



MALET LAMBERT SCHOOL

Y9 Options 2014 - Core Subjects



Traditional **Values** • Contemporary **Aspirations** • Creative **Curiosity**

Introduction

This booklet describes the core subjects you will be taking throughout year 10 and year 11. The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information on the qualifications you will study that are not optional and are required by colleges and employers for your further study or work.

In this booklet, you will find out why you need to take each core subject, what skills you will develop and how it will be assessed. You should also understand how the subject fits into your career pathway whichever direction you choose to take.

Dr C. Mills
Curriculum and Timetable

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QR Codes

Throughout this guide we have included QR codes on each page. Please scan these with your smartphone to find out more about the subject area.



English Language



Qualification:	GCSE in English Language
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	60% Written exam 40% Controlled assessment Speaking and listening assessment

A GCSE in English language allows you to demonstrate your ability in functional English. You can investigate and analyse language to experiment and use language creatively. Extended reading is assessment through the controlled assessment. All employers look for a high level of English language fluency when recruiting personnel. English language is crucial to opening up successful career and higher level study options for the future.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

You will explore how language, structure and form contribute to the meaning of texts, considering different interpretations; to explore relationships and comparisons between texts and to relate texts to their social, historical and cultural contexts and literary traditions. You will also read with insight, making reference to texts and distinguishing between fact and opinion. Communicate clearly and imaginatively, adapting forms for different purposes and by using accurate spelling, punctuation and sentence structure for effect.

How will this course help me in the future?

All employers in the UK require accurate use of the English language and articulate use of spoken English. You will be required to achieve a grade C or above at English language for the majority of college places and further education institutes. Many of the skills will also be transferable to related subject areas, such as history, geography, RE, sciences, health and social care, business studies and many more.

If you want to know more about this subject ask Miss Tarbet or any of the English team.

English Literature



Qualification:	GCSE English literature
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	25% Examination in Year 11 75% Portfolio of work done during the course

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

This course aims to provide you with the opportunity to explore their literary interests and develop the ability to read, respond and understand a wide range of literary texts. You will respond to texts critically, sensitively and in detail, selecting appropriate ways to convey answers, using textual evidence. You will learn to read with insight and understand how writers use linguistic, structural and presentational devices to achieve their effects.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

The course allows you to study a variety of modern and classic literature including Shakespeare, Steinbeck and a range of poets. You will also be given various opportunities at both analytical and creative writing.

How will this course help me in the future?

All employers in the UK require accurate use of the English language and articulate use of spoken English. You will be required to achieve a grade C or above at English language for the majority of college places and further education institutes. Interpretation of literature and wider reading enables an enhanced use of the English which is sought by employers

If you want to know more about this subject ask Miss Tarbet or any of the English team.

Maths



Qualification:	GCSE Maths
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Assessment:	100% Examination in Year 11

This course teaches the candidate to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in the areas of using and applying Mathematics, number and algebra, geometry and handling data. Functional Mathematics will play a large role in the course. This looks at using Mathematics in real-life situations and gives the candidates the skills to solve problems that involve Mathematics.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

You will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Number
- Measures
- Algebra
- Statistics
- Geometry
- Probability

You will use your knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and apply the functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations.

How will this course help me in the future?

You will be required to achieve a grade C or above at mathematics for the majority of college places and further education institutes, however, there are now a number of college courses that require students to have at least a grade B. The majority of employers look for grade A*-C in mathematics. Students will also enjoy a foundation base for mathematics A-Level. Many of the skills can be transferred to other subject areas, such as science, ICT, geography, business studies, art, product design, graphics, engineering and construction and many more.

If you want to know more about this subject ask Mr Lumley or any of the maths team.

Science



Qualification:	GCSE Core Science and GCSE Additional Science
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Assessment:	75% Examination 25% Controlled assessment

These courses are multi-disciplinary qualifications which cover all aspects of science and allow you to develop a sound scientific knowledge and skills needed for adult life. The courses also give you a good basis for further study of science at level or A-level. You will learn 'how science works' in contexts which are relevant to the role of science in society and which are able to serve as a foundation for progression for further learning. The content comprises of biology, chemistry, physics units and the controlled assessment comprises a scientific investigation with emphasis on evaluation of evidence.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

You will cover a range of topics including:

Genetics and inheritance, the changing environment, classification, cells, energy, the sea and atmosphere, acids, metals, fuels, atoms, bonding, chemical reactions, the solar system, waves, electricity, motion and forces, radioactivity.

How will this course help me in the future?

You may choose to go on either to A-level or to a BTEC Level 3 course in applied science. You may go on to college or to university to study science, or a science-related subject such as maths, medicine, psychology or veterinary science. This may be as a degree, or other courses, such as the higher national diploma.

You may go into a science-based job straight from school, working in engineering or biomedicine or many other fields where you will get to use some of the knowledge from your science GCSEs in real situations. If you stop studying science after year 11, you will have useful qualifications in science. Employers look for people with good results in science, because studying and doing well in science shows that you have a way of approaching and solving problems that employers find useful.

If you want to know more about this subject ask Mrs Lawrence or any of the science team.

Triple Science



Qualification:	GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	75% Examination in Year 11 25% Controlled assessment

Triple science enables you to study each subject in greater depth and acquire higher level skills in scientific literacy, practical science, analysis, evaluation and synthesis. You will need to develop a more synoptic approach to understanding scientific principles and applying them to everyday phenomena. Each GCSE consists of three examinations in year 11 and one planned practical investigation which is analysed under controlled conditions. The separate GCSEs prepare you well for further study of science and enable you to interpret phenomena with a greater understanding.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

You will cover the range of topics covered by core and additional science, but will also study: Biological control systems, behaviour, biotechnology, qualitative and quantitative analysis, electrolysis, chemical equilibria, organic chemistry, medical physics, ionising radiation, particle motion, kinetic theory.

How will this course help me in the future?

You may choose to go on to A-levels in science subjects. The transition between GCSE and A-level for each subject is more straightforward if you have studied separate sciences at GCSE. You may go on to college or to university to study science, or a science-related subject such as maths, medicine, psychology or veterinary science.

This may be as a degree, or other courses, such as the higher national diploma. You may go into a science-based job straight from school, working in engineering or biomedicine where you will get to use some of the knowledge from your science GCSEs in real situations. Employers look for people with good results in science, because studying and doing well in science shows that you have a way of approaching and solving problems that employers find useful.

If you want to know more about this subject ask Mrs Lawrence or any of the science team.

French



Qualification:	GCSE French
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Assessment:	40% examination in Y11 60% controlled assessment

The course covers a variety of topics which are relevant to current issues and allows you to develop attitudes and opinions of their own. It builds on your experience at KS3 and extends your skills in each area so that you become a more confident linguist.

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying languages at GCSE is an excellent choice for you! All students are expected to study their KS3 language at KS4 in order to give them the best possible chance of securing a good GCSE grade.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

In French you will acquire the skills and knowledge to enable you to:
Structure a text, respond to unpredictable elements in speaking and formulate strategies to cope with understanding unfamiliar words when listening and reading. The topics you will study cover personal relationships, free-time, the local environment, school and future plans, tourism.

How will this course help me in the future?

You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers will look for. You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public and using problem-solving strategies.

If you want to know more about this subject ask Mrs Hanmer or any of the modern foreign languages team.

History



Qualification:	GCSE in History
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Assessment:	75% Examination at the end of Year 11 25% Controlled Assessment

The study of History is important because it helps us learn about events, decisions and people of the past, and how they affect our lives in the modern day. George Santayana says “those who do not remember History are doomed to live through it again”.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

You will learn about a variety of people and events in overview and depth, including units on:

- Germany 1918 – 1945
- The Cold War 1945 – 1975
- Changes in British Society 1890 – 1918
- The USA 1919 – 1941 (for controlled assessment)

You will investigate evidence and carry out enquiries into why things happen. Through this you will develop skills such as explanation, analysis, independent research and communication. You will evaluate sources, and put arguments together for both sides of an argument, and you may not always agree!

How will this course help me in the future?

History is useful for those wishing to study A/S and A level courses such as History, Law, Government and Politics, Sociology and Psychology and Archaeology. It also blends well with other Humanities subjects such as Religious Studies and Geography. GCSE History is highly valued by universities because it demonstrates you have skills in reading, writing, research and formulating an argument backed up with supporting evidence.

If you want to know more about this subject ask Miss Binns or any of the history team.

Geography



Qualification:	GCSE in Geography
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	75% Examination at the end of Year 11 25% Controlled Assessment

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. Geography includes urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

Geography is made up of many topics; it is a really interesting mix of disciplines across arts and science. It is very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

How will this course help me in the future?

- GCSE Geography is a useful subject that will help you to make more sense of some of the many changes taking place in the world that will affect you and other people. It will enable you to develop many useful skills including numeracy, literacy and ICT.
- GCSE Geography can lead onto A Level Geography and related courses such as Tourism and Leisure related courses.
- Further studies in Geography can lead to careers in accountancy, market research, management consultancy, aid work, landscape architecture, countryside management,, field studies work, environmental consultancy, civil engineering, social work, cartography, surveying, town planning, teaching, the tourist industry, heritage management and many more areas.

If you want to know more about this option ask Miss Spencer or any of the geography team.

ICT



Qualification:	OCR Cambridge National in ICT/ GCSE Computing
Examination Board:	OCR/OCR
Assessment:	25% examination in Y11 /40% Examination in Y11 75% Portfolio based assessment/60% practical and controlled assessment

You will study one of the ICT courses above as a core part of your curriculum.

What will I learn and what skills will I develop?

The national award in ICT is equivalent to one GCSE and comprises a portfolio based course designed to give you good all round ICT skills applicable to all other aspects of their studies at KS4. The course covers file & folder management, using the web & e-mail effectively, business presentations, desktop publishing, spreadsheets and databases.

The national award course is where you will learn ICT skills for business (office applications) and creating digital graphics for the web as well as creating multimedia products including web design. ICT is an ideal complement to any college/apprenticeship application that will support you no matter what you go on to do after school.

Computing GCSE will provide you with a real in depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will gain an insight into what goes on “behind the scenes”, including computer programming. The course is excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science.

You will complete units in computer systems and programming, a practical investigation which is task based on a set scenario and a controlled assessment involving programming

How will this course help me in the future?

You can open up a range of career opportunities in creative industries like web design, gaming, social media, film, marketing, graphics, engineering, sciences and many more by gaining a high grade in an ICT subject.

If you want to know more about ICT options ask Mr Bell or Mr McCall.

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