



Year 10 & 11 Choices 2011-2013

WESTONBIRT SCHOOL



CONTENTS

Foreword	5
SECTION A Core GCSE Examination Courses	
English & English Literature	8
ICT: European Computer Driving Licence	10
Maths	11
<i>Modern Languages Option A: French</i>	12
<i>Modern Languages Option B: Spanish</i>	13
Science & Additional Science	14
SECTION B Optional Examination Courses	
Art	16
Design and Technology – Resistant Materials	17
Drama	18
Food and Nutrition	19
Geography	20
History	21
Latin	22
Modern Languages (<i>see pages 12-14 for optional second modern language</i>)	23
Music	24
Physical Education (<i>Short Course</i>)	25
Religious Studies (<i>Short Course</i>)	26
Religious Studies	27
Textiles Technology	28
Triple Award Science	29
SECTION C Compulsory Non-Examination Courses	
Lifeskills	32
Physical Education	33
Religious Education (<i>not required if you are taking optional RE GCSE</i>)	34

KEY TO EXAMINATION BOARDS

AQA	<i>Assessment & Qualifications Alliance (includes AEB/SEG/NEAB)</i>
OCR	<i>Oxford Cambridge and RSA (includes Oxford/Cambridge/O&C/MEG/RSA)</i>
EDEXCEL	<i>Edexcel Foundation (previously London Boards)</i>

FOREWORD

This booklet details the subjects available to you in Years 10 and 11. Please study it carefully before you choose your options. The three sections describe the compulsory examinations, the optional examinations and the compulsory non-examination courses.

Section A gives details of six core GCSEs and the European Computer Driving Licence, all of which are compulsory:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award</i>
English Language & English Literature	2 GCSEs
Modern Foreign Language (<i>usually French or Spanish</i>)	1 GCSE
Mathematics	1 GCSE
Science & Additional Science (<i>includes Physics, Chemistry and Biology</i>)	2 GCSEs
European Computer Driving Licence	ECDL

Section B lists 14 optional GCSEs, 11 of which will result in one additional GCSE and two of which are short courses, leading to ½ GCSE award. Please note that the content of the short courses is at the same level of difficulty as the full courses, there is just half the workload.

Section C describes the three compulsory non-examination courses: Lifeskills, PE and RE. If you have chosen RE as one of your optional GCSEs, you will not have to take the non-examination RE course.

All GCSEs provide opportunities to develop the Key Skills of communication, information technology, application of number, improving own learning and performance, working with others and problem solving.

Your choice of subjects will depend on your individual abilities and enthusiasms, but do try to keep your selection as broad and balanced as possible, as this will give you an advantage when applying for university and when planning your career. You should also be realistic about your extra-curricular commitments such as Music, Sport, Drama, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Most pupils take a total of between 8 and 9½ GCSEs, with the more able opting for 10.

Westonbirt offers a wide choice and a flexible timetable, but please note that we reserve the right not to offer courses if there is insufficient demand i.e. when fewer than four pupils select an option.

Please take plenty of time to consider your choices, but bear in mind that there are deadlines that must be met to allow us to plan for your Year 10 timetable. Please confirm your **provisional** choices to your tutor on **the first day back of the Spring Term**. You must confirm your final choices immediately after the second exam (Monday 8th March). In the meantime, please do take the opportunity to talk them over with your tutors, house staff, and parents. Mrs Dunn, Mr Gluning and I are always available to give an objective view about options and careers. A series of careers-based Lifeskills sessions will be run by Mrs Dunn in the Spring Term. We shall be providing Futurewise tests at the start of **Year 11** to show interests and aptitudes objectively and they will aid your career choice.

There will be much important work to be done in **Years 10 and 11** but you should find it both enjoyable and rewarding!

Mrs Mary Henderson
Headmistress

SECTION A:

CORE
GCSE EXAMINATION
COURSES



ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA

All Universities and employers will want you to have a qualification in English Language. In gaining at least a grade C at GCSE you will have demonstrated that you can write competently for a variety of purposes and that you have the skills to understand both explicit and implicit meanings in a range of texts.

Both English and English Literature are compulsory GCSE subjects at Westonbirt. They are taught as an integrated course but lead to two qualifications. You will study in depth texts from different genres and you will acquire the ability to structure an argument quickly and clearly, both on paper and as part of an oral task.

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Higher: A* - D
Foundation: C - G

We will enter girls for the Foundation Tier where, in our judgement, this would be an individual's surer route to obtaining a pass.

Why study English and English Literature?

- * We all use language in a variety of ways every day. It is fascinating to analyse how we shade our meaning through the words we use.
- * Learning to use language to express ourselves in an appropriate manner in a range of situations is crucial to our development as mature people.
- * Literature is the supreme example of the many ways we can harness and control our language, often with spectacular effect.
- * Literature is the mirror of life. It crystallises and intensifies the depth of human experience. Often we relate to texts in a profound way.

What should you bring to the course?

- * A willingness to respond to the ideas of others
- * A determination to extend your language and communication skills
- * An enthusiasm for reading

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

For the English Language qualification, you will complete a two hour written examination at the end of the course which will be a test of both reading and writing skills. Before that, you will periodically complete controlled assessments spread throughout the course. These are tasks which are set by the examination board but which are completed in school during lessons. Some tasks will be written assignments testing reading, writing and understanding of spoken language. Other tasks will be oral exercises completed by you.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

For the English Literature qualification, you will complete two examination papers at the end of the course. The first will be 1 hour and 30 minutes in length. Section A will test your understanding of a modern prose or drama text and section B will focus on literature which explores different cultures. The second examination will be 1 hour and 15 minutes long. Section A will examine your understanding of a Shakespeare text and section B will test you on a text from the English Literary Heritage. Finally, during the course itself, you will complete a controlled assessment which will ask you to write about a range of poems, making links between them.

All texts will be taught in class and you will be well supported by your teacher. Students tend to enjoy their studies in English Language and Literature and we are proud of the results they achieve. If you have any specific questions about the structure of the syllabus or you are worried about completing the course, then please speak to your English teacher.

Mrs Diane Browne
Head of English

European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)

The **European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)** enables you to develop your ICT skills to a high level and achieve an internationally recognised ICT qualification.

You need to pass **seven** modules in order to achieve the **Full ECDL**. All our testing is online. This means that you get an instant result. The pass mark for each module is **75%**.

You will study for both **ECDL Essentials** and the **Full ECDL** in Years 09 and 10. You have up to **three** years to complete your **ECDL** qualification, but we believe that **two** years is adequate for the vast majority of our pupils. You have the option of completing the course in Year 11 if you have not fully completed the course by the end of Year 10.

In addition, you have the option in Year 10 (or Year 11) of studying for an extra module. If you successfully complete this extra module then you will be awarded **ECDL Extra (Level 2)**. This is the equivalent of a gaining a **B** at **GCSE**.

ECDL Essentials (Level 1)

1	Security for IT Users	Year 09
2	IT User Fundamentals.	Year 09
7	Using Email and the Internet (Internet Explorer 7 and Outlook)	Year 09
6	Presentations (PowerPoint)	Year 09

Full ECDL

3	Word Processing (Word)	Year 10
4	Spreadsheets (Excel)	Year 10
5	Databases (Access)	Year 10

ECDL Extra (Level 2)

8	Improving Productivity Using IT	Year 10
---	---------------------------------	---------

What should you bring to the course?

The pupils who really thrive are not necessarily the most able, but individuals who are prepared to experiment, can work independently and have the confidence to solve problems on their own.

How much does it cost?

The **British Computer Society (BCS)** are responsible for overseeing **ECDL** in the UK. Registration with the **BCS** is £35.00. In addition, each online test (either practise or real) costs the school approximately £5.00. Therefore, the approximate cost of seven modules (two tests each) and registration is £105.00.

Find out more about ECDL at <http://www.ecdl.com>

Mr Charles Burkinshaw
Head of Information & Communication Technology

MATHEMATICS

EDEXCEL 2381

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Mathematics GCSE is taken over two years. There are two tiers of entry, Higher and Foundation. The course is modular and module examinations take place in November and March with terminal examinations taken in Year 11. All pupils will have the opportunity to gain the following grades:

Higher tier: A* - D
Foundation tier: C - G

Course Content

100% Written Examination (three units)

There are four areas of Mathematics to be tested:

Ao1 Using and Applying Mathematics
Ao2 Number and Algebra
Ao3 Shape, Space and Measures
Ao4 Handling Data

You will not be allowed to use a calculator in one of the three units at each level.

Why study Mathematics?

- * Learning to apply rules of logic to solve problems helps you to analyse situations and to look for strategies to solve problems.
- * The efficient use of calculators and computers will be valuable skills in many pursuits after you leave school.
- * Experience in handling data will be very useful for projects in other subjects.
- * By following the course you will gain a great deal of experience towards Key Skills up to Level 2 across all six areas.

What should you bring to the course?

- * An open mind
- * A willingness to experiment with new ideas
- * An ability to spot patterns
- * An awareness that you need to describe, in good English, what you have found out
- * An ability to spot the unusual and to check for errors
- * A determination not to be beaten by a few squiggles on a piece of paper!
- * A scientific calculator and basic geometrical instruments
(Make sure you keep your calculator instruction booklet!)

*Mrs Judith Barlow
Head of Mathematics*

MODERN LANGUAGES OPTION A: FRENCH

AQA

Course Content

- 30% Writing – Controlled Assessment – Un-tiered
- 30% Speaking - Controlled Assessment – Un-tiered
- 20% Reading Examination - Foundation or Higher Tier
- 20% Listening Examination – Foundation or Higher Tier

French as a core GCSE is the key to our relationship with Europe. Our aim in the department is to develop your ability to communicate confidently and accurately in French: to speak, to listen, to read and to write. In this way, we prepare you for the GCSE examination and also give you an opportunity to live, work and travel in French-speaking countries more easily in the future.

The content of the specification is arranged in the four separate contexts of the National Curriculum, thus giving you a broad base of linguistic experience:

- Lifestyle
- Leisure
- Home and the Environment
- Work and Education

The assessments are weighted towards Speaking and Writing and students are able to propose their own contexts and purposes for these two units. To help you prepare for the Controlled Assessments in the Speaking and Writing skills, it is a requirement you have your own bilingual dictionary: you will be able to use it at home or in school.

For the Listening and Reading skills students are entered either at Foundation or Higher level, but the Speaking and Writing skills are un-tiered, as differentiation is by outcome, not task. Generally, a broad range of different types of test gives you a chance to work to your highest potential and in all the tests there will be a variety of questions either in French or in English.

Lessons will generally be in French, and pupils will be expected to respond and participate fully in the foreign language. For this reason we strongly advise a stay in France during the GCSE course. Students should take advantage of any study visits organised by the school.

Why study a language?

Knowing a modern language is an enormous advantage in the expanding European Union. There is a shortage of people with language knowledge in the UK, so your skills will be extremely attractive to future employers. A combination of a language with another course at university is very desirable. It shows that you have a wider range of skills while opening up job opportunities.

What should you bring to the course?

- A positive attitude
- Willingness to communicate verbally as well as through the written word
- Enthusiasm for the language
- A desire to find out more about the culture via trips abroad or exchanges, there is no better way to learn a language.

Choose French and:

- Learn the most popular romance language in the world,
- Experience first hand the delights of our nearest neighbour such as *haute cuisine*, arts, literature, and a stunning beautiful country.

Mrs Charlotte Rock
Head of Modern Languages

MODERN LANGUAGES OPTION B: SPANISH

AQA

Course Content

- 30% Writing – Controlled Assessment – Un-tiered
- 30% Speaking - Controlled Assessment – Un-tiered
- 20% Reading Examination - Foundation or Higher Tier
- 20% Listening Examination – Foundation or Higher Tier

The content of the specification is arranged in the four separate contexts of the National Curriculum, thus giving you a broad base of linguistic experience:

- Lifestyle
- Leisure
- Home and the Environment
- Work and Education

The assessments are weighted towards Speaking and Writing and students are able to propose their own contexts and purposes for these two units. To help you prepare for the Controlled Assessments in the Speaking and Writing skills, it is a requirement you have your own bilingual dictionary: you will be able to use it at home or in school.

For the Listening and Reading skills students are entered either at Foundation or Higher level, but the Speaking and Writing skills are un-tiered, as differentiation is by outcome, not task. Generally, a broad range of different types of test gives you a chance to work to your highest potential and in all the tests there will be a variety of questions either in Spanish or in English.

Lessons will generally be in Spanish, and pupils will be expected to respond and participate fully in the foreign language. For this reason we strongly advise a stay in Spain during the GCSE course. Students should take advantage of any study visits organised by the school.

Why choose Spanish?

Learn the world's second most used language in international communication and understand the language behind the popular trend of *salsa*. Enjoy the rich and diverse commercial, cultural and historical heritage from Latin America to the Balearics.

- **A key to communication** About 330 million people in the world speak Spanish as their first language, with Spanish as the official language in 21 countries. Today Spanish is also an official language of the UN and its institutions, the European Union and other international organisations.
- **A key to travel** Over five million Britons visit Spain every year to enjoy not only the beaches and the sunshine but also the rich variety of many aspects of Spain: its geography, culture, climate and way of life.

What should you bring to the course?

- You must already have studied Spanish in Year 9
- You must have enthusiasm and application, because it's an intensive course
- You need to be willing to take advantage of foreign trips when available – there is no better way to learn a foreign language!

The Spanish department is looking forward to seeing you. Come and take a step into that new world!

Mrs Charlotte Rock
Head of Modern Languages

Note: For pupils whose first language is not English, there is also the option of taking a GCSE in their native language and treating English as their Modern Language GCSE.

SCIENCE AND ADDITIONAL SCIENCE

OCR B Gateway Science

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Higher: A* - D
Foundation: C - G

Course Content

Science

All students complete this course in Year 10 taking their first examination in January and the second in June. Each session examines a module of Biology, Chemistry and Physics which will be taught by specialist staff. The third component is a controlled assessment, one part of which is called Science in the News. This builds on pupils' own research and is examined in January and March. The other part of the controlled assessment is a series of practical skills tests that take place on a regular basis in Science lessons and which contribute 13% of the final mark. GCSE Science provides knowledge and understanding that is relevant to pupils' everyday life. It aims to engage them and to stimulate excitement and intrigue about how Science works and its benefit to society. This qualification covers all of the KS4 National Curriculum requirements in Science.

Additional Science

Additional Science is studied in Year 11 and builds on the topics started in Year 10. It completes the qualification in Science required for the majority of young people at 16+. The course will help pupils develop their questioning, analytical and evaluative skills alongside their practical skills. There are also research tasks, a data task on 'analysis and evaluation' and further practical skills assessments that take place during the year.

**** This specification is facing some changes for September 2011, particularly in the 'Controlled assessment'. Unfortunately these have not yet been finalised.***

Why study Science?

- Science is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 4, which reflects the importance of Science in society today.
- Science gives you an understanding of the Physics, Chemistry and Biology that affects all our lives.
- This course will prepare you to take A Levels in any or all of the Sciences and other subjects such as Business Studies, ICT and Geography.
- Even if you do not intend to study the Sciences beyond this level, you will develop planning and evaluating skills and learn how to analyse and interpret data.
- A qualification in Science is essential for most higher education courses and many careers.

What should you bring to the course?

- An interest in the world about you and how things work
- A readiness to ask questions and think about the answers
- A calculator to all your Science lessons - Science often uses mathematical ideas

Miss Caroline Hinchliffe
Head of Science

SECTION B:

OPTIONAL
GCSE EXAMINATION
COURSES



ART AND DESIGN

AQA 4201

The GCSE consists of two units of work

Unit 1: The Portfolio (60%)

The portfolio is a body of work devised by the teacher to meet the assessment objectives and produced over the two year course. It must include two complete projects and is marked holistically by the teacher then moderated by AQA. The portfolio work usually includes a gallery visit such as Tate Britain, Tate Modern, The Royal Academy or National Gallery.

Unit 2: The Externally Set Project (40%)

A question paper is set by the examination board and the pupil selects one question. A period of time is devoted to preparation for the final piece, which is then completed in ten hours under examination conditions. This is also marked by the teacher and then moderated by AQA.

Why study Art?

- It is very different from other subjects and adds a balance and variety to your study
- It explores many issues and different cultures, giving you a broader education
- It fosters real independent study
- It helps improve your aesthetic awareness, which is relevant for so much in life
- You get the opportunity to visit some wonderful galleries and exhibitions
- Westonbirt takes advantage of The Royal Academy 'Outreach' programme

What should you bring to the course?

- You must have a genuine interest and desire to study art (remember that skills can be taught and improved)
- You will need your own art bin and collection of equipment
- It is also useful if you have your own camera

Mrs Mary Phillips
Head of Art

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY – Resistant Materials

OCR J306

If you enjoy designing and making small products, this course will appeal to you.

Course Content

The new GCSE Resistant Materials course places more emphasis on sustainable design and the environment and requires you to make two small products. The course consists of four units as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Unit 1 (30%) | Design and make a small product chosen from a given theme, completed during Year 10. (<i>Approximately 20 hours work</i>) |
| Unit 2 (20%) | A one-hour written examination about sustainable design, taken at the end of Year 10. |
| Unit 3 (30%) | Design and make a second product during Year 11 (<i>over approximately 20 hours</i>). |
| Unit 4 (20%) | One written exam (<i>1¼ hours</i>) with questions about workshop tools, materials and processes. |

Why study Design and Technology?

The opportunity to develop six key skills:

- Communication of ideas through practical work
- Team work
- The transference and improvement of numeracy skills
- Problem solving
- IT skills
- Practical knowledge and skills for everyday life

What should you bring to the course?

- Be prepared to carry out investigations in your chosen project areas
- Be able to make sketches of your ideas and to produce a design folder
- Be able to work independently in the workshop

*Mr John Sproule
Head of Design Technology*

DRAMA

AQA 4240

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Single tier marking: A* - G

Course Content

40% Written Examination

60% Practical

This syllabus is very broad and the course content can be adapted to suit your own strengths and talents. It also provides useful skills and knowledge should you wish to continue to A Level.

A course based on this syllabus should encourage you to develop an interest in and an understanding of theatre. You will encounter a range of drama and theatre experiences, and the course should lead to increased self and group awareness. There are regular theatre trips and workshops to extend your awareness of technical skills. This course is not focused solely on acting as the various practical options are chosen from the list below:-

<i>Acting</i>	<i>Costume</i>	<i>Devised Thematic</i>
<i>Improvisation</i>	<i>Lighting</i>	<i>Make-up</i>
<i>Mask</i>	<i>Properties</i>	<i>Physical Theatre</i>
<i>Puppetry</i>	<i>Set design and construction</i>	<i>Sound</i>
<i>Stage management</i>	<i>Theatre in Education presentation</i>	

The one-and-a-half hour written paper requires you to answer **two** questions chosen from **three** areas of study:

- Set texts studied during the course
(Questions are about performance or design)
- Review of live performance
(Questions are about performance skills, technical design elements, and the overall effectiveness of the production)
- Practical work completed during the course
(Questions are about how the piece developed during the rehearsal process)

Why study Drama?

- To develop confidence and good communication skills
- To understand and experience the importance of working as a team
- To develop problem-solving skills
- To develop an enjoyment of theatre

What should you bring to the course?

- An interest in people
- An artistic appreciation of theatre and especially of acting, direction and design
- A genuine interest in how to create good theatre

Mrs Charlotte Crosbee
Head of Drama

FOOD AND NUTRITION

OCR J431

Levels Offered & Grades awarded

Single tier marking: A*-G

Course Content

- 40% final examination (1 written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes)
- 60% Coursework:
 - 3 short tasks demonstrating practical skills and knowledge
 - 1 food study task assessing research, justifying choices, planning, practical skills and evaluation

Why study Food and Nutrition?

This subject prepares you for life by focussing on broader issues of nutrition, diet and health, including food hygiene and safety, food storage, food preparation and cooking. Food and Nutrition is a new subject to Westonbirt, which the girls may find a useful introduction to the hugely popular “Leith’s Basic Certificate in Food and Wine” course, which may be studied in the Sixth Form.

Candidates, while working with food, will explore the following:

- Nutrition and health
- Food commodities
- Meal planning
- Food preparation and cooking
- Food safety and preservation
- Consumer education

What should you bring to the course?

- A genuine interest and enthusiasm for food
- A desire to find out more about health, nutrition and food related issues
-

Mrs Joy Bell
Head of Food & Textiles Technology

GEOGRAPHY

AQA 'A'

“Geography is the key to the future.” - Michael Palin

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Higher: A*-D

Foundation: C-G

Why study Geography?

- The subject has never been more relevant. It helps you to understand many of the questions and issues all of us need to face such as environmental responsibility, global interdependence and the poverty experienced by millions.
- You will become skilled in research, data analysis and report writing - valuable skills for any career.
- It keeps your options open into either arts- or science-based A Levels and beyond.
- With new GCSE courses now established, it is a very exciting time to study Geography. Major changes have included modularisation and controlled assessment of coursework.
- The GCSE and A Level results in Geography achieved by Westonbirt are excellent; with a good proportion of our girls going on to study Geography and Geography related studies at University.

Course Content

75% Written Examination (*two papers, set at the two tiers*)

25% Coursework (*controlled assessment*)

The syllabus includes a skills element, including Ordnance Survey maps and studies of the following key areas:

Paper 1

Physical Geography –

Rivers, Plate Tectonics, Coasts and Weather

Paper 2

Human Geography –

Population, Tourism, Development and Globalisation

Exams

3 x 1 hour (25% each), available in June each year. You could do one in the summer of Year 10 and a final exam in the summer of Year 11. This would provide an opportunity to re-sit.

Controlled assessment (25%)

Local fieldwork Investigation (*choice from 8 topics*) – recommended 7 hours write-up time but more if needed. Choice of presentation format e.g. written report, PowerPoint diary, webpage etc.

The coursework involves one geographical enquiry. You work independently to investigate an argument, problem or local issue. Two fieldwork days in Year 10 are designed to give girls the techniques and skills they will need to collect, analyse and evaluate their enquiry data. The project data can be collected as group work and topics include river and settlement studies. This will be written up as a controlled assessment.

What should you bring to the course?

- Energy and enthusiasm
- An interest in the wider world

Mrs Nicola Gill
Head of Geography

HISTORY

OCR Modern

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Single tier marking: A* - E

Course Content

75% Written Examination (one paper to be taken in January Year 11)

25% Coursework

You will undertake an International Study, a Depth Study and a British Study as well as coursework.

International Study

The Cold War 1945 – 1975

Depth Studies

Germany 1919 – 1945

British Studies

Britain after the Second World War

Coursework

Arab/Israeli Conflict

Why study History?

- Other subjects teach you the answers, History teaches you to ask the questions.
- You will learn valuable investigation techniques and discussion skills.
- History is an excellent qualification for many careers
(*e.g. accountancy, archaeology, forensic medicine, law, police, and teaching*) –
it's not just for historians!

What should you bring to the course?

- A willingness to work hard
- An interest in discussion and research
- An enquiring mind

Mrs Angelika Cowell
Head of History

LATIN

OCR

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Higher tier only: A*- D

Course Content

There are four papers:

Language 1 (Mythology & Domestic Life)

Candidates must answer a variety of comprehension questions in English, including questions about the derivations of English words from Latin and translate a short extract of Latin into English

Language 2 (History)

This paper takes on a similar format to Language 1, but the Latin extract is historical rather than mythological or domestic

Prose Literature

a selection of Roman writers is studied and candidates must show a literary awareness of the texts

Verse Literature

a varied selection of Roman poetry is studied for candidates to examine and answer questions on the authors style and literary techniques

The candidate must take all papers. There is no coursework involved.

Why study Latin?

- Enjoyment of studying literature and language of the Classical World
- An impressive academic qualification, which will recommend you to any course of Higher Education, Arts or Sciences
- An excellent support to other subjects - English, History, Modern Languages
- The opportunity to develop Key Skills (*IT, Communication, Working with Others, Improving One's Own Learning, and Performance and Problem Solving*), all of which are central to successful employment and which underpin further success in learning independently.

What should you bring to the course?

- You need to have reached Book 3 of the Cambridge Latin Course to start the course, or to have the equivalent level of knowledge.
- As in all languages, you need a willingness to learn vocabulary.
- You must be determined to succeed when difficulties arise - many girls find that Latin offers them more of a challenge, with its demand for precision, than other subjects at GCSE.

*Mrs Lucy Weeden
Head of Classics*

Modern languages: Optional second modern language

Girls who are particularly interested in modern languages may choose a second modern foreign language in addition to their compulsory first modern foreign language as one of their optional GCSEs.

Two modern foreign languages are on offer at Westonbirt – French and Spanish. Please see pages 12 & 13 for a full description of these courses.

*Mrs Charlotte Rock
Head of Modern Languages*

MUSIC

EDEXCEL 2MU01

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Single tier marking: A* - G

Why study Music?

- Music is found in all areas of life, and Music GCSE will help you enjoy whatever music you are listening to.
- It gives you opportunities to perform with others.
- It encourages you to compose in many varied styles, including pop.

What should you bring to the course?

- It is not necessary for you to have any specialised musical knowledge at the beginning of the course, but you will need to be already playing an instrument or singing.
- It is also desirable for you to enjoy listening to music of all types.

Course Content

Paper 1 Performing (30%)

- a) One solo performance, on any instrument or voice.
- b) One ensemble performance, on any instrument or voice.

Paper 2 Composing (30%)

Two compositions based on different areas of musical study.

Paper 3 Listening and Appraising (40%)

A written paper based on knowledge and study of set works connected to four areas of study:

- Western Classical Music
- Music in the 20th Century
- Popular Music In Context
- World Music.

Dr Charlotte Exon
Director of Music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EDEXCEL – Short Course (½ GCSE)

You will enjoy this course if you are interested in fitness, health and physical activities.

PE will offer you the opportunity to develop your skills in a wide range of sports and activities and help you improve your own performance. You will learn about exercise, how the body works, and a healthy lifestyle. You will participate in a range of practical activities as well as develop your knowledge about how to improve your own ability in these activities.

There is one exam at the end of the course which will test your knowledge and understanding of the theory element. It will be one hour long and it is worth 40% of the final mark. The final coursework mark is worth 60% of the total mark and you will need to offer four activities for your assessment. You will also develop your ability to observe and analyse performance.

Unit 1 The Theory of Physical Education

1.1 Healthy and active lifestyle

Unit 2 Performance in Physical Education

- 2.1 Practical performance: Two sports, of which at least one must be in the role of 'player' And the other in the role of 'leader' or 'official' (48%)
- 2.2 Analysis of Performance: personal exercise programme (12%)

Why study Physical Education?

A good grade at GCSE will help you move on to any A Level course. Employment opportunities where your skills will be particularly valued in the Sport and Leisure Industry, Travel and Tourism and Teaching or Coaching.

What should you bring to the course?

- An enthusiasm for and an interest in sport
- The ability to take the initiative and research the sport

Mrs Caroline Heathorn
Head of PE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EDEXCEL (Short Course) Unit 9 CHRISTIANITY

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Single tier marking: A* - G

Course Content

This two-year course studies the faith and practice of the Christian religion. This short course will earn you half a GCSE. There are two lessons per week, plus prep. The course is in four parts:

- 1) **Beliefs and Values**
What Christians believe about God (Creeds)
The way of forgiveness and salvation
Love of other people as shown in the life of Jesus
- 2) **Community and Tradition**
The role of the Bible
The role of the Church, studying different aspects and denominations of the Church
The role of Christian ministers and people
- 3) **Worship and Celebration**
Forms of Sunday worship, particularly Holy Communion
Infant and adult baptism
Celebration of Christian Festivals
- 4) **Living the Christian Life**
Vocation, Monastic Communities
The Mission of the Church
Service to those in need
Working for social justice
The Ten Commandments
The Sermon on the Mount

There is a one and half hour examination at the end of the course (100%).

Why take Religious Studies?

- To gain a greater understanding of the Christian faith
- To reflect on the deeper questions of life and belief
- To broaden knowledge of the church worldwide
- To gain a further qualification to add to other GCSEs
- Recent exam results have been very good

What should you bring to the course?

The course is open to everyone and if you are interested in the Christian faith you should benefit greatly.

If you want to study a FULL GCSE in RE you will need to take the course on ST. MARK'S GOSPEL also.

*Reverend Philip Dixon
Chaplain*

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EDEXCEL Unit 16 ST MARK'S GOSPEL

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Single tier marking: A* - G

Course Content

This two year course is a detailed study of St Mark's Gospel. Each part is a study of the text itself related to how it may be applied today. This short course will earn you half a GCSE. There are two lessons a week, plus prep. The course is in Four parts:

- 1) **Discipleship**
The nature of discipleship
The costs of discipleship
The problems and challenges of discipleship

- 2) **Conflict and Argument**
Healing on the Sabbath
Law and Jesus interpretation in conflict
Authority, Money, Religious Authorities
The plot to kill Jesus

- 3) **Death and Resurrection**
The Last Supper
Gethsemane, Betrayal, Arrest and Trial
The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus

- 4) **The Identity of Jesus**
Baptism of Jesus
Healings and Miracles
Jesus – Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah

There is a 1½ hour examination at the end of the course (100%).

There is no coursework.

Why take Religious Studies – Full Course?

- To take the opportunity to study a Gospel in depth
- To reflect upon the relevance of the Gospel to life today

What should you bring to the course?

The willingness and desire to study the Gospel in detail

*Reverend Philip Dixon
Chaplain*

TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY

OCR J307

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

It is untiered and the grades available are A*- G.

This specification is examined through two pieces of coursework and two examinations. Candidates will enter for the first two assessments at the end of Year 10 and the remaining two at the end of Year 11. (There will be the possibility of retaking the first two units in Year 11.)

The four assessed units broadly cover the following areas:

A571: Introduction to Design and Make (*coursework worth 30% of total mark*)

Candidates need to select one of OCR's published themes, for example 'travel', and then skilfully design, model, make and test out a prototype product. They need to show creativity, design, make and evaluation skills.

A572: Sustainable Design (*examination worth 20% of total mark*)

Candidates will need to demonstrate their understanding of, and potential application of, the 6R's of sustainable design: recycle, refuse, reuse, rethink, reduce & repair.

A573: Making Quality Products (*coursework worth 30% of total mark*)

Candidates need to further develop skills and abilities gained in the first coursework unit, while designing and making a fully functioning quality product.

A574: Technical Aspects of Designing and Making (*examination worth 20% of total mark*)

This unit focuses on the knowledge, skills and understanding underpinning the design and manufacture of products.

Candidates will need to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of:

- designing and making products; both domestic and commercial scale
- planning production
- performance characteristics of different fibres and fabrics, including smart and modern materials
- tools and equipment used
- processes and techniques used, both decorative and functional
- the impact of all of this on the environment, including the need to consider sustainability
- health and safety issues

Why study Textiles Technology?

- It is creative, stimulating and adventurous.
- It gives you the opportunity to try out your own original ideas and research.
- It ties in with Art.
- It enables you to learn new skills and develop existing ones such as needlecrafts, dyeing and dressmaking

What should you bring to the course?

- A willingness to experiment, and therefore a willingness to try things more than once (Techniques may not work perfectly at the first go!)
- A willingness to think broadly and work logically
- An ability to develop a potential new product
- The ability to work to a deadline while still maintaining quality

*Mrs Joy Bell,
Head of Food & Textiles Technology*

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE

OCR B Gateway Science

Levels Offered & Grades Awarded

Higher: A*- D

This is an option for students with a keen interest in Science and good mathematical skills. It will interest those who may want to go on to study Science, Mathematics or Engineering at a higher level but it is not a prerequisite for these courses. Students will study six further modules in addition to the content of Science and Additional Science, three in Year 10 and three in Year 11, resulting in separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Controlled assessments can be either of the types described in the 'Science and Additional Science' page. The additional modules are:

Biology

Module B5: The Living Body

- a In good shape
- b The vital pump
- c Running repairs
- d Breath of life
- e Waste disposal
- f Life goes on
- g New for old
- h Size matters

Module B6: Beyond the Microscope

- a Understanding
- b Harmful micro-organisms
- c Micro-organisms
- d Biofuels
- e Life in soil
- f Microscopic life in water
- g Enzymes in action
- h Genetic engineering

Chemistry

Module C5: How Much?

- a Moles and empirical formulae
- b Electrolysis
- c Quantitative analysis
- d Titrations
- e Gas volumes
- f Equilibria
- g Strong and weak acids
- h Ionic equations

Module C6: Chemistry Out There

- a Energy transfers – fuel cells
- b Redox reactions
- c Alcohols
- d Chemistry of sodium chloride (NaCl)
- e Depletion of the ozone layer
- f Hardness of water
- g Natural fats and oils
- h Analgesics

Physics

Module P5: Space for Reflection

- a Satellites, gravity and circular motion
- b Vectors and equations of motion
- c Projectile motion
- d Momentum
- e Satellite communication
- f Nature of waves
- g Refraction of waves
- h Optics

Module P6: Electricity for gadgets

- a Resisting
- b Sharing
- c Motors
- d Generating
- e Transforming
- f Charging
- g It's logical
- h Even more logical

*** This specification is facing some changes for September 2011, particularly in the 'Controlled assessment'. Unfortunately these have not yet been finalised.**

What should you bring to the course?

- A keen interest in all aspects of science
- A determination to work hard to understand challenging concepts

Miss Caroline Hinchliffe
Head of Science

SECTION C

COMPULSORY
NON-EXAMINATION
COURSES



LIFESKILLS

Education for the rest of your life!

Lifeskills covers some of the things that you need to know about which are not included in your other subjects. It consists of four main strands: Careers, Personal Education, Study Skills and Citizenship.

Careers sessions include an introduction to Sixth Form courses and life, consideration of possible career paths, an explanation of work experience, and use of careers databases and the Careers Centre in an exploration of the world of work.

In addition in Year 11 you will receive a weekly period of careers lessons covering, amongst other issues, choosing a balanced and well researched sixth form programme of A levels and extra curricular activities, writing CVs and letters of application. **The outline year programme is emailed to parents at the beginning of the year 11 academic year.** It is during this year that you become a member of ISCO (Independent Schools Careers Organisation) and undertake psychometric exercises to produce a profile of your strengths, abilities and interests.

Personal Education considers various health issues as well as strategies for dealing with stress, opportunities to explore the unspoken language, and information about personal finance. Sexual Health and Personal Relationships are included in both Year 10 and 11.

Study Skills include information about the completion of coursework, time management and how to take responsibility for your own learning.

Citizenship develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of the democratic process at local, national and international levels.

In Year 11, girls are able to sample AS lessons and learn about the variety of options available to them when they join the Sixth Form at Westonbirt School.

*Mrs Angelika Cowell
Life Skills Coordinator*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Throughout **Year 10** and **Year 11**, you will have one triple period and one double period of Physical Education per week.

In **Year 10** during the Autumn and Spring Terms, you will continue to develop your skills and tactical awareness in the two major competitive games of lacrosse and netball. Those not in the lacrosse team squad will also have the opportunity to play basketball, badminton and volleyball. All of you will learn how to use the Fitness Suite and plan your own fitness programme. You will also have the opportunity to swim and to do gymnastics. During the Summer Term, all of you will do tennis, swimming, athletics and rounders.

In **Year 11**, you will choose your own PE option for both lessons. On offer during the Autumn and Spring terms are team lacrosse, netball, tennis, swimming, golf, basketball, badminton, Yoga, Aerobics and fitness. In the Summer Term you may also choose to play rounders.

The main team games are lacrosse, netball and tennis. Matches are also arranged for basketball, swimming, athletics and rounders. You will be involved in the wide range of inter-house competitions. You will be encouraged to take responsibility for your own level of personal fitness and have the opportunity to use the facilities in the Sports Centre.

Mrs Caroline Heathorn
Head of PE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Only if you do not choose the RE GCSE Short Course, you will have *one* lesson per week in this subject.

Using written and video resources, you will be encouraged to consider important issues and to express your own views freely.

We will study the early chapters of Genesis. What kind of literature is this? What does it tell us about the ideal relationship between man and woman, and about the roots of aggression? How do people express their anger? Topics to be discussed will include:

- bullying
- prejudice: class, colour, race, anti-Semitism
- religions around the world
- materialism & the pressures of advertising
- issues of peace and justice with reference to South America

These topics form the framework, but issues of topical interest often give rise to excellent spontaneous discussions.

You should find the lessons a helpful opportunity for discussing relevant issues without the pressures of examinations.

Rev Philip Dixon
Chaplain