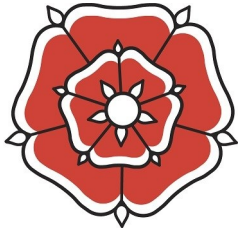


Maidenhill School



**A GUIDE TO
COURSES AT
KEY STAGE 4**

**SEPTEMBER
2025**



Maidenhill School

INTRODUCTION TO KEY STAGE 4

Dear Year 9 Student and Parent/Carer,

Welcome to your Key Stage 4 information booklet. Soon you will be starting Key Stage 4 courses that will prepare you for the next stage of your education. It is important that you are well informed about the courses and what they offer you.

You will follow a common **core** of subjects which comprises English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science, PSHE, and Core Physical Education. You will also study **at least** one EBacc subject (French, History, Geography, Computer Science or Separate Science) and **three** other subjects.

This is the first chance in your school career where you have some decisions to make about the subjects you study. This is an important time as you plan for your next steps. You will receive a great deal of support and advice over the coming months to help you with this.

In this booklet you will find information about the courses we are able to offer at Key Stage 4 for September 2025. The booklet is addressed to you, the student, but you will need to show it to a parent/carer and discuss your course choices with them.

Although planning for Key Stage 4 is very important, **do not forget that you still have HALF of your Year 9 still to complete.** All of your subjects continue to be just as important in order to successfully complete Year 9.

We look forward to helping you to prepare for the next stage of your successful learning journey at Maidenhill School.

Miss S Martin
Assistant Head Teacher

PREPARING FOR KEY STAGE 4: KEY DATES

● **STAGE 1 Choices Evening (16th January 2025)**

A talk about the choices process and an opportunity to speak to staff about the KS4 courses on offer.

● **STAGE 2 Taster Sessions (20th—31st January 2025)**

You will have a planned fortnight of GCSE ‘taster’ lessons in all subjects to make sure you are fully aware of what the lessons and subjects would be like.

Attendance during this time is important to make sure you are fully informed and ready to make the right choices for you.

● **STAGE 3 Preferences (February 2025)**

Monday 3rd February 2025 at 7pm our **online preferences form** will open. A link to access this will be sent via ClassCharts.

Monday 10th February at 9pm is the deadline for completing the preferences form online.

● **STAGE 4 Decisions (May 2025)**

The subject combinations in ‘blocks’ will have been created using the Year 9 students’ preferences. The **online decisions form will open in May for students’ final decisions**. You will be informed of clear opening dates and deadlines nearer the time.

Students will also be given the opportunity to tell us about their future career interests, if they have any at this stage, in support of their decisions. These will be important should a course be oversubscribed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

When the 'blocks' are released in Stage 4 of the process, there is no guarantee that particular subject combinations will be possible or that every proposed course will run.

We cannot run a course for a very small number of students. In addition, some class sizes are limited for Health and Safety or practical reasons, so if oversubscribed some students will need be offered their reserve choice. Justification on the students decisions form will be key in deciding places offered.

Therefore, on your 'Decisions Form' in stage 4 we will be asking you to nominate reserve subjects. This process will enable us to satisfy the decisions of as many students as we possibly can.

In any instances where we are unable to fulfil a student's decisions, a student will receive a 1:1 meeting with a member of staff to discuss the possible options and allow the best possible outcome for the student moving forward.

Students should note that a grade '4' is broadly equivalent to the old grade 'C', though **emphasis is now placed on achieving grade 5s or above** which are considered 'strong passes'. Any student not achieving a grade 4 in English language and/or in Maths, **MUST** retake these as part of their Post 16 education.

KEY STAGE 4 – WHAT COULD YOU STUDY?

All students will complete our Core Curriculum.

Core Curriculum (Examined):

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (Trilogy) 2 GCSEs

Core Curriculum (Non-examined):

- Physical Education
- PSHE

Students will also choose 4 optional subjects from the courses on offer.

Choices Curriculum (Examined):

- Art, Craft and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Creative iMedia
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama / Performing Arts
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Information Technology
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education GCSE
- Physical Education VCert
- Religious Studies
- Separate Science
- Statistics
- Travel and Tourism

POST 16 — LIFE AFTER MAIDENHILL

At Maidenhill our expectations for students in Key Stage 4 is that they should study a broad and balanced curriculum that will allow them to follow their chosen pathways Post 16.

We want our students to progress onto courses and careers that they enjoy and that help them fulfil their potential. We encourage all students to aim high and provide them with help to make decisions about future opportunities.

The GCSE curriculum has changed in recent years and GCSE courses now focus on final examinations rather than controlled assessment or coursework. They are significantly different from GCSE courses taught to students who took GCSEs 5 years ago.

All students are required to follow a course of education or training after leaving Maidenhill and up to the age of 18. If you are planning to go on to Sixth Form or College, you may find that some institutions look more favourably on some types of qualifications and subjects than others. You would be well advised to look carefully at College/Sixth Form websites to see what their minimum entrance requirements are in terms of grades and subjects. Some Sixth Forms and Colleges require students to have followed courses which are commonly referred to as EBacc subjects; these are English, Maths, Science, Computer Science, History, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages GCSEs.

You can research post-16 requirements these using the links below:

Cirencester College - <https://www.cirencester.ac.uk/>

Gloucestershire College - <https://www.gloscol.ac.uk/>

Hartpury College - <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/>

Stroud College - <https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/>

Archway Sixth Form - <https://www.archway.net/Sixth-Form/>

Marling Sixth Form - <https://www.marlingsixthform.org/>

Stroud High Sixth Form - <https://www.stroudhighsixthform.co.uk/>

Rednock Sixth Form—<https://rednockschool.org.uk/6th-form-admissions/>

KLB Sixth Form - <https://klbschool.org.uk/sixth-form/>

WHO CAN I ASK FOR HELP AND ADVICE?

For General Advice:

Assistant Headteacher	Miss S Martin	smartin@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Head of Year	Mr Izatt	aizatt@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk

For Subject Advice

Photography	Mrs E Pierre-Justin	epierre@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Business Studies	Mr C Bargh	cbargh@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Computer Science		
Information Technology		
Design & Technology	Mr M Sadler	msadler@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Drama / Performing Arts	Mr D Nash	dnash@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Creative iMedia		
English	Mrs A Melendez	amelendez@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Miss L Bullion	lbullion@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Art, Craft & Design		
French	Mrs L Barker	lbarker@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Geography	Mrs K Johnson	kjohnson@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Travel & Tourism		
Physical Education	Mrs S Meredith	smeredith@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
History	Mrs M Tardivel	mtardivel@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Maths	Mr J Sansom	jsansom@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Statistics	Mr A Seabrook	aseabrook@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Music	Mrs D Ball	dball@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Religious Studies	Miss L Hoare	lhoare@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Health & Social Care		
Science	Mrs H Webster	hwebster@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk
Dance	Miss P Sargent	psargent@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk

GCSE Core and Optional Subjects

All students will complete 5 GCSEs in the core subjects. Students will also attend Core PE and PSHE lessons that are non-examined. Students then select four optional subjects to study throughout Years 10 and 11.

The following table shows how much of each subject at GCSE is assessed by final examination and how much by coursework. Coursework might be written, portfolio or practical based.

	Coursework	Examination
Core Examined Subjects:		
English Language		
English Literature		
Mathematics		
Combined Science (2)		
Optional Subjects: Each student needs to choose four subjects from the options list below.		
Art, Craft & Design		
Business Studies		
Computer Science		
Creative iMedia		
Dance		
Design & Technology		
Drama/Performing Arts		
Food, Preparation & Nutrition		
French		
Geography		
Health & Social Care		
History		
Information Technology		
Music		
Photography		
Physical Education—GCSE		
Physical Education—VCert		
Religious Studies		
Separate Science		
Statistics		
Travel & Tourism		

What qualification would I get?

GCSE English Language

Which exam board would I study?

Eduqas

What will I study on the course?

- 20th Century unseen literature reading and comprehension
- Creative prose writing as a narrative task
- Transactional writing – whether a letter, report, interview, journal or speech
- 19th and 21st Century non-fiction reading and comprehension
- Spoken Language unit, requiring the delivery and performance of a speech

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: (40%) Reading – 20th Century Literature

- Reading and creative prose writing from a choice of four titles.
- 1 hour 45 minutes examination

Component 2: (60%) Reading – 19th and 21st Century Literature

- Non-fiction reading and two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks
- 2 hours examination

Component 3: Spoken Language

- Non– examination assessment

Additional information

Reading independently throughout the course both at home and during reading lessons is required.

Lead Teacher: Mrs A Melendez

amelendez@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE English Literature

Which exam board would I study?

Eduqas

What will I study on the course?

You will develop your skills in reading to enable a deeper understanding of prose, poetry and drama texts as well as improving your skills of analysis and personal critical response.

You will cover the following:

- Shakespeare—Romeo and Juliet
- Poetry Anthology
- Post 1914 Prose/Drama - Blood Brothers
- 19th Century Prose - A Christmas Carol
- Unseen Poetry

How will my work be assessed?

Two written exams.

Component 1: 40% :

- Shakespeare and the study of a Poetry Anthology
- 2 hours examination

Component 2: 60%:

- Post 1914 Drama/19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry
- 2 hours 30 minutes examination

Additional information

Reading independently throughout the course both at home and during reading lessons is required.

Lead Teacher: Mrs A Melendez

amelendez@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE Mathematics

Which exam board would I study?

Edexcel

What will I study on the course?

You will study the main 6 areas of mathematics:

- Number
- Ratio and proportion
- Geometry
- Statistics
- Algebra

Foundation and higher tiers both cover these areas with 60% of the course common to both tiers; within these you will cover a variety of topics some which will build on your knowledge and others which will be new to you.

How will my work be assessed?

Three separate written exams of 1 hour and 30 minutes

- One non calculator paper
- Two calculator papers

Additional information

The mathematics GCSE is assessed at two tiers: higher and foundation.

At both tiers you can achieve a good pass. On the higher paper you will be able to achieve grades 9 – 4 and on the foundation paper you can achieve grades 5 – 1.

Lead Teacher: Mr J Sansom

jsansom@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



CORE

What qualification would I get?

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy This is worth 2 GCSE qualifications.

Which exam board would I study?

AQA

What will I study on the course?

You will study a mixture of the three disciplines of science:

- Biology, including topics such as cells, inheritance and ecology
- Chemistry, including topics such as atoms and chemical reactions
- Physics, including topics such as forces, energy and electricity

How will my work be assessed?

All written examinations at the end of year 11.

There are 6 papers in total, each worth 16.6%

- 2 Biology papers 1 hour 15 minutes each
- 2 Chemistry papers 1 hour 15 minutes each
- 2 Physics papers 1 hour 15 minutes each

The totals for each paper get added together for a final double GCSE grade.

Higher tier is available for grades 9-9 to 4-4, foundation tier for 5-5 to 1-1. Students have to sit the same tier for all disciplines.

Additional information

You will have to carry out a set of Required Practical tasks which will be assessed in the written exams. These are opportunities to show your understanding of how to work scientifically.

20% of the science course also involves your ability to use your Maths skills in a scientific context.

Lead Teacher: Mrs H Webster

hwebster@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE Art, Craft and Design

Which exam board would I study?

AQA

What will I study on the course?

You will

- explore a variety of materials, media and techniques in both 2 and 3 dimensions including drawing, painting, mixed media, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture.
- study, explore and learn from a range of artists and designers to inform and inspire your own work.
- be expected to think creatively, solve problems and meet deadlines for project briefs working both independently and with others.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1 - Portfolio: 60%

- Submit a portfolio of work that comprises a sustained project and a selection of further work which represents your course of study.

Component 2 - Externally set assignment: 40%

- Respond to one starting point on an externally set assignment paper by producing a project with a final piece relating to your chosen title and which reflects your study of an artist, designer or art form.

Additional information

You will be given a hardback sketch book for independent study and research. You will need to bring this and a full drawing kit to every lesson. It would be essential for you to complete work independently, either at home or in the weekly after school 'top up' sessions to support your project work.

Lead Teacher: Miss L Bullion

lbullion@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



OPTION

What qualification would I get?

GCSE Business Studies

Which exam board would I study?

Edexcel

What will I study on the course?

In this course there are two themes:

Theme 1

- key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business
- local (single location) business contexts
- national (multiple locations) business contexts

Theme 2

- how a business develops beyond the start-up phase
- key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business
- emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources

How will my work be assessed?

- Two end of Year 11 examinations
- 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Each exam is worth 50%

Additional information

You will need an awareness of the world around you and being able to apply what you have learnt to real-life examples.

Lead Teacher: Mr C Bargh

cbargh@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE Computer Science

Which exam board would I study?

Eduqas

What will I study on the course?

Component 1: Understanding Computer Science

This component investigates hardware, logical operations, communication, data representation and data types, operating systems, principles of programming, software engineering, program construction, security, authentication and data management. Also, the impacts of digital technology on wider society as well as algorithms and programming constructs.

Component 2: Computer Programming

This component investigates problem solving, programming languages, data structures and data types, program design, implementation and testing.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Understanding Computer Science

- Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 50% of the qualification
- 100 marks

Component 2: Computer Programming

- On-screen examination: 2 hours
- 50% of the qualification
- 80 marks
- Produce a programmed solution to a set task which will then be the basis for examination

Lead Teacher: Mr C Bargh

cbargh@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

Level 1/2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Which exam board would I study?

OCR

What will I study on the course?

Compulsory units

Unit 1 - Creative iMedia in the media industry

Different Jobs
Job roles
Content, layout and purpose
How to create a product
Camera angles, techniques

Unit 2 – Visual Identity and digital graphics

Plan, create and evaluate a digital graphic product to a set brief

Optional units (decision on what unit is studied will depend on the brief set by the exam board)

Unit 3 – Animation and Audio

Plan, create and evaluate an Animation to a set brief. (Computer generated, stop motion or flipbook)

Or

Unit 4 – Interactive Digital Media

Plan, create and evaluate Interactive digital media to a set brief such as a website, mobile app, a game or an information point

How will my work be assessed?

- Unit 1 – 40 % Written exam
- Unit 2 – 25% Practical and portfolio
- Unit 3 or 4 – 35% Practical and portfolio

Additional information

You must have the ability to use computers confidently, alongside a creative, artistic mind. It is important that you are also able to work independently.

Lead Teacher: Mr D Nash

dnash@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



OPTION

What qualification would I get?

GCSE Dance

Which exam board would I study?

AQA

What will I study on the course?

Component 1 – Performance and Choreography

Solo performance (minimum of 1 minute)

Group Performance (minimum of 3 minutes)

Choreograph solo or group performance from a set brief
(minimum of 2 minutes)

Component 2 – Dance appreciation

Study a variety of different dance styles and Choreographers

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1 – 60%

- Practical
- A written log (coursework)

Component 2 – 40%

- Written exam
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Additional information

You will need the ability to dance or desire to want to learn to dance alongside an interest in different dance styles.

Lead Teacher: Miss P Sargent

psargent@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE Design and Technology

Which exam board would I study?

AQA

What will I study on the course?

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

The course includes all areas of design and technology and you will be learning and putting in to practice areas such as;

- Sustainability, enterprise, textiles, energy, technology, properties of different materials and ethical factors

How will my work be assessed?

Non-exam assessment

- Design and make task
- 50%
- 30-35 hours given to complete this part of the course.

Written exam

- 50%
- 2 hours
- 100 marks

Additional information

Much of the design work will be completed using ICT and making models leading to a final product. You will need a rounded interest and knowledge in all areas of design and technology e.g. sustainability, textiles and physical and mechanical properties

Lead Teacher: Mr M Sadler

msadler@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



OPTION

What qualification would I get? GCSE Drama / Level 2 Performing Arts

Which exam board would I study? Eduqas

What will I study on the course?

Different genres of drama and experiment with different dramatic conventions, forms and techniques to produce your own piece of original theatre.

Participation in performances of extracts from plays, create your own costume, lighting and sound designs and then complete a final theoretical exam at the end of the course.

How will my work be assessed?

Devising Theatre: 40%

Create your own performances from scratch using a range of drama techniques. You are assessed on your creative ideas, performance skills and a written analysis of the process.

Performing from a Text: 20%

Perform an extract from a published play in small groups to a live audience of friends and relatives. You are assessed on your performance skills by a visiting examiner. Also the option of choosing to be assessed on technical elements such as lighting, costume, hair and makeup, set and sound design.

Interpreting Theatre: 40%

Study a set play or create a proposal for a play. This is done through performance and written tasks, leading to an exam in the summer of Year 11.

Additional information

You must attend theatre visits regularly as this is part of the course requirements. Financial support will be given if needed. You will need to be very motivated and committed to work in your own time, particularly when extra rehearsals are required. The confidence to perform in front of a live audience on stage.

Lead Teacher: Mr D Nash

dnash@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Which exam board would I study?

AQA

What will I study on the course?

You will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Principles of food preparation and nutrition

- Written Exam
- 50%

Component 2: Food preparation and nutrition in action

Non examination assessment internally assessed:

- Assessment 1: 10 hours The Food Investigation Assessment (15%)

A scientific food investigation which will assess your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

- Assessment 2: 20 hours The Food Preparation Assessment (35%)

Prepare, cook and present a 3 course menu which assesses your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

Additional information

Regular provision of ingredients will be crucial to success for practical work. Support with ingredient provision can be given in some circumstances.

Lead Teacher: Miss L Bullion

lbullion@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE French

Which exam board would I study?

Edexcel

What will I study on the course?

You will cover a range of topics which fit into three broad themes of:

- Identity and culture (family and friends, technology, free-time activities, food, sport)
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest (home and local region, charity work, healthy living, environment, social issues, travel and tourism)
- Current and future study and employment (school life, post -16 education, jobs, careers and ambitions)

How will my work be assessed?

	Listening Exam 25%	Speaking assessment 25%	Reading Exam 25%	Writing Exam 25%
Higher Grades 9-4	45 minutes	10-12 minutes	1 hour 15 minutes	1 hr 30 minutes
Foundation Grades 5-1	35 minutes	7-9 minutes	1 hour	1 hr 15 minutes

Additional information

Assessment in the 4 areas will occur throughout the 2 year course. Regular independent work and practice will be key in developing these skills to the best of your ability.

Lead Teacher: Mrs L Barker

lbarker@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



OPTION

What qualification would I get?

GCSE Geography

Which exam board would I study?

Eduqas

What will I study on the course?

There are three units:

1. Investigating geographical Issues

- human geography, focussing on changing places and development.
- physical geography, looking at river and coastal landscapes, extreme weather and the impacts of a changing climate.
- environmental challenges that face our world today, with a focus on ecosystems like the tropical rainforest.

2. Problem solving geography

- a geographical issue that is connected to the content above (e.g. tropical storms).
- potential solutions to this issue.
- study of these solutions and present the best one, fully justifying your choice.

You will also be expected to process and interpret a range of geographical data such as maps, graphs and images surrounding the issue.

3. Geographical applications

- geographical skills and field work.
- you will carry out two geographical enquiries, in two separate locations.
- focus on the skills used to complete the enquiries.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1 40% of GCSE, written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: 30% of GCSE, written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3: 30% of GCSE, written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes

Additional information

You will need to have an enquiring mind and be interested in why events happen, what the consequences of those events are and how we, as people, can manage these events effectively.

Lead Teacher: Mrs K Johnson

kjohnson@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification will I get?

Level 1/2 Cambridge National in Health & Social Care

Which exam board would I study?

OCR

What will I study on the course and how will it be assessed?

R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings (40%)

1 hour 15 mins written exam

- the importance of the rights of service users, person-centred values and how to apply them.
- the importance of effective communication skills when providing care and support for service users in health and social care settings.
- the procedures and measures used to protect individuals such as safeguarding, hygiene and security.

R033: Supporting individuals through life events (30%)

10-12 hours of ongoing completion of coursework portfolio

- life stages and the factors that affect them.
- expected and unexpected life events and the impact they will have on physical, social/emotional, and socio-economic aspects of life.
- service providers and practitioners that can support individuals, recommend support, and meet the needs of a specific individual.

R035: Health promotion campaigns (30%)

10-12 hours of ongoing completion of coursework portfolio

- Current public health issues and the impact on society.
- Factors influencing health.
- Plan and create a health promotion campaign.
- Deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign.

Additional information

Good attendance is needed to ensure your portfolio is completed in full during specific time frames.

Lead Teacher: Miss L Hoare

lhoare@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE History

Which exam board would I study?

Edexcel

What will I study on the course?

You will learn about:

- Germany 1918-1939 (Rise of Hitler, Life in Nazi Germany)
- The American West 1885-1896
- The Elizabethan Age 1558-1603 (an in depth study of England during the reign of Elizabeth I)
- Changes in health and medicine in Britain c.500 to the present day

How will my work be assessed?

There will be three written exams at the end of year 11

Paper	Section
Paper 1 Weighting: 30% Total marks: 52 Exam time: 1h 20	Section A Historic environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 questions
	Section B Thematic study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 questions
Paper 2 Weighting: 40% Total marks: 64 Exam time: 1h 50	Booklet P Period study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 questions
	Booklet B British depth study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 questions
Paper 3 Weighting: 30% Total marks: 52 Exam time: 1h 30	Section A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 questions
	Section B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-part question

Additional information

You will need the ability to understand different view points and communicate your ideas effectively. An ability to problem solve, analyse, research and reason will also be needed.

Lead Teacher: Mrs M Tardivel

mtardivel@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

Level 1/2 Vocational Award in ICT (Technical Award)

Which exam board would I study?

WJEC

What will I study on the course?

Unit 1: IT in Society

- uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society.
- investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use of information technology.

Unit 2: IT in Context

- knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images.
- application of your knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: IT in Society

- On screen examination
- 1 hour 20 minutes
- 40%

Unit 2: IT in Context

- Controlled assessment
- 40 hours
- 60%

Additional information

Good ICT skills developed throughout years 7-9 and a willingness to develop them further.

Lead Teacher: Mr C Bargh

cbargh@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE Music

Which exam board would I study?

Eduqas

What will I study on the course and how will it be assessed?

Component 1: Performing (30%) Coursework

You will be required to perform two separate pieces of music on the instrument/vocals of your choice. You can also complete this unit using Music Technology by using computers, 'push units', beat boxing, rapping and DJing.

Component 2: Composing (30%) Coursework

You will compose two different compositions. One free choice and one from a brief set by the exam board (there are 4 to pick from). You will be taught how to compose in a variety of styles using both instruments and technology.

Component 3: Appraising (40%) 1h 30 minute listening examination

You will study different styles of music across history and answer 8 different questions based on the following areas of study:-

- AOS 1 — Musical forms and devices
- AOS 2 — Music for ensemble
- AOS 3 — Film Music
- AOS 4 — Popular Music

Additional information

You will be required to learn and perform on an instrument/voice. You can also use technology like the 'push units', computer software, beatboxing or rapping to perform or create music. A recording of you performing is necessary to complete the course.

Lead Teacher: Mrs D Ball

dball@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



OPTION

What qualification would I get?

GCSE Photography

Which exam board would I study?

AQA

What will I study on the course?

You will learn how to take photographs using a digital SLR camera, the different settings, lenses and possibilities alongside editing, manipulating and developing your ideas digitally using Photoshop. Setting up studio photoshoots, exploring light settings, shutter speeds and using photographic techniques and processes.

You will study, explore and learn from a range of photographers, artists and designers to inform and inspire your own work.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1 - Portfolio: 60%

- Submit a portfolio of work that comprises a sustained project and a selection of further work which represents your course of study.

Component 2 - Externally set assignment: 40%

- Respond to one starting point on an externally set assignment paper by producing a project with a final piece relating to your chosen title and which reflects your study of an artist, designer or art form.

Additional information

You will be using a digital SLR camera in school and creating a digital sketchbook. You will need to take photographs outside of school and will need access to a camera or camera on your mobile phone. It would be essential for you to complete work independently, either at home or in the weekly after school 'top up' sessions to support your project work.

Lead Teacher: Mrs E Pierre-Justin

epierre@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

GCSE Physical Education

Which exam board would I study?

AQA

What will I study on the course?

Paper 1 – The human body and movement within physical activity and sport

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

Paper 2 - Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

Practical

- Practical performance in **three** physical activities in the role of player/performer (these can be done in two individual activities, two team activities or one of each)
- Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

How will my work be assessed?

Theory - 2 written exam papers, 30% for each, 1 hour 15 minutes each

Practical - Controlled practical assessment in two activities (30%) and analysis and evaluation of performance coursework (10%).

Additional information

Students considering GCSE PE should have a keen interest in sport and ideally be representing a club/school team in at least one sport. This alongside commitment to the theoretical aspect of the course is essential to achieving a good grade.

Lead Teacher: Mrs S Meredith

smeredith@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



OPTION

What qualification would I get?

Technical award in Health and Fitness

Which exam board would I study?

NCFE

What will I study on the course?

The study of health and fitness looking at different training techniques and their application to the fitness industry sector. Looking at body systems and how training can help to develop in specific ways for the necessary requirements of the sport.

How will my work be assessed?

Where possible, a practical approach to learning will be undertaken. This will be followed up with classroom based evaluations and portfolio work, where you will have the opportunity to work both individually and in groups, working on research projects, presentations, discussions, reading and note-making, extended writing, creative and problem-solving relating to the leisure industry.

Body systems and principles of training in health and fitness

- Written exam
- 40%

Preparing and planning for health and fitness

- Coursework
- 60%

Additional information

You can progress from this course into courses such as A Level Physical Education or BTEC Level 3 in sport.

Lead Teacher: Mrs S Meredith

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OPTION

What qualification would I get?

GCSE Religious Studies

Which exam board would I study?

Eduqas

What will I study on the course?

You will explore issues / areas which affect us all e.g:

- Relationships
- Life and Death
- Good and Evil
- Human Rights

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies

- Written exam, 50%
- 2 hours
- Based on the 4 themes

Component 2: Christianity

- Written exam, 25%
- 1 hour

Component 3: Islam

- Written exam, 25%
- 1 hour

Additional information

You will need an ability to understand different points of view, think critically and communicate your ideas. Awareness of or a desire to learn more about different cultures and the world around us is key.

Lead Teacher: Miss L Hoare

lhoare@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



OPTION

What qualification would I get?

Instead of GCSE Combined Science you would attain a GCSE in Biology, a GCSE in Chemistry and a GCSE in Physics.

Which exam board would I study?

AQA

What will I study on the course?

You will cover additional content in Biology, Chemistry and Physics not covered by the Combined Science course. These include topics such as:

- Biology— culturing micro-organisms, the brain, the eye, monoclonal antibodies
- Chemistry—organic molecules, titrations, transition metals, extended quantitative chemistry
- Physics—space physics, nuclear fission and fusion, moments, levers and gears

How will my work be assessed?

All written examinations at the end of year 11.

You will still complete 6 exams, made up of the combined science content and the extra separate science content.

- 2 Biology papers, each paper is 50% of the Biology GCSE, each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes
- 2 Chemistry papers, each paper is 50% of the Chemistry GCSE, each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes
- 2 Physics papers, each paper is 50% of the Physics GCSE, each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes

Higher tier is available for grades 9 to 4, foundation tier for 5 to 1 for each GCSE. Students must sit the same tier within each discipline but could sit different tiers for different disciplines.

Additional information

You will have to carry out an additional set of Required Practical tasks which will be assessed in the written exams. On average of 20% of the separate science GCSEs also involves your ability to use your Maths skills.

Lead Teacher: Mrs H Webster

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What qualification will I get?

GCSE Statistics

Which exam board would I study?

Edexcel

What will I study on the course?

You are introduced to the skills of statistical enquiry, and practise the underpinning statistical calculations and interpretation using real world data and contexts.

The main three topics areas are:-

- 1) The collection of data
- 2) Processing, representing and analysing data
- 3) Probability

How will my work be assessed?

Two 90 minute exams papers at the end of the course, each worth 50%. Both calculator papers.

Additional information

This course is separate to the mathematics GCSE. There is a small cross over in content but the Statistics course focuses on an in depth look at the statistical enquiry cycle using real world data. The course is assessed at two levels higher (grade 9-4) and foundation (grade 5-1) and is suitable to all levels of mathematical skill.

Statistics links well to a number of other subjects you will be studying at GCSE— geography, business studies, travel and tourism and triple science.

Lead Teacher: Mr A Seabrook

aseabrook@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk



What qualification would I get?

BTEC Travel & Tourism

Which exam board would I study?

Edexcel

What will I study on the course?

You will study three components:

- travel and tourism organisations and types, how they work, destinations and routes
- the use of market research to identify travel and tourism trends, customer needs/preferences, products and services selections
- factors that influence global travel and tourism, how organisations respond to these factors, and the potential impacts of tourism on global destinations considering sustainability

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: 33.3%: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations

- Non-exam internal assessment
- 4 hours preparation and 6 hours supervised assessment

Component 2: 33.3%: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism

- Non-exam internal assessment
- 5 hours preparation and 6 hours supervised assessment

Component 3: 33.3%: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism

- Written Exam at the end of year 11
- 2 hours

Additional information

Good attendance is needed to ensure your portfolio is completed in full during specific time frames. This course complements subjects such as GCSE Geography and GCSE Business Studies well.

Lead Teacher: Mrs K Johnson

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OPTION

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