

Iceni Secondary Academy



Your Choices
KS4 Options Booklet 2026

Introduction

Dear Year 9,

Welcome to this booklet, containing all the information you need to help you select your GCSE options!

We know this is, first and foremost, a really exciting time for you, as you start making your first choices about your educational futures. Whether your pathway lies in sixth form, college, apprenticeships, university or beyond, these are the first of many choices you will make about your education, employment and training.

It is important that you take on board the information in this booklet and the advice you get from your teachers and family. Please remember to ask lots of questions from people who can support you! You have a form tutor, an excellent Head of Year, a wonderful Student Support Officer, lots of teachers, Directors of Faculty, the Senior Leadership Team... and more! I run the Options process overall in the academy, so am always happy to answer your questions, and Miss Turner, as our Assistant Principal SEN-Co, is also a wonderful source of advice and guidance. Finally we are lucky to work with Ms de Winnaar, our independent Level 6 Careers Adviser. If you would like an appointment with her please speak to your form tutor.

On Options Information Evening you will hear about the options selection process, and be able to talk to teachers about the different GCSE subjects on offer – including those subjects that all students take.

At Year 9 Progress Evening, you and your parents/ carers can find out more about how you are progressing in your subjects, as you consider what you would enjoy studying, and what you would do well studying, at GCSE.

After this, you will have the opportunity to make your options selections – and then, we'll do our very best to make your option choices work for you!

We are all looking forward to supporting you on this exciting journey.

Miss Staniforth
Vice Principal

Please note:

All information is subject to change including subjects offered, exam boards etc. at the Academy's discretion.

All information was accurate and up to date at the time of publication.

The Iceni Curriculum

At Iceni Academy we pride ourselves on offering a broad and balanced curriculum to our students, and we are determined to offer each and every student a curriculum that suits their individual needs, while complying with national recommendations and guidelines. We are proud to offer an extensive range of options subjects covering many subject areas, allowing students to experience a range of subjects that interest them.

Year 9 students will follow one of two pathways, both giving access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Both pathways allow our students to achieve eight good passes (grade 5 or better) at GCSE or equivalent, including English and mathematics, therefore meeting the expectations of post-16 establishments, employers and universities. Humanities subjects, Modern Foreign Languages and a range of other courses, including creative subjects, are available to students on both pathways. You may choose your pathway, but may be advised to take a certain pathway if we feel this would particularly benefit you.

The English Baccalaureate ('EBacc') Pathway

The government introduced the English Baccalaureate a number of years ago; a series of core subjects which help keep options open for young people. While you may not have decided on your future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives you access to a full range of employment options when you leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If you are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

To enter this pathway, select one humanities subject (history or geography), French, and one choice of your own.

The Academic Pathway

For students on our academic pathway, you will gain a wide range of option choices alongside our core offer. This will give you a flexible, broad and balanced curriculum pathway – much like students following the English Baccalaureate pathway.

To enter this pathway, select one subject from history, geography or French, plus two choices of your own.

All students will study:	Option A (choose one)	Option B (choose one)	Option C (choose one)
GCSE English Literature	History Geography	Geography	Food Preparation & Nutrition
GCSE English Language		Religious Studies	3D Design
GCSE Mathematics		3D Design	Art & Design
GCSE Combined Science		Food Preparation & Nutrition	Sports Studies
Core PE (non-examined)		Drama	Creative Digital iMedia
PSHE (non-examined)			French

Please note:

You cannot take the same subject in more than one column. For example, if you select geography in Block A, you may not also select geography in Block B.

You cannot take both 3D Design and Art & Design. If you are interested in these subjects, you must choose one.

You will be asked to select a firm choice and a reserve choice in each block. Please ensure you would be happy to study your reserve choice, in case we need to use it.

Here are some of the most Frequently Asked Questions, answered. If your question is not listed here, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy.

Frequently Asked

Where can I get more advice or support?

Speak to your Form Tutor, Head of Year, subject teachers, Miss Staniforth or Ms de Winnaar, our Careers Adviser, if you would like more advice and support.

When do I find out what subjects I have been given from my choices?

You will find out this information prior to the end of Year 9.

Is there setting at GCSE?

English, maths and science will continue to be set. Options subjects are taught in mixed ability groups. There may be some setting of options groups if there are two classes of the same subject.

How do I know if I would be good at a subject?

Speak to your subject teachers or the teachers you know have taught that GCSE before to find out more information. Look carefully at the information in this booklet: look at what the subject involves and how it is assessed.

How do I make my options choices?

You will be sent a webform to complete. Please complete this before the deadline so that we can start organising the option blocks.

Can I choose the same subject twice?

No. If you make the same choice twice you will be asked to reselect. It will not increase your chance of being allocated that subject. Please do not pick the same subject in different options blocks (e.g. History in both blocks A and B).

Can I do two humanities subjects?

Yes. You can choose humanities subjects in both Blocks A and B.

Will I get all of my first choices?

We ask you to give us a range of choices, in preference order. Whilst we try and give you your first choices, it is important your reserve choices are subjects you would be happy to study.

Questions

Will the exam boards/ specifications change?

We reserve the right to change exam boards and qualification details. All information was correct at the time this booklet went to print. We will ensure you and your parents/ carers are informed if any changes are made.

Are all the qualifications GCSEs?

Yes - all subjects are GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, such as Sports Studies which is a Cambridge National qualification. This equips you with applied knowledge and associated practical skills.

Do I have to take a language?

All students are able to take a language, with it being a requirement of the EBacc pathway. Studying a language has a huge number of benefits for learning in other subjects, are welcomed by prestigious universities and are even pre-requisites for some graduate schemes!

How many GCSEs will I study?

You will study towards eight GCSE or equivalent qualifications.

If I start a subject and later realise that I have made a mistake, what can I do?

This happens to some students every year. There is only the first half term when we are able to look at requests for changes and make them if we can. Sometimes subject groups are full and students are unable to move but we do our best to help. By the end of the first half term of the autumn term, we have to stop making any changes as you will have missed too much work to begin a new subject.



English Language

'The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page' - Saint Augustine



The English Language course develops your reading and writing skills. The final exams will test:

- Your ability to retrieve information from a range of different texts.
- Your ability to comment on the overall structure of a text
- Your ability to analyse a writer's use of language.
- Your ability to compare the content of two different texts.
- The overall structure of your writing: how well you can plan and paragraph.
- Your ability to use different types of sentences.
- The breadth of your vocabulary
- Your accuracy with spelling and grammar.

There are two papers which ask you to look at different types of text.

Paper 1 asks you to read and comment on an extract of fiction and write a piece of descriptive or narrative writing.

Paper 2 asks you to read and comment on an extract from non-fiction text and write to present your viewpoint on a topic.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment	
<p>Non-exam assessment: spoken language endorsement</p> <p>You will be asked to present a talk on a topic of your choice followed by answering questions linked to your topic.</p> <p>This endorsement is worth 0% of the GCSE but is reported separately on your results certificate.</p> <p>Your endorsement is marked on Fail/ Pass/ Merit/ Distinction criteria.</p> <p>This unit is marked internally and externally moderated by the exam board.</p>		<p>Exam Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing: written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE Section A: Reading one literature fiction text Section B: Writing • descriptive or narrative writing</p> <p>Exam Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives: written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE Section A: Reading one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text Section B: Writing • writing to present a viewpoint</p>	
Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
English Language	AQA	8700	www.aqa.org.uk

GCSE English Language equips students for further study at sixth form and university. It is also provides vital skills for life and work by developing students' ability to understand the written word with clarity and communicate their own views with precision. These skills are relevant in all career paths and essential in many.

Director of Faculty: Mr Meneghello

English Literature

'Once you have read a book you care about, some part of it is always with you.' - Louis L'Amour



The English Literature course will test the following skills:

- Comprehension skills: how well can you infer information about plot, character, events and settings?
- Critical Reading: how well do you consider different ways of interpreting a text? Does the historical context of a text help you come to your own informed opinion?
- Analytical skills: how well can you analyse how writers use language, form and structure.
- Comparison skills: how well do you compare and contrast texts that you have studied.

Over the course of year 10 and 11, you will study the following texts in full:

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- 'Power & Conflict' poetry anthology

External Assessment

Exam Paper 1: Shakespeare (*Macbeth*) and 19th Century novel (*A Christmas Carol*)

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes - 40% of Lit GCSE

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

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

Exam Paper 2: Modern Text (*An Inspector Calls*) and Poetry - written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes - 60% of Lit GCSE

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

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

Section C: Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
English Literature	AQA	8702	www.aqa.org.uk

GCSE English Literature equips students for further study at sixth form and university. It also provides vital skills for life by developing students' ability to understand the world around them and communicate their views with precision. These skills are relevant in all career paths and essential in many. Studying literature gives students the opportunity to engage with a very broad range of ideas and perspectives on issues as diverse as personal relationships, war, ambition, politics, friendship and many others. Studying literature allows students to develop skills of understanding and empathy. It brings the opportunity for students to expand their thinking by considering the situations and experiences of people beyond the current scope of their own lives.

Director of Faculty: Mr Meneghello

Mathematics

'Wherever there is number, there is beauty.' - Proclus



The mathematics course builds on the maths you have learned during Key Stage Three.

The course covers six main topic areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Throughout the course, you will be working towards the following assessment objectives:

AO1 - use and apply standard techniques

AO2 - reason, interpret and communicate mathematically

AO3 - solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts

External Assessment

Exam Paper 1: Non-calculator

33.3% of GCSE

A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Exam Paper 2: Calculator

33% of GCSE

A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Exam Paper 3: Non-calculator

33.3% of GCSE

A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Mathematics	Edexcel	1MA1	Qualifications.pearson.com

GCSE Mathematics equips students for further study at sixth form and university. It also provides vital skills for life with a wide array of careers relying on a person having a good level of mathematics.

Director of Faculty: Miss Saunders

3D Design

'Design creates culture. Culture shapes values. Values determine the future.' - Robert L Peters



Why choose Three-Dimensional Design?

The 3D Design is a course designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, no matter what their ability. It will provide opportunities to explore a variety of different materials, techniques and processes through innovative assignments, that develop both practical skill and graphic communication. This course is a great stepping stone for a wide variety of different career paths such as; architect, graphic designer, engineer, carpenter, and an electrician.

3D Design will allow you to:

- Understand clients and identify their wants and needs.
- Investigate ideas through extensive primary and secondary research supporting design development.
- Develop confidence in communicating ideas both graphically and physically.
- Explore how CAD and CAM are used industry.
- Experience working both independently and as a part of a team.
- Have the freedom, independence and confidence to design and make a desired product that fits an external brief.

Internal Assessment

All units are internally assessed and externally moderated by the exam board.

Component 1 - Personal Portfolio (60%) From centre-set theme(s) in consultation with students, you will produce a portfolio of work demonstrating knowledge, understanding and skills, and comprising supporting studies and personal response(s)

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (40%) The culmination of the GCSE course, students create a piece from an externally-set theme. The Academy will devise a period of preparatory study in which students create preparatory studies and you will then have a 10-hour sustained focus period in which to produce personal response(s)

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Three-Dimensional Design	AQA	8204	www.aqa.org.uk

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies at A level, which can lead to vocational and degree level qualifications, for example, Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design, Fashion, Photography and Graphic Design. There are also many careers that a GCSE in Art & Design can help you access, including: Researcher, Image Re-toucher, Animation, Fashion Communication and Promotion, Games Art and Design, Illustration, Fashion, Games Development, Interior Design, Textile Design, Architecture, Film and Moving Image Production, User Experience Design, Graphics, Photography, VFX, Acting, Fashion Marketing and Business. There are 3 million jobs in the creative economy and growing twice as fast as the rest of the UK workforce. That's 1 in 11 jobs in the UK.

Director of Faculty: Mrs Francis-Pugh

Art and Design

'Creativity takes courage.' - Henri Matisse



Why study GCSE Art and Design?

Art and Design equips you with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a GCSE subject. GCSE Art and Design provides the opportunity for you to explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design first hand through, for example:

- visiting museums, galleries, art shows and fairs
- experiencing audio-visual productions, including still and moving imagery
- their surroundings and environments
- take an individual approach to their art, craft and design making
- develop the skills of selecting their best and most appropriate work for presentation.

You will be required to actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design in order to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

Course Information

The GCSE covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments and you will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. There are a wide range of options and you may choose to work in several areas; the main aim being to develop visual language skills and to build a comprehensive portfolio of work.

Drawing is an explicit requirement in GCSE Art and Design, and students will be expected to use drawing to support the development process within their chosen area(s) of study. However, students are not required to demonstrate technical mastery of drawing skills unless this is appropriate to their chosen area(s) of study. Rather, we want to see all students using mark-making as a way of developing and expressing their ideas.

Internal Assessment

All units are internally assessed and externally moderated by the exam board.

Component 1 - Personal Portfolio (60%)

From centre-set theme(s) in consultation with students, you will produce a portfolio of work demonstrating knowledge, understanding and skills, and comprising supporting studies and personal response(s)

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (40%)

The culmination of the GCSE course, students create a piece from an externally-set theme. The Academy will devise a period of preparatory study in which students create preparatory studies and you will then have a 10-hour sustained focus period in which to produce personal response(s)

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Art & Design	AQA	8201C 8201X	www.aqa.org.uk

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies at A level, which can lead to study at a Foundation Course in Art and/or a degree in various areas of Art and Design, for example Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design, Fashion, Photography, Graphic Design and Fine Art. There are also many careers that a GCSE in Art & Design can help you access, including: Practising Artist, Community artist, Exhibition Organiser, Arts Administrator, Lecturer, Art Consultant, Gallery Manager, Researcher, Curator, Teacher, Image Retoucher, Art Therapist, Arts Conservationist, Studio Manager, Gallery Technician, Artist Assistant, Art Handler, Writer/Critic, Gallery Education Officer, Animation, Fashion Communication and Promotion, Games Art and Design, Illustration, Fashion, Games Development, Interior Design, Textile Design, Architecture, Film and Moving Image Production, User Experience Design, Graphics, Photography, VFX, Acting, Fashion Marketing and Business.

There are 3 Million jobs in the creative economy and growing twice as fast as the rest of the UK workforce. That's 1 in 11 jobs in the UK.

Director of Faculty: Mrs Francis-Pugh

Creative Digital iMedia

“The Web as I envisaged it, we have not seen it yet. The future is still so much bigger than the past.” - Tim Berners-Lee



Love being creative? Interested in design, storytelling, and digital tech? iMedia is your chance to turn ideas into amazing visual content and learn skills that the media industry uses every day.

The media world is huge: think films, games, advertising, social media, comics, and more. iMedia gives you the tools to create for all of these. You'll learn how to plan and design like a pro, use graphics to build strong visual identities, and even create characters and stories that grab attention.

Here's what makes iMedia exciting:

- Design for impact – Learn how colours, fonts, and layouts make brands stand out.
- Create original graphics – Build logos and visuals that work across websites, apps, and social media.
- Tell stories through characters – Design your own comic characters and bring them to life.
- Think like a professional – Understand how media products are planned, the legal and ethical rules, and how to make your work audience-ready.

By the end, you'll have real creative skills for future study or careers in design, gaming, marketing, and digital media. If you enjoy being imaginative and want to make things that look amazing, iMedia is for you!

Internal Assessment		External Assessment	
Two controlled assessments, worth 30% of the qualification each: R094: Visual identity and digital graphics R095: Characters and comics		Written exam - 40% of the qualification This unit will enable learners to understand pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector. It will develop their understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.	
Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Creative Digital iMedia	OCR	J834	www.ocr.org.uk

The skills you'll develop through the OCR iMedia course will be incredibly valuable in today's technology-driven world. As most industries now rely heavily on digital media and ICT, the practical experience you gain in creating, editing, and evaluating digital media products will help you in a variety of future careers. After completing this course, you'll be well-equipped to progress onto a range of academic, technical, and vocational post-16 options. These include A Levels in Media Studies or Computer Science, T Levels in Digital Production, Design, and Development, as well as apprenticeships in Digital Marketing, Web Development, Graphic Design, or IT Support. This qualification is a solid foundation for further study or employment in the growing digital sector.

Director of Faculty: Mr Meneghello

Drama

'Giving voice to characters that have no voice - that's the great worth of what we do.' - Meryl Streep



Why choose drama?

Choose drama if you want to develop:

- Focus
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Memory skills
- Concentration
- Conversation and social skills
- Presentation skills
- Negotiation skills
- Leadership skills
- Creativity
- Imagination

Is this subject for me?

- Do you enjoy expressing yourself in an active and practical way?
- Do you like working in a group?
- Are you prepared to contribute your ideas and take on board those of others?
- Do you like exploring serious issues by putting yourself in other people's shoes?
- Are you able to focus and sustain your concentration?
- Do you want to create and perform your own drama work?
- Are you able to approach serious emotional drama with maturity?
- Do you want to study plays written by other people?
- Are you prepared to sit a written examination at the end of Year 11?
- Do you prefer being assessed practically?

Internal Assessment	External Assessment
<p>Devising drama - 40% of the GCSE</p> <p>Assesses:</p> <p>The process of creating devised drama</p> <p>Your performance of devised drama (as either a performer or designer)</p> <p>Your ability to analyse and evaluate your own work</p> <p>You will produce a devising log (worth 60 marks) and a practical performance (worth 20 marks).</p> <p>This component is marked internally and externally moderated.</p>	<p>Written Exam - 40% of the GCSE</p> <p>Assesses:</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre</p> <p>Your study of one set play</p> <p>Your ability to analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers</p> <p>Practical performance - 20% of the GCSE</p> <p>Performance of two extracts from one play</p> <p>Marked by an external examiner who visits the Academy</p>

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Drama	AQA	8261	www.aqa.org.uk

Drama builds skills for life, including your confidence and communication skills. These skills are vital in all walks of life and all jobs you may go on to do. In 2013, the Russell Group of universities asked FTSE 250 companies what the two most important qualities were that they looked for in an employee. The two most common answers were teamwork and communication - both skills which you will build throughout GCSE Drama. You could also go on to study drama further at Level 3 and beyond, and ultimately take up a job in the creative and theatre sectors - not just as an actor but also in design, production, marketing, front of house, writing... with a GCSE in Drama, the possibilities are virtually limitless!

Director of Faculty: Mrs Francis-Pugh

Food Preparation & Nutrition

'Cooking is the ultimate giving.' - Jamie Oliver



Why study Food Technology?

An understanding of food science and nutrition allow us to make better informed decisions about diet. Food preparation knowledge and skills will allow us to facilitate lifestyle choices and turn those ideas into amazing foods to eat and drink.

Course Content

Learners should be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the following six areas of content:

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

Internal Assessment		External Assessment	
<p>Non-Examined Assessment - 50% of the GCSE</p> <p>Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.</p> <p>Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food. These assessments will be based on a choice of tasks released by Eduqas annually.</p>		<p>Written Exam - 50% of the GCSE</p> <p>The Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition consisting of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content.</p> <p>Section A: questions based on stimulus material. Section B: structured, short and extended response questions to assess content related to food preparation and nutrition.</p>	
Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Eduqas		eduqas.co.uk
<p>Career Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chef / Cook • Nutritionist • Dietitian • Dietetic Specialist • Food Service Manager • Health Educator 			
<p>Director of Faculty: Mrs Francis-Pugh</p>			

French

'The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.' - Ludwig Wittgenstein



In GCSE French you will study:

- Identity and culture: me, my family and friends; technology in everyday life; free-time activities; customs and festivals
- Local, national and international areas of interest: Home town, neighbourhood and region; social issues; global issues; travel and tourism
- Current and future employment and study: my studies; life at school/ college; education post-16; jobs, careers and ambitions

The benefits of learning languages are:

- Learning a language makes your brain work more quickly, improving your cognitive and sensory processing and memory. Multi-language speakers are better at remembering lists or sequences and patterns.
- Language speakers are better communicators, sharper editors and writers. Language speakers also develop a better ear for listening.
- Using language skills makes us good multi-taskers, because we learn how to easily switch between different systems of speech, writing and structure. We understand our own language better.
- 75% of the world's population does not speak English at all - so there are huge benefits of speaking a native language when travelling. As a result, over 1/3 of businesses want people specifically for their language skills - multilingual employees can expect a 20% increase in salary in certain jobs
- There are mental benefits of language learning, too - students who study a foreign language for 4 or more years outperform their classmates in exams.

External Assessment

There are four exams in GCSE French and each is worth 25% of the qualification.

Listening: Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language

Reading: Understanding and responding to different types of written language

Speaking: Speaking exam completed with the class teacher using photo card, role play and general conversation

Writing: Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

These exams can be taken at foundation tier (Grade 1-5) or higher tier (Grades 4-9).

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
French	AQA	8652	www.aqa.org.uk

A GCSE in a language is vital if you want to go on and study the language in 6th Form, but it is much more than just a qualification. It could be the start of a life of travel and exploration. Languages can provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. Learning a language develops your communication skills, vital for success in the world of work and gives you a broader outlook on life. Having a GCSE in a language is also increasingly seen as an important entry qualification for university and for many graduate schemes. We also know that employers value languages, as they are becoming more important to make sure we can compete in the global market.

Director of Faculty: Mr Meneghello

Geography

'Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future.' - Michael Palin



Why Study Geography?

Geography enables you to develop an in depth and varied understanding of the world around you. It allows you to feel empowered that you are aware of the ever changing nature of places and how interconnected human and physical processes are in shaping our world.

It is full of exciting case studies like the cereal killer café in London, tourism in Jamaica and the vibrant favelas of Rio de Janeiro. This knowledge of the places around you will spark a want to explore these places for yourself.

What Will You Study?

The course is split into these 9 sections. These topics will allow you to understand the physical processes that shape the land we live on and how humans are living in limbo of destroying and saving our world.

No geography course would be complete without field trips to see all this theory in action. In Year 10 you will undertake two trips, one to an urban area and the other the famous beach field trip where ice creams and fish and chips are a must!

External Assessment

Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment	1 hour 30 minutes	35%	The challenge of natural hazards The living world Physical landscapes in the UK
Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment	1 hour 30 minutes	35%	Urban issues and challenges The changing economic world The challenge of resource management
Paper 3 – Geographical Applications	1 hour 30 minutes	30	Issue evaluation Fieldwork Geographical skills

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Geography	AQA	8035	www.aqa.org.uk

The options after geography really are surprising, it's not just being a geologist or a teacher (although they are fabulous careers). At college/6th Form and university you can delve into all the topics covered in your GCSE's in more depth and detail. This could open up passions, therefore careers such as being an urban planner for the cities of the future or working with charities and organizations to help combat poverty is some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world.

Director of Faculty: Mr Haymes

History

'Study the past if you would define the future.' - Confucius



Why Study History?

History is a magnificent subject and worth studying simply because it is such an interesting and varied course. However, it is the only subject that enables you to delve into the past with the intention of moving forward into the future as responsible citizens of the world; intent on avoiding the previous mistakes of others. If only more of the world's leaders had studied it in an attempt to understand the attitudes and values of others! It has been the most popular subject at GCSE here at Iceni for a number of years and the results have consistently been amongst the best in the Academy. Last year and the year before they were the best, with students not only achieving the highest proportion of grades 9-7 and the most progress in the Academy but in the Trust as an entirety, which consists of ten secondary schools across the country. This is partly because it is taught by people who will demand the most from you, people who are passionate about the subject, prepared to give quality feedback on how to improve and to go the extra mile to ensure you get the most from your talents.

What will I study?

Paper 1: This based upon a thematic study of medicine in Britain 1250-present, (including Black Death, the Renaissance, germ theory of disease, cholera and high technology medicine of the C20th) and a study of the historic environment, located on the British sector of the Western Front in World War One. A field trip to the World War One battlefields of Belgium and France will be available to all Year Nine students who intend to select History at GCSE, which will support and enrich the topic relating to Medicine on the Western Front. This will assess both knowledge and understanding and their interpretation of sources. This topic will be studied in the first part of Year Ten.

Paper 2: This addresses firstly an exciting unit on Elizabethan England. This focuses on the challenges of ruling as a single woman, the Spanish Armada, poverty, education and leisure and the discovery and early colonisation of America. The second section examines the American West 1835-1862, where students will study the Plains Indians, the development of the Great Plains, including some of the great gunfights from history and finally conflict with the native peoples, ending with the destruction of their way of life. The examination assesses their knowledge and understanding exclusively. The American West is studied in the second part of Year Ten and Elizabethan England in the first part of Year Eleven

Paper 3: In this topic students explore post-WW1 Germany and the challenges faced by the newly created Weimar Republic. Amidst economic upheaval and attempted revolutions students will develop an understanding of the early years of the Nazi party including its successes and failures in the years up to 1929. After this, students will discover how Hitler went from being a fringe politician to Chancellor of Germany and how a democratic nation was turned into a totalitarian dictatorship in which rights and freedoms were curtailed. Finally, the lives of different groups within Germany are introduced and students will have the chance to compare and contrast the experiences of different people within the Nazi state.

External Assessment

The GCSE History course will be the new Edexcel specification 1H10. Students will study four topics in preparation for three examinations.

Paper 1	1 hour 15 minutes	30%	Medicine in Britain 1250-present & The British sector of the Western Front, injuries treatment and trenches
Paper 2	1 hour 45 minutes	40%	Early Elizabethan England 1558-88
Paper 3	1 hour 20 minutes	30%	The USA 1954-75-Conflict at home and abroad

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
History	Edexcel	1H10	qualifications.pearson.com

History is an academic discipline rightly highly prized by higher education establishments, whatever subjects you go on to study post sixteen. It is part of the EBacc and bucket two of Progress Eight. Around 50% of lawyers are actually History graduates, whilst many GCSE students from Iceni have gone on to study an A Level in the subject. Other careers closely related to History are journalism and any job that deals with people, such as Nursing, Social Care, the Civil service, Business and a plethora of others.

Director of Faculty: Mr Dyer-Jones

Religious Studies

'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.' - Benjamin Franklin



Religious Studies is one of the most important subjects you can study as it:

- Can **break down social barriers** and **prevent hate crimes** as people are more tolerant and accepting of others.
- Enables students to develop knowledge and understanding of religion, **religious beliefs, practices, language and traditions and their influence on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.**
- Gives students time to consider and respond to a range of important questions related to their own **spiritual development**, the development of values and attitudes and fundamental questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life.

Religious Studies is **concerned with the deep meaning that individuals and groups make of their experiences and how this helps them give purpose to their lives.** It provides opportunities to explore, make and respond to the meanings of those experiences in relation to the beliefs and experiences of others as well as to one's own experiences.

RS aims to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve. To **promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development** and to prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of the present and the future.

RS contributes to students developing knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes, which are **necessary for their personal fulfilment and development as active and responsible citizens. It promotes British values and understanding of laws and society.**

RS develops the following skills: Empathy, problem solving, logic, crafting arguments, research skills, writing, critical thinking etc.

External Assessment			
Paper 1: The study of religions - beliefs, teaching and practices (50% of the GCSE) Beliefs, teachings and practices from Judaism and Christianity.			
Paper 2: Thematic studies (50% of the GCSE) Study of the following aspects of religion:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion and family • Religion and life • Religion, peace and conflict • Religion, crime and punishment 			
Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Religious Studies	AQA	8062	www.aqa.org.uk
RS is a recognised subject for all Universities and is highly valued by Oxbridge. This is because of the skills it develops as listed below and tells employers that you are a tolerant individual who is able to understand others and think logically in regard to difficult questions. RE is a sought after qualification for the following careers: emergency services, armed forces, teaching and education, the Civil Service, business management, writing and journalism, law.			
Director of Faculty: Mr Dyer-Jones			

Cambridge National Sports Studies

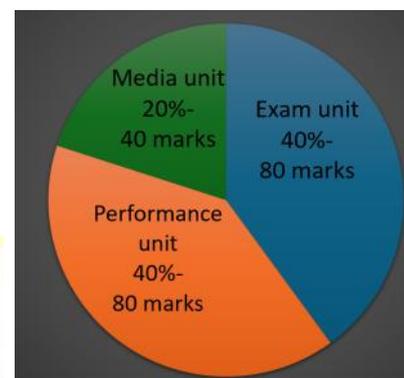
'The sky has no limits. Neither should you.' Usain Bolt



How does the course work?

The course will include the following units:

- R184 Contemporary Issues in Sport- Exam unit
- R185 Performance and Leadership in sports activities- Practical and assignment based
- R186 Sports and the media- Assignment based



Max Uniform Mark	Qualification Grade							
	Distinction* at L2	Distinction at L2	Merit at L2	Pass at L2	Distinction at L1	Merit at L1	Pass at L1	U
200	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	0

Is this course right for me? The aim of the course is to provide pupils with an engaging and interesting PE based, GCSE equivalent qualification. Pupils should have a keen interest in PE and sport, and should participate in activities outside of school. Any pupil taking the qualification can look forward to opportunities to gain marks for practical performance and leadership skills, in a wide range of activities. Pupils can also learn about the effects of the media in sport and how contemporary issues such as drugs, the Olympic movement and technology affect sports participation. Pupils are assessed through a combination of practical lessons, coursework assignments and exams. There is potential for pupils to be assessed in practical activities not offered at the academy such as swimming, equestrian, gymnastics and more, providing they are a member of a formal club and the activity appears on the OCR approved activity list. Please do come and speak to Mrs Bradley or another member of the PE Department if you have any questions about this course. We absolutely love working with our KS4 PE pupils and we are more than happy to talk through any aspect of Sports Studies, to ensure that you make the right choice, for you!

External Assessment

External Exam: R184 'Contemporary Issues in Sport'

NEA Coursework: R185 'Performance and Leadership in sports activities'

NEA Coursework: R186 'Sports and the Media'

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Cambridge National Sports Studies	OCR	J829	www.ocr.org.uk

This course would enable you to study Sports based qualifications at College, or A-Level Physical Education at Sixth Form. It will also equip you with basic skills to start a career path working in sport related areas such as coaching, teaching, sports media and technology based roles and roles within sports governing.

Director of Faculty: Mrs R. Bradley

