. No language is easier than another at GCSE level; they are just different!

Studying two languages

In the modern world where links with Europe are becoming stronger all the time, the knowledge of two foreign languages and cultures is a valuable asset and skill for the 21st century employment market. Studying two languages would take up two of your choices.

Studying Spanish

Students study Spanish ab initio (from scratch) to GCSE level. As this course is from scratch it is geared towards students who have made very good progress in languages at KS3. Building on the language learning skills developed in KS3 students are able to achieve a high level at GCSE in two years. Students can study Spanish as their only language or alongside either French or German.

GCSE Content

The content is very similar, whichever language you study. In Year 10 and Year 11 we build on work done at Key Stage 3 with the emphasis on being able to communicate and express yourself on topics of interest and in situations that will be useful in later life. You also develop your understanding of grammatical tools of the language and learn about the cultures in the countries where the language is spoken.

Examinations

Reading and Listening are assessed at the end of the course. You will take one exam at either Foundation or Higher Tier. (20% each of the final mark). Writing and Speaking will be assessed by pieces of work done through the course and submitted to the Examination Board (30% each). The department offers the AQA specification.

Progression

Students can follow up their GCSE language studies by taking French, German and/or Spanish in the Sixth Form as AS/ A2 level. Knowledge of a language is an important skill to demonstrate on a C.V.

Visits abroad

We currently provide students studying French with the opportunity to take part in an exchange visit to France, for German we have an exchange visit to Austria, and for Spanish an exchange visit to Spain. **For more information or advice talk to Miss Wilson or Miss Mark, or your other language teachers.**

MUSIC

Why study Music?

If you already like Music, enjoy composing and performing in class, like listening to Music of different styles and influences, and perhaps (though not necessarily) have developed extra skills as a player or singer in School, in a local band or group, or just on your own or would like to develop these skills further, then GCSE Music is for you.

In a world where increasing leisure time is so important you would like to channel and develop your skills and interest so that you can enjoy music for life. Music in Media is one of the largest growth areas today.

GCSE subjects are chosen to further your education, to give you greater experience and satisfaction in your interests and to develop personal qualities that will be attractive to future employers and colleges. A GCSE in Music is very highly respected in a wide variety of careers. Employers know that those who study Music are likely to be hard working, reliable, patient, resourceful, creative and able to work with others and take responsibility as well as being able to work on their own.

"But I don't intend to be a professional musician". This isn't important. Few students study History at GCSE because they wish to be professional historians or archaeologists, or Drama because they wish to become professional actors. Music can give you vital skills in self discipline and excellent skills in communication both on a music and social level.

What skills are developed in GCSE Music?

The GCSE Music course is tailor-made to the needs of each individual, whether humble but enthusiastic beginner or experienced musician. You will be able to develop instrumental skills under your own steam. You will especially have the chance to work with other musicians in your group, as well as on your own. Composing (experimenting with sounds to create pleasing and complete pieces) is a fascinating and fulfilling activity and as a GCSE Musician you can enjoy using modern technology to record and edit your ideas but composing is done with sounds rather than dots on music paper. You have the opportunity to hear a wide variety of music, developing skills so that you can listen more deeply. You will begin to study the classics, rock music, ethnic music, folk music, and find out what elements are similar in all music, and what elements change.

It is also beneficial to participate in extra-curricular ensemble activities to develop your skills in this area and to develop your listening skills.

Content, Coursework and Examinations

Unit 1: Performing Music (30%)

Students produce both a solo and an ensemble performance recorded at any time during the course.

Unit 2: Composing Music (30%)

Students produce:

- a) two compositions, or
- b) two arrangements, or
- c) one arrangement and one composition

Unit 3: Music – Listening and Appraising (40%)

1.5 hour examination externally set and marked by Edexcel. Students respond to questions based around the set works for the unit.

In conclusion

GCSE music allows you to express yourself, work with others and is also relaxing and rewarding. It can lead to a range of different professions.

For more information please see Mr Wass.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (GCSE)

Why should you study Physical Education?

Sport is important to us all. It plays an ever-increasing part in the life of the nation. If our national teams are doing well, then it lifts us all! Understanding sport in our society is essential. GCSE Physical Education provides an excellent opportunity for students who wish to extend their skills, knowledge and understanding gained in the compulsory lessons into a recognised qualification. This course will also provide a foundation for further study, especially for students who wish to develop their love of sport into a future career.

What skills will it develop?

GCSE Physical Education will naturally help to improve your general all round ability in a variety of different practical activities. This will be achieved through observation and analysis of your own and others performance and will almost certainly include the use of ICT equipment. You will also be expected to take on the roles of coach and referee during the practical sessions. Data handling forms an integral part of the course and you will be expected to present your work in a number of ways. As well as all this your leadership skills, problem solving skills and ability to work within a group will be improved.

Content

The course will combine both theory and practical work to produce a final grade. During the theory sessions you will study various aspects of sports such as: Health, fitness and Factors that affect performance; Principles of Training; Factors affecting individual performance and participation; Social and cultural factors that affect participation. Through the practical aspect you will develop skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of practical activities. You will also complete a training programme for a particular sport.

Coursework

There are two parts to the coursework to be completed through the course and both are practically based. All candidates have to plan, perform and evaluate a training programme with the purpose of improving performance in a specific activity. You will also be assessed on your practical performance in **four** different sports chosen from at least two of the following categories: Games, Gymnastics, Dance, Swimming, Athletics, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. You will also be assessed on your knowledge of rules, tactics, training methods and skills analysis for one of these four activities. Coursework is worth 60% of the final mark.

Examination

There is one (1 hour 30min) written exam worth 40% of the final mark, which consists of 4 sections, as outlined in the content paragraph. Each question will require you to identify and discuss the various factors that affect your sporting performance and participation. Candidates should be able to relate each section to one another, and where necessary justify their answers through careful analysis and presentation of information.

GCSE Physical Education gives you an excellent background if you want to go into Further Education Post 16. In Lady Lumley's Sixth Form you can study AS and A2 Physical Education.

In conclusion

GCSE Physical Education is a very different subject that will engage your brain as well as your body. You will learn an incredible amount of new information that will give you a greater understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in sport. The chances are you will really enjoy it!!! The above course outline may change, but we hope this gives you an idea of what it will be like. For more information see Mrs Taylor or Mr Buckley.

The Asdan COPE Award Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

This is a course designed to help students develop and demonstrate a range of skills, including core and wider key skills. It will be offered at Level 1 and if fully achieved students gain a Grade E equivalent points score at GCSE.

The areas covered by the COPE are:

- Communication
- Citizenship and Community
- Sport and Leisure
- Independent Living
- The Environment
- Vocational Preparation
- Health and Fitness
- Work related Learning and Enterprise
- Science and Technology
- International Links
- Expressive Arts
- Beliefs and Values

The course is assessed by a portfolio of evidence.

The school will decide on appropriate areas to offer students as well as considering additional areas linked to interest and expertise. There will be obvious links between both courses that are offered.

AND/OR

Work Skills

The aim of the course is to prepare the students for life beyond the classroom, both in the workplace and the wider environment. An emphasis on self-development and self-awareness equips students with the ability to understand their own strengths and weaknesses and provides them with opportunities to improve their own performance.

The following topics of study are available:

- Personal Action Planning
- Personal Finance
- Making Career Choices
- Applying for Jobs and Courses
- Relationships, Behaviour & Practices in the Workplace
- Personal Safety
- Being a Critical Consumer

The unit is assessed through a portfolio of evidence.

For more information see Mr Holbrook.

NOTES