



Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 25th January 2018

Please take a seat

Presentation times: 5.45pm & 6.45pm



Compulsory Examined Subjects

English Language	English Literature
Mathematics	Science
A Modern Foreign Language	Religious Education (Short Course)



Reforms to GCSEs since September 2016

- The Sciences
- Art and Design
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology (Food)
- Design & Technology Resistant Material
- Design & Technology Graphics
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

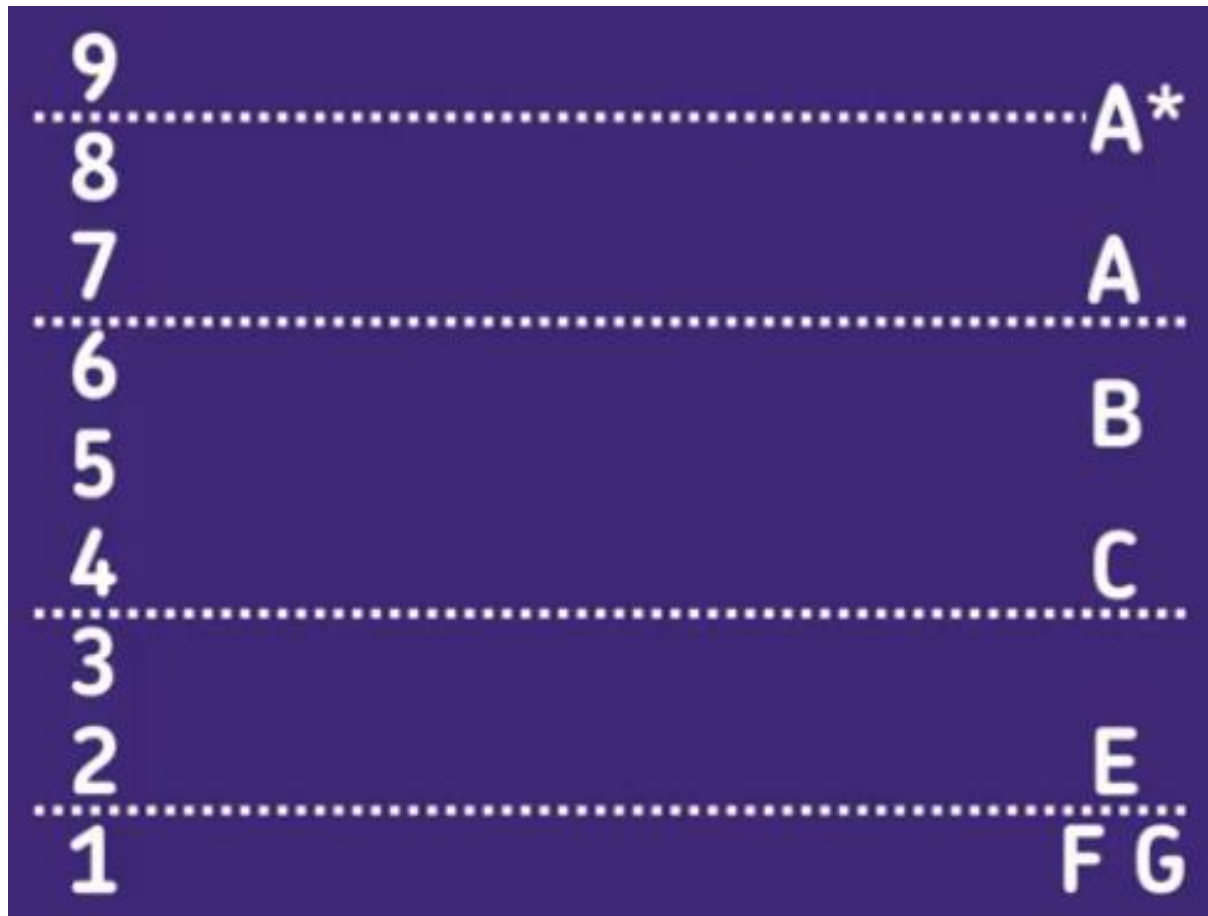
English Language

English Literature

Maths

Reformed
September 2015

P.7 in your booklet



The expectation has been that students would find the new exams 'too hard' but that grade boundaries will be adjusted as necessary to ensure parity of performance with previous years.

Same proportion of students will receive 7, 8, 9 as previously received A* and A



Changes to English and Maths GCSEs (from September 2015)

Mathematics

- More challenge, new topics, formulas to be learnt off by heart

English Language

- Increased emphasis on Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar (SPaG).
- ‘Set texts’ replaced with a ‘wide range of texts’

English Literature

- A new focus on 4 areas of ‘classic literature’



Was **5%**
Now **20%**

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Changes to Science GCSEs (from September 2016)

Content:

Broader and deeper mathematical content

Required 'practicals' which pupils will conduct throughout the course

No Controlled Assessments or coursework

Assessment:

Greater examination time than the current GCSE

Assessed by external exam only

Tiered exam papers; foundation tier covering grades 1-5; higher tier covering grades 4-9

15% of examinations marks will be for practical skills

On average, 20% of the marks in the examinations will require maths skills

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Changes to Science GCSEs

Separate Science

- Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
- } (3 x GCSEs)

Combined Science (2 x GCSEs)

There is no longer a single GCSE Core Science option

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Science Setting Information

Set 1: Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
(students are awarded three GCSE qualifications)

Sets 2-5: Combined Science – Trilogy
(this is equivalent to two GCSE qualifications covering content from all 3 sciences)

Set 6: Foundation Level Combined Science &
Entry Level Certificate in Science (Co-taught but not a GCSE)

Any questions about Science, please speak with Miss Ali at the end of the presentation



Year 9 End of KS3 Science Exams

All students in Year 9 will sit two end of KS3 Science Exams in the week beginning **19th February**.

The result of these exams will determine the Science Set that students will be placed into for GCSE.

They will also, therefore, determine the exam pathway that students will follow at KS4; Separate Science, Combined Science or the potential to study the Entry Level Certificate.

These exams are **extremely important** and all students should revise thoroughly in preparation for them.



Year 9 End of KS3 Science Exams

- Revision material has already been issued to help students prepare. They are also revising in class at present to assist with preparation for this exams after Half Term.
- The exams will cover Year 7, 8 and 9 topics.



Why is a Modern Foreign Language compulsory at Gordon's?

- Academically valued
- Proven to help develop literacy skills
- The world is getting smaller!
- Part of the English Baccalaureate



The English Baccalaureate (EBacc.)

- First 'awarded' in 2011
- Made up of GCSE passes in:

Mathematics
English Language
Double or Triple Science
A Modern Foreign Language
A Humanity – History or Geography

The EBacc is not certified, in much the same way that the previous 5+A*- C grades including Maths & English was not certified, but was real.



How is the English Baccalaureate measured?

EBacc now has two measures:

1. Students who achieved the EBacc (Standard Pass)

This is the % achieving Ebacc at grade 4(C) or above by pupil group.

2. Students who achieved the EBacc (Strong Pass)

This is the % achieving Ebacc at grade 5(C)



Percentage of students entered for the Ebacc

Nationally

38%

Gordon's

69%

Should I choose a humanities subject just to achieve the English Baccalaureate?

'No' is the simple answer



GCSE Religious Studies

All Year 9 students Study GCSE **Short Course RS**

This experience has helped students to better understand the rigours of GCSE study, including the 1-9 grading system, which should assist them in their option choices for Year 10.

Students will sit their Religious Studies short course GCSE exam in May 2019.



GCSE Religious Studies

All students will be completing at least the short course GCSE.

Those who enjoy Religious Studies, and would like to study a wider range of ethical and philosophical topics, can choose Religious Studies as one of their Options to gain a full GCSE.

The examination for this would be in May 2020, giving students an extra year to complete the content they will need for this qualification.

Should you have questions about the Full Course option, please see Mrs Lewis this evening.



What are the option subjects?

Art and Design	German
Business Studies	History
Business (BTEC)	Music
Computer Science	Physical Education (GCSE)
Design and Technology	Photography
Drama	Religious Education (Full Course)
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Spanish
French	Travel and Tourism (BTEC)
Geography	



Business GCSE or Enterprise BTEC?

Business GCSE	Enterprise (Business) BTEC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More vocational
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% Externally marked exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40% Externally marked exam• 60% Coursework (Internal)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent preparation for AS & A levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent preparation for vocational post-16 qualifications

Mr Grace, Head of Business Studies and Mr Moore, BTEC teacher, are available to discuss these options should you wish.



Travel and Tourism BTEC

A vocational qualification

Good preparation for post - 16 vocational qualifications

75% Assessed by coursework

25% Assessed by external examination

Please discuss any questions you may have with the course leader, Miss Thompson, this evening.



Shape

Surrey Heath Area Partnership for Education

Level 1 courses (GCSE grades D & below) offered in:

- Hairdressing
- Beauty Therapy
- Construction
- Motor Maintenance
- Catering
- Animal Care
- Public Services

These courses will take place at one of the following venues:

- Tomlinscote
- Farnborough
- Merrist Wood

Miss Pepperell has more details



Gordon's Sixth Form AS Level Subject Entry Criteria

Some GCSE subjects are not currently offered at A level

Subject	Notes	Minimum Entry Requirements: Five GCSE grades 9 - 4 including Grade 4 in English Language & Mathematics:
Art *	If destination is Architecture, Art should be taken with Maths and/or Physics.	GCSE grade 6 in Art or Photography.
Biology	Needed for some Sports Science subjects at University. Highly recommended for medicine. Strongly recommended that students have a GCSE Mathematics grade 6.	GCSE grade 7 in Biology or 7-7 in Combined Science, and must have studied GCSE Chemistry.
Business Studies *	See Economics.	GCSE grade B in Business Studies or BTEC level 2 Distinction or GCSE grade 5 in English Language & Mathematics are required.
Chemistry	Required for Medicine. Complements A Level Biology. Strongly recommended that students have a strong foundation in Mathematics with a grade 6 at GCSE.	GCSE grade 7 in Chemistry or 7-7 in Combined Science.
Computer Science	Strongly recommended to be taken with Mathematics.	GCSE grade 6 in Computer Science or a GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics is required.
BTEC IT	Students cannot take BTEC Sport AND BTEC IT	GCSE grade 4 in English Language. The student does not need to have taken ICT or computing at GCSE
Drama & Theatre Studies *	If no GCSE in Drama, previous drama experience strongly recommended.	GCSE grade 6 in Drama or GCSE Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
Design & Technology *		GCSE grade B in Technology, or GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics is required.
Economics	LSE forbids Economics in combination with Business Studies. It is not recommended to take Business Studies & Economics.	GCSE grade B in Economics or GCSE Grade B in Business Studies, or GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics & grade 5 English Language.
English Language		GCSE grade 6 in English Language.
English Literature		GCSE grade 6 in English Language & English Literature.
French	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in French.
German	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in German.
Geography	Biology usually needed if planning to study Geology at University.	GCSE grade 6 in Geography.
History		GCSE grade 6 in History.
Mathematics	Mathematics is required for Physics or Engineering. Further Mathematics also needed if Mathematics to be studied at a Russell Group University.	GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics and 'bridging assessment' success required in September 2018.
Further Mathematics	GCSE grade 8 or 9 Mathematics strongly recommended. A level Mathematics will be studied in Year 12 and Further Mathematics will be studied in Year 13.	GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics & <u>must</u> study AS Level Mathematics in year 12.
Media Studies *		GCSE grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
Music	Mathematics needed to study Music Technology at some Universities.	GCSE grade 6 in Music plus minimum grade 5 instrument.
Physical Education *	30% of the final AS/A Level grade is practical. Students should be regularly competing at school 1st team standard.	GCSE grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education, or a grade 5 in Biology GCSE, or 5-5 in Combined Science GCSE.
BTEC PE	Students cannot take BTEC Sport AND BTEC IT	GCSE grade 4 in Biology or combined Science. The student does not need to have taken PE at GCSE.
Physics	Both Mathematics & Physics needed for Physics or Engineering at most Universities.	GCSE grade 7 in Physics or 7-7 in Combined Science and <u>must</u> take AS Level Mathematics in Year 12.
Psychology	Strongly recommended to be taken with other Science subject(s) as some Psychology degrees ask for this. It is also strongly recommended that students have a strong foundation in Mathematics with a grade 6 at GCSE.	GCSE grade 6 in Psychology, or a GCSE grade 6-6 in Combined Science, or grade 6 in two single Sciences and a grade 5 in English Language.
Photography		GCSE grade 6 in Art or Photography required
Spanish	Exceptions may be made for native speakers.	GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.

Supporting information:

- All Year 12 students take 4 AS Levels. For the Sciences, IGCSE Single Award Science (or CIE IGCSE Cambridge Combined Science) is not part of the minimum entry requirement.
- In terms of access to AS Level courses, IGCSE qualifications are considered equal to ordinary GCSE qualifications. The exception is for students taking IGCSE Double Award Science who require a grade AA or 7-7 to access any of the three Sciences and who require a grade BB to access Psychology.
- Russell Group facilitating subjects are: Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, History, Geography, Modern and Classical Languages and English Literature. Students are advised to research this area before selecting A Level courses.
- Some GCSE subjects still use letter descriptors in 2018.

* Consider accompanying these subjects with facilitating subjects when applying to **Russell Group** Universities. Consider a 'complementary' fourth subject i.e. Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Design Technology

P.12 in your booklet



Please note

A subject will 'run' based on:

- Student demand
- Staff availability

Students must select 3 option choices and a **reserve** choice.



What happens now?

- Read the Options Booklet.
- Ask advice from the teaching staff tonight
- Return the options form to Miss Blythe in the school office by **Friday 23rd February**