



Key Stage 4 Information Booklet

19 July 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

We are pleased to be sending you a copy of Wren Academy's first Key Stage 4 course information booklet.

As you know, in order to give our students the best possible lead in to their GCSE's examination courses in most subjects will begin in September 2010. This means that in effect, students will follow a three year Key Stage 4 course for the majority of their curriculum.

Those subject combinations where students have more of a choice over their preferred pathways (Humanities, ADT and Performing Arts) will commence GCSE in earnest from September 2011. This is to give students more time to consider which particular disciplines they wish to follow within these areas.

Because of our status as a Church of England School Religious Studies will be our inaugural GCSE for all students in 2012. However, as I have discussed with many of you, early entry to GCSE will be the exception rather than the rule at Wren.

We believe the Key Stage 4 courses we will be following at Wren offer our students an exciting and varied curriculum. Most importantly, the courses play to their strengths and will enable Wren students to achieve to the best of their academic ability. We hope you find this booklet useful. If you have any further questions please consult the relevant head of department in the first instance.

Yours Sincerely



Michael Whitworth
Principal

Art and Design Technology

In Year 9, students will be re-grouped into new ADT groups. These groups will be largely based upon the specific areas of ADT activity which students have expressed a preference for studying in more detail and depth. The areas of specific study correspond to the GCSE courses which we intend to begin in earnest at the start of Year 10. These may include Fine Art, Graphic Design, Textiles, Product Design, 3D Spatial Design and Food Technology.

ADT in Year 9 will act as an introduction and foundation to the specific skills and concepts of the GCSE courses. In the Autumn Term, students learning will be focussed on three five week projects designed to give them a taste of the GCSE courses. During the Spring and Summer Terms, students will continue their learning within their preferred areas, through more sustained activities. In addition, all students will have opportunities to learn more about food and to develop their skills and understanding in other areas of ADT through integrated activities. The learning outcomes may be included in the GCSE submission at the end of Year 11. Students will either be entered for Edexcel Art and Design or OCR Design and Technology depending on their preferences.

Elizabeth Lelliott, Head of Art and Design Technology
elizabeth.elliott@wrenacademy.org

French

In Year 9, most students will start the OCR GCSE course. This will build on their previous learning, as a number of the key topics covered in GCSE have been started in Key Stage 3. Needless to say, the Key Stage 4 curriculum will give students the opportunity to use more complex structures. In particular, students will develop their use of tense and start to understand some more irregular features of the language. Students' listening and reading comprehension will be assessed by a final examination, whilst their speaking and writing will be assessed through a number of controlled assessments. These tasks will be set in line with students' ability. Over the course, students will also have the opportunity to develop their artistic skills, creativity, imagination, and interdependence, and learn about a range of aspects of French life.

Jamie Barnes, Head of Modern Foreign Languages
Jamie.barnes@wrenacademy.org



English

In September we will be studying from challenging texts so that students are stretched and stimulated and placed in a strong position for GCSE study. We aim to cover a wide range of forms and genres including playscripts, contemporary poetry and pre-20th century prose. In addition, students will follow a writing focus unit where the teaching will concentrate on different forms, audience and purpose; a key requirement for GCSE. We plan to build in a range of assessment opportunities, which will cover the three key strands – Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. Students will be assessed against GCSE criteria as part of the preparation for the introduction of GCSE in the summer term. Furthermore, many of the formal assessments will follow the protocols and requirements for ‘Controlled Assessment’ which has replaced coursework at GCSE. The Controlled Assessments completed in the first two terms will not be submitted for GCSE entry; they will be used to form the basis of our Teacher Assessment levels and in order to familiarise students with the process.

All students will begin by studying both English Language and English Literature. We shall be following the AQA syllabus and we aim to complete one Controlled Assessment unit (which will count towards GCSE) during the year. We are considering accelerated entry for GCSE for more able students but this will only happen if students are clearly capable of gaining the highest possible grades. Texts will be selected according to the differing needs and abilities of students so that we ensure we are providing the most appropriate materials for the full cohort. If it is decided that some students would benefit from accelerated entry we would then consider stretching and challenging further study for these students.

Janet Doddy, Head of English
janet.doddy@wrenacademy.org

History and Geography

In Year 9, History and Geography will be taught as separate subjects. The curriculum for both subjects will prepare students for the GCSE by developing the subject specific skills and content needed for success in each GCSE.

GCSE History at Wren will follow the Edexcel A “The Making of the Modern World” syllabus and has been chosen because of the relevance and significance of the subject content which includes:

- a. Peace and War e.g. WWI or the Cold War
- b. Countries at War e.g. Germany or USA
- c. Impact of War e.g. Changes to British Society.

It will cover the period from 1900-91

GCSE Geography will follow the AQA B syllabus, which covers engaging and relevant topics Wren students will enjoy. These will include:

- a. Managing Places in the 21st Century e.g. coasts, rivers and cities.
- b. The Hostile World e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes, deserts and the tropical rainforest
- c. Investigating the Shrinking World e.g. global tourism and global business

Students who follow Geography and/or History will complete their GCSE examination at the end of Year 11.

Ronnie Smylie, Assistant Principal: Humanities and English
ronnie.smylie@wrenacademy.org



ICT

Next academic year students will have one ICT lesson which will focus on working towards the OCR Nationals First Award qualification. This is a skills based course equivalent to one GCSE, and is assessed by coursework only.

Students will be taught a range of relevant skills which will be transferrable to their other subjects, further education and employment. Topics include health and safety, finding and communicating information, spreadsheets, presentations and databases. After Year 9 students will study two further units to complete the qualification. The units will look at similar topics but in greater depth.

Students can achieve three different levels: pass (equivalent to a GCSE grade C), merit (equivalent to a B) and distinction (equivalent to an A). The qualification is flexible to suit the needs of individual students.

Oliver Oakley, Head of ICT
oliver.oakley@wrenacademy.org



Mathematics

Students will commence their Key Stage 4 study at the start of Year 9. We aim to provide a broad and stimulating mathematical experience, providing our students with a strong mathematical basis for their life after school as well as achieving examination success at both GCSE and A-level.

To enable the department to make an initial decision on which tier students are likely to follow they will be required to take an assessment at the end of Year 9. Students may follow either a higher or foundation tier course. Irrespective of the tier students are entered for they will have the opportunity of getting at least a grade C at GCSE. The highest grade attainable on foundation tier is C grade. Students initially entered for the foundation tier will have an opportunity to move to the higher tier if they make progress in Year 10.

Most students will follow a linear GCSE course which culminates in a final examination at the end of the course. To maximise every student's opportunity of gaining a qualification in Mathematics, targeted students will follow a modular GCSE course. The modular Mathematics specification offers a more flexible route to GCSE Mathematics. It aims to motivate students by giving both formative and diagnostic feedback through modular tests taken throughout the course, enabling teachers and students to identify any weaknesses and remedy them.

The courses that will be run are as follows:

Linear Edexcel – This consists of one examination of two equally weighted units available at each of the two tiers, (Higher and Foundation), each worth 50% of the final marks.

Modular AQA- This is organised as three modules - Handling Data, Number and Algebra and Shape, Space and Measures

Edexcel Functional Mathematics - Mathematics Functional Skills are embedded within the new 2010 Mathematics GCSEs. We intend to add Functional Skills Mathematics as a stand-alone qualification to be taken during the GCSE course.

Jude Onye, Head of Mathematics
jude.onye@wrenacademy.org

Performing Arts

In Year 9, students will have one timetabled hour each week for performing arts. They will experience both music and drama during the course of the year. In addition, there will continue to be a full range of music and drama-based enrichments. We anticipate running GCSEs in Music and Drama (Edexcel). Year 9 study in these areas will offer students an introduction to the approaches to learning they may experience at GCSE level, for example, Music Technology. Progress throughout Year 9 will be measured using GCSE criteria

Jane Snowsill, Assistant Principal: Art, Design, Technology, Music, Performing Arts and PE
Jane.snowsill@wrenacademy.org

Physical Education

In Year 9, all students will start a BTEC First in Sport qualification, which is a coursework based qualification with a vocational element.

Assessment levels are based on their understanding on the course content. The lessons will be a mixture of practical and theory where the aim is to provide students with knowledge, understanding and key skills which are used on a daily basis in the sports industry. The selected units also enable students to develop areas they have experienced so far within PE. Students will focus on the practical sport unit, which involves acquiring skills, understanding rules and scoring systems and learning to analyse performance in selected sports. They will also study at a fitness testing and training unit.

Lian Miveld, Head of Physical Education
lian.miveld@wrenacademy.org

Religious Studies

The purpose of all students studying the Religious Studies Edexcel GCSE is to enhance their spiritual and moral development whilst contributing to their health and well being in a rapidly changing world.

The Religious Studies course will be divided into two modules covered over two years. Examinations will be taken at the end of Year 9 and Year 10 (May 2011 and May 2012). Each examination will make up 50% of the final grade. The Edexcel examination board has been chosen as it enables the students to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion. This will enable them to explore religions and beliefs, reflect on fundamental questions, and engage with them intellectually and respond personally.

Students will complete the 'Religion and Life' module in Year 9 and the 'Religion and Society' in Year 10. These modules focus on encouraging an enquiring and reflective approach to the study of religion and its impact on people's lives. Students will be encouraged to develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their studies of contemporary issues. The religions which will be covered over the two year period will be Christianity and Islam together with viewpoints on moral issues from a non religious perspective. Both years of the GCSE will be supported by a text book written for the Edexcel syllabus which will help prepare the students for the examinations.

Angela Walters, Head of Religious Education
angela.walters@wrenacademy.org



Science

At the start of Year 9 all students will be prepared for future GCSE course requirements. This will involve ensuring that the required content knowledge from Key Stage 3 is secure ensuring a solid foundation for further study regardless of what specific course is followed later in the year. Another part of the preparation that is required in readiness for further study is to fully develop the range of scientific skills that future courses demand. This includes further developing the Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) skills from Key Stage 3, (communicating, modelling, investigating, evaluating, applying).

The courses to be offered at GCSE will be the following-

- **Separate Science** (sometimes called Triple Science) - this course comprises of three separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It will require more taught hours than the other courses described and is suitable for students with a real interest, commitment and ability in Science. It provides a route to further study separate sciences at A Level.
- **Core Science + Additional Science** - this course is equivalent to two GCSE's. It is a combination of units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course provides suitable science knowledge for young people to be informed citizens and also the level of content suitable for further study of separate science A Levels.

- **Core Science + Applied Science** - this course is equivalent to two GCSEs. It is a combination of units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. As well as developing informed citizens the course also provides students with an insight into how science is used in the work environment. It exposes students to a range of future careers that require young people to have appropriate scientific knowledge and understanding. This course does not lead to separate science A Levels but does provide access to a range of vocational science courses post 16.

It is expected that the courses followed will be **OCR 21st Century Science**. However, all examination board science specifications are currently under review at government level.

Robert Davighi, Assistant Principal: Science and Mathematics
robert.davighi@wrenacademy.org

