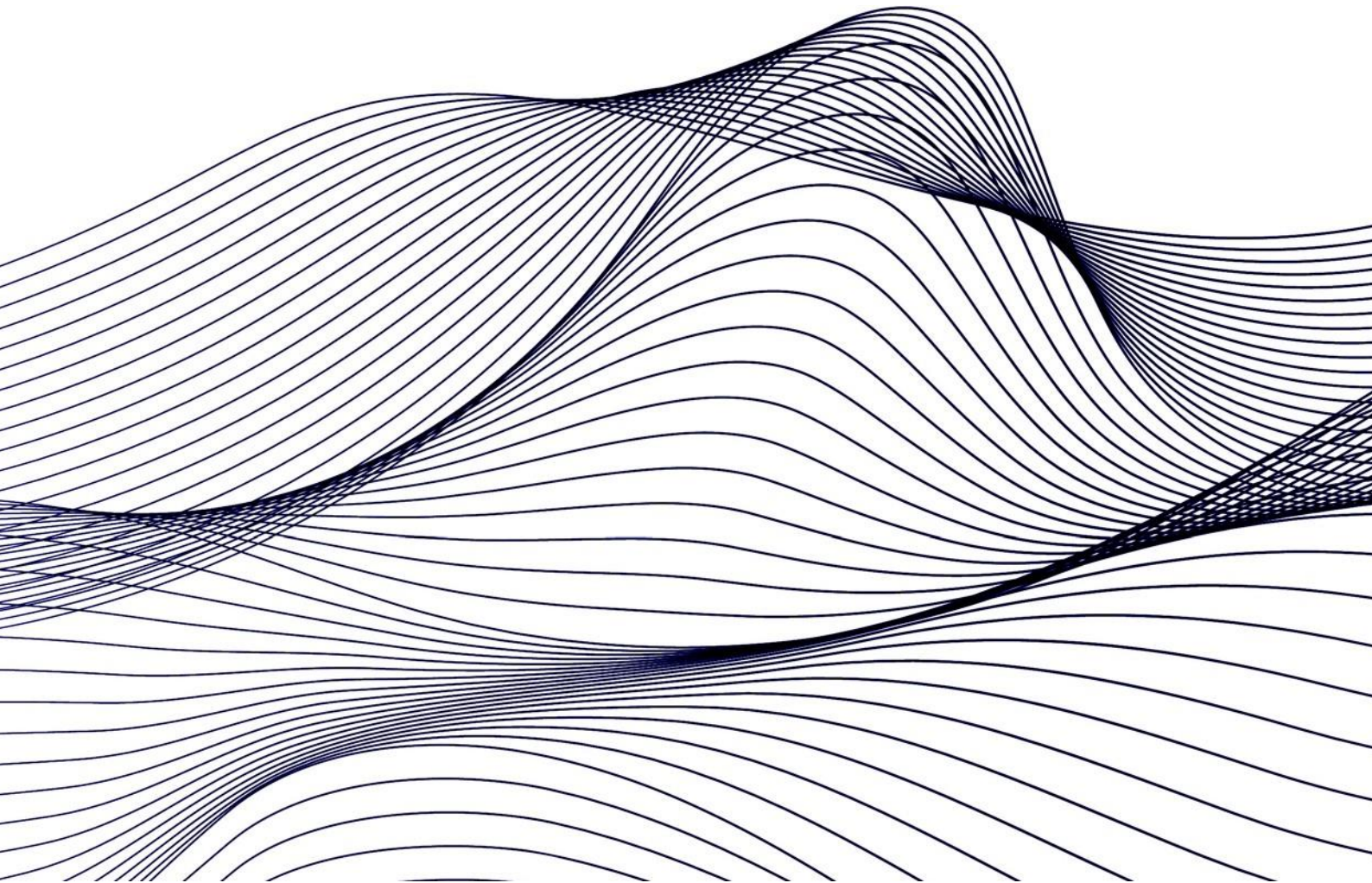
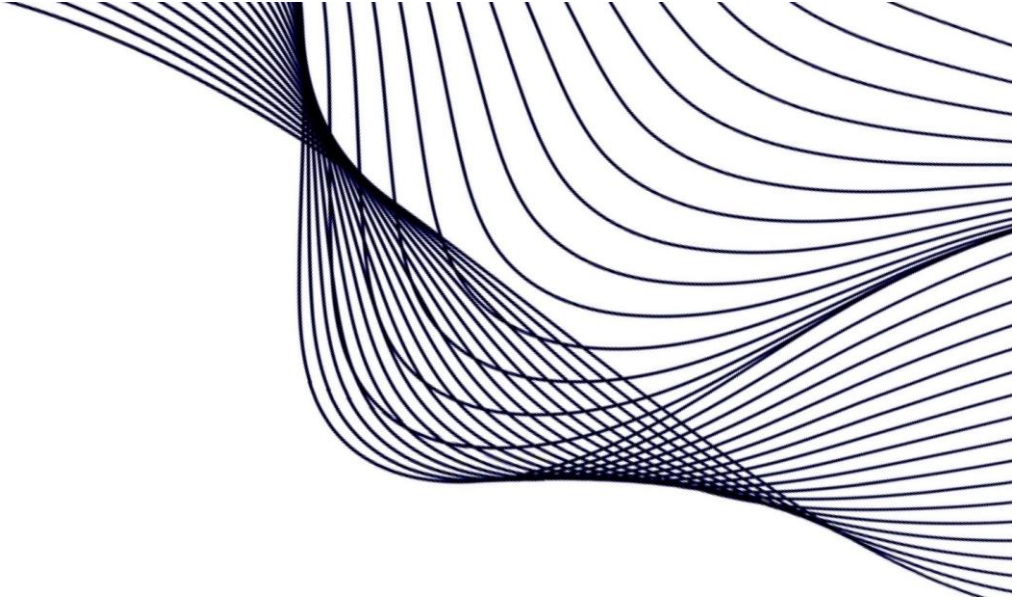


# Hasmonean High School for Girls

KS4 Options – September 2025





# NEW BEGINNINGS

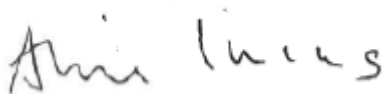
Choosing your GCSE subjects is one of the first opportunities you will be given to direct the course of your adult life. One or more of the courses you choose may be directly linked to a future career or begin a journey into a subject which lasts a lifetime.

At Hasmonean High School for Girls, we believe that you should be given the widest range of high quality courses from which to choose. As well as studying Jewish Studies, English, Mathematics and Science, you will choose from a broad range of academic, talent-based and career-based courses. In addition to these examined courses, you will have many enrichment subjects to choose from to educate you about a variety of areas that you have not yet encountered.

When choosing courses, ensure that the ones you opt for play to your strengths and also establish a broad foundation upon which you can further develop. After reading through this brochure, speak to your parents and teachers, as well as students in higher years, to ensure you know exactly what a course involves. A course may sound exciting, but is it appropriate for you? Don't wait until it starts to find out what it involves: do the research now.

Making choices about which GCSE and enrichment subjects you will take is a very important time in your life; it is also a very exciting one too. Take the decision-making process seriously. Prepare yourself to be truly inspired by the world of learning that awaits you.

Choose well!



**Mrs A Lucas**  
**Headteacher**

# CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS

This booklet describes the KS4 courses on offer at Hasmonean High School for Girls and aims to help students make informed decisions about the courses they choose to study.

During the first three years at Hasmonean High School for Girls, alongside the comprehensive programme of Jewish Studies, each student is introduced to a range of subjects based on the National Curriculum. Whilst it is not possible to study all of these subjects to GCSE level, all students should maintain a breadth in their studies. Across the curriculum, your daughter will build on the progress that she has made at Key Stage 3, with opportunities to strengthen her resilience and independence as a learner.

We want her to grow into a confident learner who is motivated through her curriculum choices to achieve now and in the future. This is her first step on a personalised pathway which will take her into the 6th form and beyond.

## **COMPULSORY CORE COURSES**

All students will take courses in:

- English Language – GCSE
- English Literature – GCSE
- Mathematics – GCSE
- Combined Science – 2 GCSEs (*or 3 separate GCSEs*)
- Religious Studies iGCSE **or** Biblical Hebrew GCSE
  
- PE – Non exam
- Jewish studies – Non exam

## **OPTION COURSES**

All students will take 3 option courses

## **EBACC**

The EBacc includes GCSEs in English, Maths, two Sciences, History or Geography and a language; French, Spanish, MH or BH. It is recognised by employers and universities as giving a broad and balanced curriculum.

## **THE DECISIONS YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE**

The decisions you make in Year 9 are important because they will shape the next 2 years of your school life and can have implications towards what you do after GCSEs. Because you are studying fewer subjects, the ones you choose can be studied in greater depth.

## **WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?**

The subjects you are best at are often the ones you are passionate about. Think about the subjects you enjoy studying and why. Do they bring out your creative side? Do other languages or cultures excite you? Choose subjects that interest, inspire and motivate you.

## **THE FUTURE**

Although the choices you make are very important, don't worry too much about the future. Many people are unsure about what they want to do with their lives, so just remember to choose a balanced set of subjects you enjoy.

## **STILL UNSURE?**

If your brain is a muddle and you don't know where to start, why not speak to the people that will be teaching you. They will let you know what the lessons involve and you'll be able to see if it's for you. Remember though, think about what's best for you, not just what pleases your friends, family and teachers.

## **TOP TIPS**

- Be unique; don't take a subject just because your friends have. Branch out, take the subjects you love and see it as an opportunity to make new friends.
- If you have no idea what careers interest you, choose a broad range of subjects.
- Some GCSE courses lean more towards coursework and others are much more exam-led. Which do you prefer?
- Be realistic in your choices. Choose the subjects that will give you the best chance of getting good grades.



# PATHWAYS

## EBacc Pathways

### **BLUE PATHWAY – EBacc Pathway with Biblical Hebrew**

Students will take Biblical Hebrew as well as either Geography *or* History. They will then choose **two further options** from the list.

*We encourage most students to choose an EBacc pathway*

### **GREEN PATHWAY – EBacc Pathway with Religious Studies**

Students will take Religious Studies as well as Geography *or* History **and** French, Spanish *or* MH.

They will then choose **one further option** from the list.

*We encourage most students to choose an EBacc pathway*

## Non-EBacc Pathways

### **YELLOW PATHWAY – Non-EBacc Pathway with Religious Studies**

Students will take Religious Studies.

Students must choose either History, Geography, French, Spanish **or** MH.

They will then choose **two further options** from the list.

### **RED PATHWAY – Non-EBacc Pathway with Biblical Hebrew**

Students will take Biblical Hebrew.

They will then choose **three further options** from the list.

Options subject list	EBacc Pathways		Non-EBacc Pathways	
	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
Art & Design: Fine Art GCSE Business GCSE	Biblical Hebrew	Religious Studies	Religious Studies	Biblical Hebrew
Computer Science GCSE Film Studies GCSE Food & Nutrition GCSE French GCSE Geography GCSE	Geography <i>or</i> History	Geography <i>or</i> History	Geography, History, French, Spanish <i>or</i> MH	Option Subject 1
Health & Social Care BTEC History GCSE Modern Hebrew GCSE Music GCSE	Option Subject 1	French, Spanish <i>or</i> MH	Option Subject 1	Option Subject 2
Physical Education GCSE Spanish GCSE Textiles GCSE	Option Subject 2	Option Subject 1	Option Subject 2	Option Subject 3
<b>Reserve Subjects</b>	1. ....			

**Option subjects should be ranked in order of preference.** With Option Subject 1 being the 1<sup>st</sup> choice subject of study.

### **OPTIONS FORM**

Students will select their options using an online form. Instructions on how to log in and submit options are all provided in the options letters that have been sent out. Students will be asked to select reserve option subjects, as we cannot guarantee that all students will be able to do the combination of subjects they have chosen.

The deadline for submitting the options form is **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.**

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA ENGLISH LANGUAGE: 8700 AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE: 8702
CONTACT:	MS L. WAUGH

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The English Language GCSE will encourage students to read a range of challenging literary and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st century.

Students will learn to write for different purposes and audiences. There will be a focus on clarity and accuracy in the writing of standard English, including vocabulary, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Students will develop their speaking and listening skills, in particular your confidence in formal speaking.

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

The English Literature GCSE will encourage you to read a range of classic and post-1914 literature, including Shakespeare, drama, a novel and a selection of poetry.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE

There will be examinations at the end of the course. Reading and writing will be equally weighted in the assessment.

A Spoken Language endorsement, based on a formal presentation, will be listed separately to the GCSE.

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

There will be examinations at the end of the course. Students will be assessed in their reading of 'unseen' texts as well as 'set' texts. The quality of your writing when responding to texts will also be assessed.



# MATHEMATICS

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL
CONTACT:	MRS M. LANDSBERG/DR B FADDY

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The areas of study are:

- Numbers and Proportionality
- Algebra
- Geometry, Shape and Space
- Statistics and Probability

The scheme of work is topic based, with the intention that all groups work on the same chapters concurrently. This will enable ease of movement between groups.

Most students are entered for the Higher award. Students in the lowest set will take the Foundation tier (alongside any students in the set above who are having particular difficulties in Mathematics.)

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This examination has two tiers of entry – Higher (9 to 4) and Foundation (5 to 1). Both tiers are examined by two calculator and one non-calculator paper at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework for this GCSE.

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Further Maths is an additional GCSE that starts in the summer term of Year 10. It is open to students who are achieving grades 8 and 9. This course provides an excellent foundation to those students interested in taking Maths at A-Level.

Areas of study:

- Numbers
- Algebra
- Coordinate Geometry
- Calculus
- Matrix Transformations
- Geometry



# SCIENCE

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE, GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA
CONTACT:	MR M. SOMERS/MS I. ORDMAN

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Hasmonean High School for Girls offers varied pathways in which Science can be studied: GCSE Combined Science – 2 GCSEs

GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics – Triple Science (3 GCSEs)

The specification covers; 7 topics in Biology, 10 topics in Chemistry and 6 topics in Physics (7 in Triple Science). Both science qualifications also include required practicals, which are assessed in the final exams.

All science GCSE classes are taught by more than one specialist teacher, with each students' individual pathway decided as the course progresses.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE - All external assessments will be taken at the end of Year 11. Students will also be assessed internally throughout the course. Students will sit 6 science papers; two for each science. Each paper assesses knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. The GCSE will be graded 9-1.

# TRIPLE SCIENCE

Triple science offers a more in-depth exploration and a deeper understanding of each science discipline. All students will be given the option of taking Triple Science at the end of Year 9. Students who want to take Triple Science must achieve a minimum of grade 6 in their End of Year 9 exam. The timetabling of Triple Science lessons, whether during lunchtime, after school or part of science lessons, will be determined based on the number of students expressing interest.

Regardless of whether students choose Combined or Triple science, they will have access to the full range of 9-1 grades, as well we access to all Science A-Levels and Science based degrees, including Medicine.



# BIBLICAL HEBREW

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL/1BHO
CONTACT:	MRS M. GOLDBLATT

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course aims to inspire and challenge students by engaging them in the process of enquiry into Biblical Hebrew. You will study a range of Biblical texts to discover aspects of the language and develop an understanding of its structure.

Throughout the course, students will acquire a knowledge and understanding of the literary, contextual and grammatical features of the two set texts studied.

Biblical Hebrew is offered as an alternative to the Religious Studies iGCSE.

The set texts are:

- Set text 1: Joseph's rise to power – Genesis 41,42,43
- Set text 2: The miracles of Elisha – Kings II 4,5,6,7

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two exam papers.

Paper 1: Language 50% - 2 hours

Students will need to:

- Answer comprehension questions based on unseen passages of Biblical Hebrew
- Translate unseen passages of Biblical Hebrew into English
- Choose between answering grammar questions or translating sentences from English into Biblical Hebrew

Paper 2: Literature 50% - 2 hours

Students will need to:

- Answer comprehension and grammar questions about the set texts
- Translate passages from the set texts into English
- Evaluate the use of language in passages from the set texts
- Write a short essay comparing themes in the two set texts

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES iGCSE

LEVEL OFFERED:	iGCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	(4RS1)/EDEXCEL PEARSON
CONTACT:	RABBI D. HODGES

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course aims to provide a broad understanding of the key values and beliefs of Judaism. In addition, students will learn how modern British society responds to the topics and issues covered in the course.

Paper 1 – Beliefs and Values focuses on beliefs and values of Judaism including the universe and place of human beings, life and death, peace and conflict and rights, equality and social justice.

Paper 2 – The Religious Community paper contains an exploration of the origins of Judaism and their impact on the community, celebrations and pilgrimage and worship and practice.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All examinations take place at the end of Year 11, there is no coursework or exams until the end of the course.

There are two exam papers.

Paper 1: Beliefs and Values 62.5% - 1 hour 45 minutes

Students will need to:

Answer four, four part questions each worth 25 marks. Each question has a 3 and 4 mark short answer question, a 6 mark explanation question and a 12 mark longer evaluation question designed to assess knowledge and understanding.

Paper 2: The Religious Community - 1 hour 30 minutes.

Students will need to:

Answer three, three part questions, each questions is worth 20 marks. Each question has a 4 mark short answer question, 6 mark explanation question and a 10 mark knowledge and understanding question.

# ART & DESIGN: FINE ART

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD: FA01/02 EDEXCEL
CONTACT:	MS N. STAVROU

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Fine Art students you will study the creative process of art, craft and design in order to develop as effective and independent students, and become critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Students will learn to develop creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring and making images, artefacts and products. Students of Fine Art will become confident in taking risks and learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques. Students will develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills. Students will learn to develop and refine ideas and proposals, personal outcomes or solutions with increasing independence. Through their studies, students will acquire and develop technical skills in a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent. They will expand their knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures. Finally, students will develop an awareness of the different roles and individual work practices evident in the production of art, craft and design in the creative and cultural industries.

More specifically, Fine Art is work that is developed primarily to communicate visually appealing ideas and meanings rather than to serve a practical or commercial function.

Materials used: Wide range of drawing media, acrylic and watercolour paints, collage, printing, oil pastel, chalk pastel and mixed media.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will be assessed on 2 units of coursework.

UNIT 1: Personal study which is worth 60% of your overall mark

UNIT 2: Externally set assignment which is worth 40% of your overall mark

There is no written exam. Students will have a period of sustained working under controlled conditions as part of Unit 2. Students will work for a total of 10 hours over two days on a final piece that has been planned and practised. We call this the art exam.

For both Unit 1 and 2, students will be assessed on the following objectives:

1. Develop (18 marks)
2. Refine (18 marks)
3. Record (18 marks)
4. Present (18 marks)





# BUSINESS

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL BUSINESS 1BSO
CONTACT:	MRS P. KLINGER

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course will enable students to understand the challenges facing small businesses in the modern UK trading environment. They will be taught how entrepreneurs work to set up and develop a new business, as well as how businesses grow. It will enable students to appreciate the stresses of being in business operating in a competitive environment, including the financial, marketing and manufacturing challenges in building a business's trading operation in the 'real world'. The course will provide a basis for the concepts that can be investigated in the Business and Economics A-Level courses taught in the Sixth Form.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Theme 1 (taught in Year 10): Investigating small business (paper code 1BS0/01). This written exam paper has 90 marks available and the exam lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. It is worth 50% of the overall GCSE qualification mark. It is composed of multiple choice, short- answer and extended essay case-study based questions.

Theme 2 (taught in Year 10 & 11): Building a business (paper code 1BS0/02). The written exam paper has 90 marks available and the exam lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. It is worth 50% of the overall GCSE qualification mark. The exam is also composed of multiple choice, short-answer and extended essay case-study questions.

Year 11 will focus on exam technique, revision and consolidating the topics from the two themes.

## ENTRY GUIDELINES

Students should have an interest in current business activities as they exist in the news or business environment. They will be required to answer questions on small business case study sources with an ability to analyse and evaluate, as well cope with multiple- choice style questions and simple business financial calculations.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 8525
CONTACT:	MR R. KESSLER

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way technology is consumed has been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges.

A computational thinking exam provides an academically challenging programme. Students will build on their knowledge of the Python programming language started in Year 8. The skills developed here will help students progress onto A Level Computer Science, as well as being able to apply them to other subjects. Critical thinking and problem solving are key skills of computational thinking and much in demand.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students studying this subject will learn how to decompose a problem, filter all but the essential aspects and use logical thinking to arrive at a solution. They will learn about both the theoretical and practical aspects. In the theory portion, they will learn about mathematical operators, Boolean, variable declaration, iterations and subroutines amongst other aspects. In programming they will learn how to create subroutines (functions and procedures). They will also be able to write and understand algorithms amongst a wide range of other concepts.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Paper 1** – 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of total GCSE.

Programming and algorithms. Code tracing, writing code, constructing algorithms.

**Paper 2** – 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of total GCSE.

Data representation, computer systems, networks, databases, cyber security, ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society.

**Programming Project** – The project will take around 20 hours to complete. This will be done in lessons and at home. Although not marked, it is a course requirement.

This course is very demanding but also extremely fulfilling. Due to the level of complexity involved, we would require any applicants to be in either set 1 or 2 for both Mathematics and English, to ensure the best chance of a successful outcome.

# FILM STUDIES

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDUQAS
CONTACT:	MR J. HOLDER

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Film Studies is designed to draw on learners' enthusiasm for film and introduce them to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of film and film technology. Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film by studying one film from the 1950s and another from the 70s and 80s, looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films – a US independent film as well as films from Europe including the UK, South Africa and Australia.

Students will study the ways in which meanings and responses are generated through film

- Film construction – through cinematography (camerawork and lighting), mise-en-scène (how sets, locations, props and costume are used in film), editing and sound
- Film organisation into structures – genre (the different kinds of film) and narrative (how films tell their stories)
- How films can be used – artistically (the aesthetic qualities of film) and as a way of communicating ideas and issues (representation)
- How learners make sense of film through exploring a film's relevant contexts (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional), through an awareness of key aspects of the history of film and through specialist writing on film.

In addition, the specification aims to enable learners to apply their knowledge and understanding of film to filmmaking or screenwriting.

All films are chosen to fit in with and respect the school's ethos.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will be complete 2 exams as well as a coursework component that includes either an opening sequence to a film or a screenplay.

Paper 1 – 35%. Key developments in film history. A comparative study of 1950's and 2000's films and how Hollywood has changed over time.

Paper 2 - 35%. Narrative representation and film style. A comparative study of British, global English & foreign language films. This exam focuses on language and social contexts.

NEA - 30%. Completion of an opening film sequence or screenplay.

Due to the academic vigour of the course, and to ensure the best outcome, Film Studies is recommended for those that love watching films and enjoy writing essays.

# FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 8585
CONTACT:	MRS C. MERRITT

This GCSE teaches students to understand the scientific principles behind food and nutrition. Students will use a number of practical cooking techniques to learn how to prepare and cook food. The qualification will be demanding and give students in-depth knowledge of nutrition, food choice, where food comes from and practical cooking, as well as the ability to apply this knowledge when cooking. It will prepare them for further study, such as Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition, BTEC Hospitality or apprenticeships in the catering or food industries.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Food preparation: planning, preparing and cooking using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment; exploring a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.
- Nutrition: exploring the functions and sources of nutrients as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks; diet and health.
- Food: understanding the economic, environmental, ethical, socio-cultural influences on food availability and production processes, and studying food provenance (where our food comes from).

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

50% Non-Exam Assessment and 50% Written Exam

The Non Exam assessment will be comprised of two separate projects:

Task 1: Food Investigation (worth 15% of the GCSE)

Task 2: Food Preparation (35% of the GCSE, including a 3-hour practical exam)







# GEOGRAPHY

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL B
CONTACT:	MS R. CHALLICE

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Geography plays a crucial role in helping understand the world we live in and the challenges we currently face. It examines local and global issues and the interactions between humans and the physical world. Geography helps us to plan for a more sustainable future for people and the environment.

The course includes topics such as:

- Natural hazards including volcanoes and cyclones
- Coping with climate change
- Living sustainably in cities
- Managing food, water and energy into the future
- Poverty and development
- The formation of river and coastal landscapes
- Biodiversity and ecosystems

There are fieldwork trips to a river and to an urban location. The data collected is used to produce graphs, GIS maps and reports, strengthening ICT skills.

Geography links well with the Science GCSE as well as Mathematics, History, Business Studies and ICT

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is entirely by examination.

Unit 1: Global Geographical Issues (37.5%)

Unit 2: UK Geographical Issues and field work skills (37.5%)

Unit 3: People and environmental issues includes a decision making exercise that assesses geographical skills (25%)

# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

<b>LEVEL OFFERED:</b>	CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2   NHEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
<b>SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:</b>	OCR – J835
<b>CONTACT:</b>	MRS R. CARLIER

The OCR programme is an introduction to vocational learning. This is a course which will appeal to students interested in pursuing a career that involves caring for and interacting with people of all ages and backgrounds in society. The careers that start from Health and Social Care are endless – Nurse, Midwife, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Paramedic, charity work and more.

The course comprised 3 units of work over two years which cover a variety of interesting and challenging topics. These include:

- The key characteristics of the physical, intellectual, emotional and social development from babies to elderly people,
- how factors (diet, alcohol, smoking and poverty for example) can affect an individual's current and future health and wellbeing
- The skills, attributes and values required to give care and how the health sector and social care sector work together
- Planning and delivering creative and therapeutic activities for vulnerable groups

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed through three compulsory units, two are assignments done in class and one is an exam. This is a two-year course and the exam unit R033 will be taken in January of the second year.

Unit number	Unit title	What is it	When assessed
Unit N°R032	Principles of Care in health and social care settings	Externally assessed: exam 40% of final grade	January of second year
Unit N°R033	Supporting Individuals through Life Events	Internally assessed: coursework 30% of final grade	May of first year
Unit N°R034	Creative and Therapeutic Activities	Internally assessed: coursework 30% of final grade	May of second year





# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE FRENCH, SPANISH, MODERN HEBREW
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA/EDEXCEL
CONTACT:	MRS F. KATZ

## Languages are not merely a passport to an EBacc they are your window to the world!

Languages are highly valued at university and in the work place. British business is in need of more people who can speak foreign languages, with 3 in 4 British people saying they cannot hold a conversation in the top 10 languages. Take the first step to becoming a sought after asset or maybe just expand your possibilities for travel.

### NEED MORE REASONS TO CHOOSE A LANGUAGE GCSE?

1. English is not enough. Not everyone speaks, or wants to speak English.
2. A language will always be useful, no matter what you do.
3. In class, you will study a wide range of topics all about different people and cultures, not just how to speak.
4. You can read books, watch films and listen to songs in their native language – and understand them too.
5. Languages mean business - being able to speak a language will make you stand out.
6. They're good for you. Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and improves your memory.
7. It's really impressive to be able to speak a foreign language. It's a real achievement that your friends will envy and universities and employers will love.
8. You can understand and talk to lots more people when you go abroad.
9. Using a language at work could raise your salary from 8-20%.
10. Learning languages really improves your communication skills.

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is structured around three themes and aims to teach students about subjects relevant to their current experience, as well as broaden their knowledge about the culture and traditions of the countries where the target language is spoken. Students will study the following three themes: Identity and culture; Local, national and global areas of interest; and Current and future study and employment.

The GCSE will teach students to write and speak a language spontaneously and for a particular purpose. The reading and listening comprehension units will enable students to deal with authentic materials and cope with taught language in a range of contexts. The Modern Foreign Language GCSE is designed and taught at Hasmonian High School for Girls to foster lifelong language students.



## **MODERN HEBREW – AQA MH 8678**

Why choose Modern Hebrew for GCSE? Simple. This is the closest students can get to actually being in Israel without stepping on an aeroplane! Moreover, students will be updated with new Israeli slang, music and films, get advice on where to go and what to do in the Holy Land and much, much more. And most importantly: knowledge of Modern Hebrew is not only an academic study, it will be a very useful skill for students when visiting, staying or living in Israel in present and future.

## **SPANISH – EDEXCEL 2024**

Students will learn about the culture, festivals, traditions and communities in countries all around the world where Spanish is spoken. The course will cover topics as diverse as new technology, holidays, future plans, music and sports. Join the fastest growing language and although it might not be perceived as a language of business, with 405 million native speakers, Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language after Mandarin. Open up travel, friendships and business with Spain, South America and even parts of North America.

GCSE Spanish will give students the foundation they need to take their linguistic skills further. The opportunities to continue after with A Levels or as an additional course at university, students can make learning Spanish a life-long adventure.

## **FRENCH – EDEXCEL 2024**

Knowing how to converse in French will open up opportunities not available to monolingual English speakers. There are numerous benefits in being able to converse in a foreign language; it shows you have an analytical and disciplined mind, and gives students the chance to discover different cultures, people and customs. You are able to gain a far deeper understanding of them than is ever possible without knowledge of the language. Travelling and cultural pursuits are made more rewarding and so much more fulfilling than if you speak only English. Most of all, being able to communicate on any level with somebody from a different culture in his or her language is invaluable. Languages are also very well-regarded in the workplace in any field and not limited to teaching and interpreting.

## **HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

Grading is 9-1 and there is the option of taking either Foundation or Higher. The Foundation paper will enable you to gain a maximum grade of 5.

All four papers are equally weighted and cover all four Language skills.

Paper 1: Speaking paper

Paper 2: Listening paper

Paper 3: Reading paper

Paper 4: Writing paper



# MUSIC

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 8271
CONTACT:	MRS C. ALGRANATI

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Classical Music from 1750 - 1910
- Popular Music, including Broadway Musicals, Film Music and Gaming Music
- Traditional Music including Blues, Fusion and Folk Music
- 20th Century Classical Music.

Acceptance to Music GCSE is dependent on:

1. A minimum standard of Grade 2 on an instrument at the start of the course;
2. Successful completion of an aural test and interview with Mrs Algranati.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The music course is made up of three compulsory units:

- Performing 30% (controlled assessment)
- Composing 30% (partly controlled assessment)
- Listening and Appraising 40%



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE/BTEC – to be confirmed depending on cohort
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL
CONTACT:	MR M. TUTTY

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students will:

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of applied anatomy and physiology; movement analysis and physical training. Students can use this knowledge to analyse and evaluate performance and devise informed strategies for improving/optimising their own practical performance.
- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the contribution that physical activity and sport make to health, fitness, and well-being. Students will learn how these can impact on their own performance, including the psychology of sport and socio-cultural influences.
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills as well as techniques and selecting and using tactics and strategies.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of data analysis in relation to key areas of physical activity and sport.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Examination is externally assessed through two written examination papers, of 1h 45 minutes and 1h 15 minutes in duration. This will contribute 60% of the total marks.

Unit 2 – Non-exam assessment, 40% is assessed in two sections.

Section 1 – Three practical performances in the role of player/performer. Students can achieve 30% of the marks from the three performances.

Section 2 – Analysis of performance in one of the chosen activities. This will be worth 10% of the marks and should include planning, performing and evaluating a training programme.

# TEXTILES

LEVEL OFFERED:	GCSE
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 8204
CONTACT:	MRS C. MACNEILL

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE Art & Design: Textiles Design involves the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched or printed fabrics and an understanding of fibres, yarns and fabrics. Textiles gives students the opportunity to experiment in a range of media in order to explore their strengths and discover new ones. Students will develop these skills, using them to explore ideas relating to a theme of their choice. Researching designers that inspire them and learning from their methods is an important part of the course. Students will learn to analyse their work and understand art in the wider context of history.

- Actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design to develop effective and independent students, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Develop creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring and making images, artefacts and products
- Become confident in taking risks and learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques
- Develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills
- Develop and refine ideas and proposals, personal outcomes or solutions with increasing independence
- Acquire and develop technical skills through working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent
- Develop knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures
- Develop an awareness of the different roles and individual work practices evident in the production of art, craft and design in the creative and cultural industries

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

UNIT 1: Personal study (course work) = 60%

UNIT 2: Externally set assignment (exam) = 40%

You will be assessed using assessment objectives:

- Develop
- Refine
- Record
- Present

# POLICY FOR DROPPING OR CHANGING GCSE SUBJECTS

## **CHANGING OPTION SUBJECTS**

Students will be able to change option subjects up until **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**. Students can only change into a course if the Subject Leader agrees that it is feasible for the student to catch up on the work missed, there is space in the class and that it fits into the timetable alongside other option subjects. Requests should be made to the Year Leader who will then process the request and notify their parents of the decision. Students who change course must catch up the work within the timeframe set by the Subject Leader.

## **DROPPING OPTION SUBJECTS**

Students **will not be allowed to** drop option subjects in Year 10-11 unless they have a letter from a medical organisation and the issue raised is consistent with evidence seen in school. No requests will be granted before there has been a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss the issue.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND):**

The School's SENDCO, Mrs Sutton ([m.sutton@hasmonean.co.uk](mailto:m.sutton@hasmonean.co.uk)) can be contacted regarding any SEND issues. Where students require additional support in order to access education, personal learning plans will be developed between school and home to ensure appropriate adjustments are made and students can thrive.

## **NOTES:**



Hasmonean High School for Girls  
Page Street, London  
NW7 2EU  
Tel: 020 8203 1411

