



CHANNING

I/GCSE Choices  
2026





# Your I/GCSE years

## – a time to grow intellectually and personally

How thrilling to be standing on the threshold of your I/GCSE years. The next two years will see you grow and develop as learners and as human beings. There will be different kinds of challenges from those you have been used to but also exciting opportunities to stretch yourselves and discover your interests and strengths.

You will continue your transformation into Fearless Learners, underpinned by a wide-ranging programme of academic and pastoral support, including further developing your study skills and making the most of an inspiring range of extra-curricular opportunities. You will experience an increased emphasis on Careers support and the leadership opportunities available to you will really begin to open up. This is an important but exciting step on the way to the Sixth Form and lays the foundations for your future success and enjoyment of Sixth Form life.

In terms of specific I/GCSE options, we offer a wide choice of I/GCSE subjects at Channing which allows you to maintain a broad and stimulating academic base and to take advantage of a timetable that is unique to you. Your dedicated and experienced teachers will help you to achieve academic success moving beyond the I/GCSE syllabus to expand your knowledge and expertise in your chosen subjects. You will develop intellectual curiosity, learn to challenge and be challenged, and develop skills and techniques vital to life far beyond school. We encourage every one of you to grow, try out new ideas, and become more fully yourself.

With your unique timetable and greater independence, you will learn to be more responsible for yourself. Working with different groups throughout the week will widen your circle of friends and experiences. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 play an important part in the leadership of the school and you will develop confidence and maturity. Our supportive and caring pastoral team will guide each of you through your I/GCSE years and encourage you to enjoy all the opportunities presented to you.

Our hope at Channing is to support you to become independent, confident, resourceful young adults, equipped for the journey of life and keen to make a positive difference to the world. You will need many skills and qualities: kindness, intelligence, a sense of community, resilience and creativity; you will also need initiative and flexibility, courage and perspective, and an understanding of the spiritual, cultural and political influences that shape the world. Above all you will need wisdom, self-knowledge and integrity, knowing and accepting your own limits and those of others.

Few of these attributes can be taught directly; the rest we hope you will acquire by yourselves, picking them up from the ethos that surrounds you. Our aim is to establish and sustain that ethos, giving the right balance of freedom and obligation, hard work and fun. Our experience, your energy, and good humour on all sides make for a winning combination.

We hope you enjoy it all.

**Mr Meier**

Senior Deputy



# I/GCSE Choices

The start of Year 10 marks the beginning of your I/GCSE courses and an important new stage in your school career. Over the next few weeks, you will be making key decisions about your options subjects. These choices form the foundation of your future learning, preparing you for A Level study and, beyond that, higher education. Ms Garrill, Head of Year 10, and I are always available to offer guidance, and you are also welcome to seek advice from Ms Wilberforce in the Careers Office.

Most students will take 10 GCSEs although, for some, 9 may be more appropriate. This decision can only be made following a discussion with me. Everyone studies the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and either Double or Triple Award Science. Beyond this, it is usually best to choose a broad range of subjects to keep as many future pathways open as possible. We strongly recommend selecting at least one language, one humanity, and one creative or practical subject.

Students taking Triple Award Science will work towards three separate science grades in 2028 and may choose up to four additional I/GCSEs. Those taking Double Award Science follow an integrated science programme leading to two science grades and benefit from the flexibility of choosing five additional subjects. Options include Art, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Drama, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Spanish. Each optional subject has three lessons per week.

You may also want to extend your academic programme by taking a twilight course in Classical Greek in Year 10, with the Intermediate Greek Certificate examined in June. Students in the top Maths set will study Further Mathematics alongside IGCSE Mathematics; those sitting for the Further Maths Certificate at the end of Year 11 will have additional

lunchtime support sessions.

In addition, all students have the opportunity to take a Higher Project Qualification, an independent research project, worth the equivalent of half a GCSE.

These academic extension courses offer exciting opportunities; thinking about how they fit with your musical, artistic or dramatic commitments will help you create a balanced programme that supports both your wellbeing and your growth.

Your timetable will also include PSHE, core PE and our bespoke Life Skills enrichment course, which help you develop the skills and habits that support success beyond school. Staying involved in co-curricular activities, sport and music further builds the balance and resilience that prepare you for the future.

Although we aim to accommodate as many subject combinations as possible, this may not always be feasible. You will therefore be asked to nominate a standby subject, which will be used if your first-choice programme cannot be arranged. Please note that some subjects may run at the same time, and we reserve the right not to offer a course with low demand or to limit numbers in practical subjects.

We will talk more about the practicalities and process of making these choices at our in-person GCSE Options Evening, which takes place on Thursday 15 January 2026 from 5.45pm. More information about this will follow in due course. Your final choices must be submitted via an online form by Wednesday 11 February 2026.

For now we hope you will enjoy reading this booklet, which provides details of the core and optional subjects to support you in making your decisions.

**Ms R Flint**

Deputy Head (Academic)



# Your choices

## Core Curriculum

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics (& Further Mathematics - top set only)  
Science (either Double or Triple Award)

## Choices

Pupils opting for Triple Award Science can choose up to 4 subjects. Pupils opting for Double Award Science can choose up to 5 subjects. We strongly recommend that you study at least one modern foreign language (MFL), one humanity and one creative/practical subject.

Art  
Classical Civilisation  
Computer Science  
Drama  
French  
Geography  
German  
History  
Latin  
Music  
Physical Education  
Religious Studies  
Spanish

## Optional Extra

Classical Greek  
Level 2 Higher Project Qualification

**In any cases where a course is undersubscribed, the School reserves the right to withdraw the course.**





# Core Curriculum

# Mathematics

All pupils will study for the International GCSE Mathematics (Higher Tier) qualification.

The specification will be assessed by two equally weighted examination papers, each lasting 2 hours. Calculators may be used in both papers. Both papers will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Pupils are set in groups that are matched to their pace and ability. Setting is reviewed regularly and set moves are made when appropriate.

The mathematical content of the specification is divided into Number, Algebra, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures, Calculus, Probability and Statistics. Studying Mathematics enables students to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques
- acquire a foundation of mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas
- enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and

concepts, and become confident in using mathematics to solve problems

- appreciate the importance of Mathematics in society, employment and study

Students develop their problem-solving skills by translating problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts. Pupils will develop reasoning skills through exercises such as presenting arguments and proofs, and making deductions and drawing conclusions from mathematical information. In addition, the study of Mathematics has several cross-curricular benefits, in particular in Science and Geography.

**Examination board: Pearson International GCSE Mathematics Syllabus number: 4MA1 (Higher)**

## Further Mathematics

The top set in Year 10/11 will be covering the material in both the IGCSE Mathematics and the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths. There is some overlap between the two. All students in the top set will be prepared to sit the Further Maths exam (which has two papers, one of which is non-calculator). It is a possibility that an extra lunchtime lesson will be needed in Year 11 to ensure that the students are sufficiently prepared for both public examinations. It is an ideal preparation for A-Level Maths for students who are very numerate.

**Examination Board: AQA**  
**Qualification: Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics**

## English Language and English Literature

All pupils will follow courses in English Language and English Literature, which will result in two IGCSE grades. The two courses are designed to be complementary and we will integrate them and teach them simultaneously. Both the Language and Literature courses are entirely exam based and contain no coursework. Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups.

The students will read a wide range of literary, non-literary and media texts, including Shakespeare and other pre-twentieth century material. Literary texts are chosen for their merit and cover all genres. As pupils annotate their copies, it is department policy to buy the best and most reasonably priced editions for pupils to purchase as their own.

The English department aims to produce keen, independent readers and confident writers. We enjoy developing our pupils' skills and enthusiasms when teaching IGCSE.

**Examination board: Pearson International GCSE**  
**Assessment: 100% examination**





## Science

Students can choose to study either Double Award Science, for which they will gain two IGCSEs, or Triple Award Science, for which they will gain three IGCSEs. Students have already covered part of their Science IGCSE courses in Year 9, and in Years 10 and 11 they will continue to build upon these fundamental principles as they study for either the Double or Triple Award. In both Double and Triple Award Science, students study all three science disciplines: biology, chemistry and physics. At our school, it is not possible to study only two of the sciences.





# Double Award Science

Students will follow the Pearson Edexcel IGCSE course in Science (Double Award), which will allow them to achieve two IGCSEs. This is a linear qualification with three two-hour examination papers (one for each of the three sciences) that are taken at the end of the course of study. Although practical work is a vital part of the course, the final assessment does not include any coursework component.

Students will have two lessons per week in each of the three science subjects, which will allow them to take an additional optional subject at I/GCSE.

Studying Double Award Science will allow students to develop a range of skills including:

- a logical approach to problem-solving in a wider context
- the ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods
- practical techniques relating to experimental design and implementation
- the ability to select and apply mathematics that is relevant to everyday scenarios.

In Biology lessons, students will cover material from five key areas: the nature and variety of living organisms, structures and functions in living organisms, reproduction and inheritance, ecology and the environment, and the use of biological resources.

In Chemistry, the students will study topics covering four core content areas: principles of chemistry, inorganic chemistry, physical chemistry, and organic chemistry.

During Physics lessons, students will learn about eight key topics: forces and motion; electricity; waves; energy resources and energy transfers; solids, liquids and gases; magnetism and electromagnetism; radioactivity and particles; and astrophysics.

The course is structured and delivered in an interesting and engaging manner and is designed to ensure good preparation for those continuing to study the sciences at A-level and for those wishing to work in Biology, Chemistry or Physics-related fields, as well as those pursuing other career paths. Students studying the Double Award course will be able to take A-levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics, although they will not have studied the subjects in as much depth as those taking the three separate sciences and we would recommend that students who know that they wish to continue to study these subjects in the Sixth Form consider taking Triple Award Science. Universities make no distinction between students who have studied Double or Triple Award Science.

**Examination board: Pearson Edexcel**  
**Course: International GCSE in Science (Double Award)**





# Triple Award Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Students choosing to study Triple Award Science will gain IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will follow the Pearson Edexcel IGCSE courses, which will allow them to achieve three IGCSEs. These are linear qualifications with three two-hour examination papers (one for each of the three sciences) and three seventy-five-minute papers (one for each of the three sciences) that are taken at the end of the course of study. Although practical work is a vital part of each course, the final assessments do not include any coursework component.

Students will have three lessons per week in each of the three science subjects.

Studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately will allow students to develop a range of skills including:

- a logical approach to problem-solving in a wider context
- the ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods
- practical techniques relating to experimental design and implementation
- the ability to select and apply mathematics that is relevant to everyday scenarios.

In Biology, students will be taken on a journey from the cellular level, through the study of whole organisms, and on to the nature of ecosystems and the biological challenges that we will face in the future. Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of biological facts, terminology, concepts, and principles.

The topics covered in the Biology course include cell structure; biological molecules; specialised cells; transport across membranes; gas exchange; respiration; photosynthesis; circulation in humans; transport in plants; the nervous system; the endocrine (hormonal) system; inheritance; and excretion.

In Chemistry, students will gain a good understanding of the nature of substances and how they react together, how Chemistry is used in business and industry, and how our use of fuels and raw materials can affect our environment. Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of chemical facts, terminology, concepts, and principles.

The topics covered in the Chemistry course include states of matter; atomic structure; the Periodic Table; chemical formulae, equations and calculations; ionic, covalent and metallic bonding; the reactivity series; extraction and uses of metals; acids, alkalis and titrations; chemical tests; energetics; rates of reaction; reversible reactions and equilibria; and organic chemistry.

In Physics, students will be guided to learn about unifying patterns and themes in Physics and challenged to use these ideas in new situations. Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of physical facts, terminology, concepts and principles.

The topics covered in the Physics course include force and motion, electricity, waves, heat, energy, density, pressure, electromagnetism, radioactivity and astrophysics.

The courses are structured and delivered in an interesting and engaging manner and are designed to ensure good preparation, both for those continuing to further study and for those wishing to work in Biology, Chemistry or Physics-related fields, as well as those pursuing other career paths. Universities make no distinction between students who have studied Double or Triple Award Science.

**Examination board: Pearson Edexcel**  
**Course: International GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics**







Choices



# Art

The Art Department offers a wide-ranging visual experience in well-appointed, specialist studios. There are facilities for painting, photography, printmaking and construction, mixed media work, textile design, screen-printing, batik and ceramics/sculpture. There is a network of Apple computers with scanners, a colour laser printer, a photocopy machine and digital and video cameras available for design and a working photographic darkroom. There are also three printing presses. The ceramics and 3D studio offers skills in hand-building techniques, sculpture and glaze techniques.

Life Class takes place each week after school. This is a popular activity, with pupils from Years 11, 12 and 13 taking part. Pupils have the opportunity to paint and draw from a model with short poses to develop observation skills, and longer poses for more ambitious studies. We offer a variety of additional activities, including photographic clubs, where students can learn to use the school darkroom and develop their photographic skills in both traditional and digital photography.

The OCR examination board offers a broad art syllabus that allows students to experiment with ideas and media while developing skills in observational work and the use of traditional and more recent techniques.

There is a developing emphasis on critical and contextual studies, with much value placed on 'first-hand' experience of art works through museum and gallery visits, demonstrating an awareness of contemporary issues. We encourage

discussion of recent developments in art and design. In the first term, students take a course in visual research methods to strengthen their basic skills. Although we encourage students to attend galleries and museums in their own time, there is an organised trip to a London exhibition such as at Tate Modern, Tate Britain or the V&A. Working on a theme, they produce a sketchbook of observation drawings from the visit, supported by research over a period of time.

In the studios they learn to develop and sustain their studies and to handle materials in a skilled and professional manner through workshops in painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics and textiles. The portfolio is completed before the end of the Spring term in Year 11. The examination or controlled test is developed over a 10-hour session, after a period of preparation, at the end of the Spring term.

Pupils mount their own exhibition of work at the beginning of the Summer term to include units of the portfolio, plus examination preparation and controlled tests; these are marked internally and moderated externally. The exhibition represents the individuality of each student through their various sketchbooks, gallery reviews, drawings and finished art works. Pupils should find the course both exciting and challenging, and enjoy creating their own work, as well as evaluating other artists' work.

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Assessment: Portfolio - 60%, Examination - 40%**



# Classical Civilisation

## Why study Classical Civilisation today?

Classical Civilisation is the study of the history, literature, society and culture of the ancient Greeks and Romans from the time of the first Olympics in the 8th century BC to imperial Rome in the 1st century AD. These two civilisations are of great interest in themselves and are also important in understanding the roots of literature and culture of later times, including the present day.

The course would be particularly appealing if you have enjoyed learning about women in the ancient world in Year 9, and studying the cultural background to the Cambridge Latin Course.

You would also enjoy the course if you are interested in the ancient world: its myth, history, literature and art, or if you enjoy reading ancient literature, but would like to study it without the linguistic element.

## What will I learn?

There are two components to the course:

### Paper 1: Myth & Religion (50%)

An in-depth study of Greek and Roman myth and how they worshipped. You will study: the gods of Greece and Rome, Heracles, temples, the mythical founding of Athens and Rome, religious festivals, symbols of power, death and burial, journeys to the Underworld.

### Paper 2: Roman City Life (50%)

A detailed exploration of how the Romans lived in the 1st century AD. You will study: the houses and households of Rome and Pompeii, slavery and citizenship, the theatre, amphitheatre and baths. We also read texts by Pliny, Juvenal and Horace to give us an insight into what Romans really thought of all these parts of society.

**Examination board: OCR External examinations**

**Assessment: 100% examined (2 papers in total)**

# Computer Science

## Why study Computer Science?

The fun of computing! This course will stimulate interest and engagement with technology and technology-related careers. Looking to the future, information technologies continue to have a growing importance, with a huge demand from employers for people with a computer science skill set.

This qualification provides students with the opportunity to operate confidently in today's digital world, enabling students to apply computational thinking in context.

The content and assessment approach for this qualification has been designed to meet students' needs in the following ways:

- Develop computational thinking skills – this qualification provides students with the opportunity to operate confidently in today's digital world, enabling students to apply computational thinking in context, across both written and practical examinations.
- Provide practical opportunities – students will be encouraged repeatedly to design, implement and test programs that provide solutions to problems. They will apply their skills to produce robust programs and this

will help them to progress to further/higher education where practical knowledge and experience will be required.

- Programming language – Python.

### Pupils will develop the ability to:

- apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation;
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical problem-solving experience. This will include designing, writing and debugging programs;
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

**Examination board: Cambridge International**  
**Assessment: 100% examined; Paper 1 - Theory (50%) and Paper 2 - Problem-solving and programming (50%).**



# Drama

This is an exciting, inspiring and practical course that aims to develop your knowledge and experience of drama. The specification promotes involvement in, and enjoyment of, drama as performers and designers. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

The course is in three parts:

## 1. Devising Theatre.

You will create and perform a piece of original drama as a small group. You will choose a stimulus from a selection set by the board and you will use the techniques of a theatre practitioner, theatre genre or a specific theatrical style to develop your piece. Your understanding will be complemented by theatre trips and practical workshops. You will create a portfolio of supporting evidence and write an evaluation of the devising process in controlled conditions (approximately 900 words).

## 2. Performing from a text

You will prepare and perform two extracts from a published text to an examiner. You can choose to be assessed on acting or nominate a theatre design skill: costume, lighting, sound or set design.

## 3. Interpreting Theatre.

Written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes. You will study a set text in detail and evaluate how the play can be interpreted in a practical way. The examination questions

ask about a short section of the set text and you will write about: how you would communicate a role as an actor; how you would direct performers in the chosen section; and how you would design set, costume, sound and lighting for the section. You will also evaluate a professional theatre production you have seen in terms of acting, direction and design elements.

You will be set practical and written homework. Written homework will be research, description and analysis of practical work done in class, notes on your devised or scripted piece, a theatre review, designs for costumes and set or explaining how you would perform characters or evaluation of your own work and the work of others. Practical homework will involve attending a rehearsal, learning lines or writing up notes after attending a play, in order to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

### Examination board: EDUQAS

**Assessment:** Component 1: Devising Theatre; Performance (10%); Performance report and written controlled assessment (30%). Component 2: Performing from a Text. Externally assessed in April or May (20%). Component 3: Interpreting Theatre. Written examination (40%) Section A: Analyse one set text as an actor, designer and director. Section B: Evaluate a live theatre production in terms of acting, direction and design elements.



# Geography

"Geography is a force for broadening the mind" - Michael Palin

## Why study Geography?

GCSE Geography is exciting and inspiring and will help you understand the complex issues affecting people and the natural environment. It is the only subject to bridge the interactions between the human and natural world. Studying Geography will widen your horizons and help you to become a more informed world citizen. Geography is the study of landscapes, people, places and environments. It is quite simply about the world in which we live, and how and why it is changing.

Most of the world's problems on a local, national or global scale have links to Geography and are relying on future geographers to understand them. These range from climate change to sustainable development to migration to natural hazards which all feature prominently in the news. Understanding these contemporary issues is what Geography is all about.

Geography gives you a variety of skills that will complement your other subjects and are also valued by your future employers - in fact it has one of the highest rates of graduate employability! Skills you will develop include decision making, problem solving, GIS and developing a variety of numerical and literacy skills.

## What does the GCSE include?

The AQA GCSE course that we have chosen complements what have you learned in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The course covers both human and physical elements of Geography as well as geographical skills.

Paper 1 (Living with the physical environment) includes natural hazards such as volcanoes, earthquakes, ecosystems, rivers and coastal environments (35%)

Paper 2 (Challenges in the human environment) includes urban issues and challenges, changing economic world and resource management (35%)

Paper 3 (Geographical Applications: Issue evaluation, Fieldwork and Geographical Skills) (30%)

Field Trips: Year 10 day trip to the Olympic Park to look at urban regeneration and Year 11 day trip to Epping Forest to undertake a river study.

Optional enrichment trip to Iceland: We also lead optional international trips for Geography students to exciting geographical destinations. Our next destination is Iceland where our geographers can explore the unique landscape.

**Examination board: AQA Specification**

**Assessment: Written examination - 100%**





# History

## Why study History?

The History IGCSE is designed to appeal to a range of students, and help teach a wide variety of skills. We have a global focus with topics including: the causes and consequences of the Vietnam War, the rivalry between the Soviet Union and America which led to the Cold War, the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party and their control of Germany, and changes in medicine in Britain from 1848 up to the formation of the NHS.

We offer an IGCSE course that allows students to build on the skills they have gained in KS3, while allowing students to study History in greater depth and complexity. There are British, European and World components with strong social, political, cultural and economic themes.

The Edexcel IGCSE History course is designed to deepen and extend students' interest and understanding of the past. It provides background knowledge to help students understand the world we live in today. It also helps them to think and write logically and relevantly, and to use evidence accurately and critically.

There are two written examinations. Each exam is worth 50% of the overall grade:

## Paper 1

A World divided: Superpower Relations 1948-72 - What caused the Cold War? How did it develop? How was Detente reached?

Germany: Development of Dictatorship 1918-45 - How did World War One impact Germany? How did Hitler get to power? What was life like in Nazi Germany?

## Paper 2

The Vietnam Conflict 1945-75 - What caused the Vietnam Conflict? How did the war impact Vietnam? Why did America lose?

Changes in Medicine 1848-1948 - What were the roles of women in medicine in this period? What changes occurred? Why was the NHS established?

In order to enhance students' understanding and skills, we visit Berlin and offer the Pursuit of History Programme to develop their independent learning, thinking skills and super-curricular knowledge.

**Examination board: Edexcel IGCSE.**

**Assessment: Written examination - 100%**





# Latin

Latin was the language spoken and written by the Romans two thousand years ago.

## Why study it now, then?

Latin is sometimes described as a 'dead' language, but in fact is alive in the words we use today, with more than 20,000 of the 40,000 words commonly used in the English language derived from it. It is also a language from which many European languages derive and so will give you a good foundation for learning these.

Latin helps you develop your ability to analyse, judge and communicate and it will encourage you to be a lively and independent thinker; all of which are key skills in the world today. But perhaps the most important reason for studying Latin is that you will be able to read and appreciate some of the best works of world literature, in their original Latin written 2000 years ago.

There are three components to the course:

### Paper 1: Language (50%)

You will build on the language already covered in your first three years at school, using a new textbook: Latin to GCSE.

The paper consists of two comprehensions and a translation.

There is a defined vocabulary list from which all words in the language paper will be taken.

### Paper 2: Prose Literature 25%

You will explore Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* Book 5, which follows the story of Psyche and Cupid. You will read this in the original Latin, studying the different ways in which the author uses the language to convey drama, mood and character.

### Paper 3: Verse Literature 25%

You will explore one of the world's most famous epic poems: Virgil's *Aeneid*. You will be looking in detail at Book 2 and the story of the sack of Troy through the trick of the Trojan Horse.

Latin at GCSE is an enjoyable and intellectually stimulating subject. It is an exciting combination of linguistic, literary and historical elements and would be particularly appealing if you enjoy Latin translations and you are interested in the Roman world - its myths, history and culture, and its links to modern society.

**Examination board: OCR**

**Assessment: Written examination - 100%**





# Modern Foreign Languages (French/German/Spanish)

Communicating your needs, feelings and opinions to people who speak a foreign language, visiting their country and understanding their culture and emotions in return, is inspiring as well as personally satisfying. Mastering a Modern Foreign Language opens up exciting opportunities for study abroad and future careers with international focus. These benefits are why we strongly recommend that you choose to study at least one Modern Foreign Language out of French, German and Spanish. Many pupils choose to study two as they follow exactly the same IGCSE format. All of the skills you will develop in the next two years are already familiar to you:

**Speaking** – so that you can use the language to seek and provide information, hold a conversation and express opinions. In Year 10 and Year 11, in addition to your language lessons, you will have a 30 minute oral lesson in a smaller group every week to help you develop this very important communication skill.

**Listening** – so that you understand what you hear in person, on the phone or when listening to music and films. You will have a subscription to ThisisSchool.com to enable you to do lots of independent practice.

**Reading** – to enable you to understand everything from train timetables to memes on instagram and newspaper articles.

**Writing** – to enable you to write letters, messages, poems and stories and also understand how the language works.

Modern Foreign Languages are thriving at Channing. We offer a range of clubs for Years 10 - 11. As well as the trips for each language outlined below which provide immersion in real-life language and culture, Channing pupils enjoy exceptional success in competitions and university applications. One of last year's Year 13 leavers has just started studying French and Beginners' Russian at Oxford and another is relishing Spanish and Beginners' Italian at Cambridge.

**Examination board: Pearson Edexcel Assessment:**

**Paper 1: Listening (25%)**

**Paper 2: Reading (25%) & Writing (25%)**

**Paper 3: Teacher-conducted Speaking (25%).**

## French

### Why study French?

A language spoken by over 300 million people, French will enable you to communicate with people across 28 countries and 5 continents. Classed by Education First as the most beautiful spoken language in the world, French will enrich your culture and will provide you with an invaluable skill for your future.

As fewer schools offer French nowadays, being able to speak it will give you the edge over other candidates seeking employment at top firms. Some of the largest companies in the world, such as BNP, Dior, and Peugeot, are French, and often prioritise French speakers when recruiting. French is also the official language for the European Union, the only language used for deliberations at the Court of Justice for the EU, and one of the main languages of the United Nations. It will be extremely beneficial if you are considering a career in International Relations, Politics or Law.

A very rewarding part of the course is the opportunity to learn more about Francophone culture. To help facilitate this, during your GCSE course, you will have the chance to

participate on our trip to Nice, where you will stay with a French family and experience a full linguistic and cultural immersion. You will have covered most of the grammar needed for IGCSE by the end of Year 9. The French Department offers very small group sessions with our French Language assistant, and this individualised support leads to excellent results - 85% of students achieved a Grade 8 or 9 in last year's IGCSE.

# German

## Why study German?

The native language of over 100 million Europeans in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, German will appeal to you if you like logic, lengthy words and a language that will be extremely useful for your future: *zukunftsorientiert*!

Few schools in the UK currently offer German, so learning it provides excellent opportunities for university and beyond. The biggest economy in Europe, Germany boasts household names such as Adidas, Allianz, BMW and Bosch. Not only is German useful in STEM careers ranging from pharmaceuticals to engineering, but also for jobs in any global organisation with offices in German-speaking countries where able linguists are prized.

The rich cultural heritage (from Hegel to Heisenberg) of those countries makes German an excellent fit with History and/or RE and you will be invited to join a fascinating trip to Berlin in Year 10. You will have covered most of the grammar needed for IGCSE by the end of Year 9 and will benefit from weekly speaking lessons in very small groups with our German Language Assistant. The German

Department prides itself on providing you with individualised support - over 85% of students achieved a Grade 9 in last year's IGCSE.

# Spanish

## Why study Spanish?

A language spoken by over 600 million people, Spanish will enable you to communicate with people across over 20 countries and 4 continents. As the second most spoken language in the world, Spanish will be incredibly beneficial for your future.

Some of the largest companies in the world, such as Santander, Repsol, and Inditex, are Spanish, and often prioritise Spanish speakers when recruiting. Spanish-speaking countries are increasingly popular travel destinations, and being able to understand and speak Spanish will transform the experience of your travels. Spanish has become omnipresent and there are increasingly more songs and TV series in Spanish; being able to enjoy these in their original language will considerably enhance your appreciation of them.

A very rewarding part of the course is the opportunity to learn more about Hispanic culture. To help facilitate this, during your GCSE course, you will have the chance to participate on our trip to Granada, where you will stay with

a Spanish family and experience a full linguistic and cultural immersion. You will have covered most of the grammar needed for IGCSE by the end of Year 9. The Spanish Department offers group sessions with our Spanish Language assistant, and this additional provision helps contribute to excellent results - 93% of students achieved a Grade 7-9 in last year's IGCSE.



# Music

## Why study music?

- Music encourages higher-order thinking skills
- Music helps us to express our deepest emotions and thoughts
- Music helps us to understand our cultural heritage as well as other past and present cultures
- Music encourages teamwork
- Music fosters creativity and individuality
- Music education fosters discipline and commitment

You will learn how to improve your performing skills and through your work in composing you will gain an insight into how music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product. You will also learn how to analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed over the past 400 years or so. All GCSE musicians are expected to join a school ensemble group.

The assessment comprises of three units: **Performing** - you will need to play one solo piece and one ensemble piece.

**Composing** - you will need to compose two pieces.

**Appraising** - This is assessed through a 85 minute written paper with **eight questions** in total — **two questions for each of these four music areas**:

1. Musical Forms and Devices
2. Music for Ensemble
3. Film Music
4. Popular Music

Two of the questions will be based on two set works chosen by Eduqas.

## Set Works:

- Badinerie by J.S.Bach for Flute and String Orchestra with Harpsichord
- Africa: Toto (released 1982)

The examination mainly looks at three things:

### 1. Elements of Music

This means all the building blocks of a song — like melody, harmony, how loud or soft it is, the instruments used (sonority), rhythm, tempo, texture, and how the music is put together.

### 2. The Context

When and where was the music made? Why was it written? What was happening at the time?

### 3. Musical Language

This includes musical terms, reading notes in treble and bass clef, and any key vocabulary linked to the two set works you will study.

If you are having lessons on a musical instrument and have reached a level equivalent to grade III or above and you like what you have read above, then Music is for you. For further information go to:

[https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_keydocuments)

**Examination board: EDQUAS**

**Assessment: Examination - 40%, Coursework - 60%**



# Physical Education

## Why study Physical Education?

GCSE PE allows students the opportunity to further develop their passion for sport and exercise as well as their performance across a range of different sports and physical activities. This is reinforced by developing students' knowledge and understanding of the human anatomy and physiology, biomechanics, physical training, sports psychology and sociology of sport. The practical aspect of the course accounts for 30% of the total assessment. This requires pupils to be assessed in three different sports from the OCR accredited list of activities. Each assessment will require the student to demonstrate a set of core and advanced skills in both training and competitive contexts, and the students will also develop the skills to analyse and improve their own and others' performance.

In addition, students will be able to develop leadership skills, resilience, interpersonal and communication skills. Studying GCSE PE could provide students with enhanced career opportunities in a range of different industries including sports psychology, sports marketing or sports development, medicine and education.

Students who wish to study GCSE PE should have a background of regular participation in sport and physical activity. Ideally, they will be participating in sport outside of school and/or in a school club or team.

### Exam:

- **2 x 60-minute written papers:** a mix of multiple choice, short and extended answers

**Paper 1: Physical factors affecting performance: 30% of total GCSE mark.**

Topics covered - Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, and physical training.

**Paper 2: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology: 30% of total GCSE mark.**

Topics covered - sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being and use of data

**Non-exam assessment (40% of GCSE mark):**

Practical performance in physical activity and sport

- **3 practical performances** (worth 30% of the overall mark): 1 Team, 1 Individual and one of either an individual or team sport
- For each of their three practical performances, students will be assessed in core/advanced skills and competitive situations
- Students can also decide to choose sports such as skiing, rock climbing and horse riding. These will be classified as offsite sports due to their sport environments.

Analysis and Evaluation of Performance

- Students will complete a written task that draws upon the knowledge, understanding and skills a student has learnt and enables them to analyse and evaluate their own or a peer's performance in one activity.

**Examination board: OCR**

**Assessment:**

**60% 2 x 60-minute examination**

**30% Practical performances**

**10% Coursework**





# Religious Studies

## Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies (RS) enables you to investigate the 'Big questions'. It provides a platform for you to explore the most pressing and polarising issues, from matters of faith to morality. You will study the perspectives of others but more importantly, develop your own place within debates. RS builds emotional intelligence, awareness and resilience, by empowering you to form and express your views and have them questioned.

RS equips you with the ability to build, critique and interrogate arguments, and to understand causal links between beliefs, circumstance and religious practice.

## What will I study?

There are two written examinations. Each exam is worth 50% of the overall grade:

**Paper 1: Beliefs and Practices.** Paper 1 involves the study of two major world faiths, Christianity and Islam. Students will consider classical religious teachings and assess how these impact the lives of adherents in today's modern society. By means of studying Christianity and Islam at this level, students will be well versed in the traditions and teachings of the two largest religions both globally and nationally equipping them for their study in Year 11.

## Paper 2: Thematic Studies

The second part of the course explores essential philosophical and ethical issues in the modern world,

encouraging students to analyze diverse viewpoints. Key topics include: Crime & Punishment, Human Rights & Social Justice, contemporary perspectives on Families & Relationships, and ultimate questions about the Origins of the Universe, Life, and Death. Here, students will consider these issues from a Christian, Islamic, and secular perspective inviting them to build upon their learning in Year 10.

Religious Studies provides pupils with a range of high order thinking skills and a detailed awareness of the diverse beliefs and values which are located not only globally, but also evident in our local communities. A Religious Studies qualification is looked upon favourably by employers in the fields of Law, Education, Medicine and Politics, amongst others.

If you are a deep thinker with an interest in the metaphysical and spiritual dimensions of life and sharing your views as well as listening and responding to the opinions of others then this is the course for you!

**Examination board: AQA**

**Assessment: 100% examined**



# Optional Extra: Classical Greek

The Classics Department offers a qualification in Classical Greek. We will work towards the Intermediate Certificate in Classical Greek, to be taken in the summer of Year 10. Lessons for this will take place on Tuesdays after school.

There is a single paper focusing on language and we follow the textbook 'Greek to GCSE'.

Please note that you may choose to study Classical Greek in Year 10 only if you have studied it in Year 9.

## Why choose Classical Greek?

Classical Greek is an exciting and intellectually stimulating subject. It will be particularly appealing if you enjoyed studying Ancient Greek in Year 9 and if you are interested in language and seeing the links between ancient and modern languages.

It will also appeal if you are interested in the Greek world - its myths, history and culture, and its links to modern society.

There is one component to the course:

Language - 100%

You will build on the language already covered in Year 9. The paper consists of two comprehensions and a translation.

For those who want to continue studying this fascinating language at A-Level, we will run a transition course in Year 11 which will enable you to develop your language and literary analysis skills, but there will be no examination in Year 11.

**Examination board: Intermediate Certificate in Classical Greek**

**Assessment: 1 written paper.**

# Optional Extra: Level 2 Higher Project Qualification

In addition to your GCSE choices you will also have the opportunity to undertake a Level 2 Project Qualification with AQA. Students spend 8 months learning higher academic reading, writing and presentation skills supervised by a member of staff, before producing an extended piece of project work on a topic of their choice in Year 11. The process is an excellent means of developing independent learning skills and accessing more academically challenging material. Upon completion, students receive a GCSE-level qualification accredited by AQA.





# Life in the I/GCSE years

## Physical Education

All pupils benefit from an exciting programme of physical education, helping them to maintain their healthy lifestyle and encouraging them to engage in a variety of sporting activities. Pupils in Year 10 can choose from a varied and stimulating set of activities that can include basketball, volleyball, football, trampolining, fitness and outdoor games. The activities run in blocks with each block lasting for half a term.

Students also have the opportunity to choose to take part in Sports Leaders Level 2 course. This is a formally recognised qualification that involves both guided and peer-to-peer learning and supervised leadership to ensure that learners have all the skills they need to lead basic physical activities.

## Careers

Planning for your future becomes increasingly important at each educational stage and the Careers department will help prepare you for choices. In Year 10, you will have bespoke careers talks, a workplace insight morning, and you will have the opportunity to accompany an adult to their workplace to give you a taste of the world of work. In the summer after your I/GCSE examinations, you will be encouraged to take up a work placement. Over the two years, you will be invited to attend careers talks and events at which you will meet professionals from different fields of work. You will complete Morrisby Vocational Guidance aptitudes and psychometric testing and receive a tailor-made report containing A Levels, degree course and career suggestions which you will discuss with the Head of Careers. You will also have A level choices interviews with members of our senior team.

## PSHE - What to expect in Year 10

### Autumn term

Pupils will attend lessons devised by the school counsellor to help them to recognise and manage anxiety. In Drug Awareness Education pupils will investigate 'units' and examine the dangers associated with binge drinking and the impact of long term alcohol abuse. As part of Relationships and Sex Education pupils will learn how to recognise sexual exploitation in a lesson devised by CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) and they will also attend a lesson to raise awareness of what is meant by the terms miscarriage and reproductive health. Pupils will participate in a workshop to develop their understanding of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and will learn how to protect themselves and prevent the spread of STIs. In addition pupils will investigate the meaning of 'extremism', and identify the damaging effects it can have on community cohesion. This forms part of our commitment to the National Prevent Initiative.

### Spring term

Pupils will develop skills to recognise and evaluate arguments, defend rights and understand conflicts. In Careers, pupils will explore opportunities and record their skills and activities using Unifrog, our destinations platform and learn about pathways and potential careers from invited guest speakers. Pupils will learn about different types of contraception in Relationships and Sex Education. They will also attend a seminar by The Rap Project which will examine the potentially negative impact of pornography on the expectations and experiences of young people. In addition, they will also explore possible signs of abuse within teenage relationships, discuss domestic violence and investigate support groups. Furthermore, pupils will investigate the importance of donating blood.

### Summer term

Pupils will participate in a range of activities organised by the Head of Careers and often led by external speakers and organisations which will enable students to find out more about different pathways and types of career. In addition, pupils will investigate how mindfulness could help them stay calm and reduce day-to-day stress. For exam preparation, pupils will learn about effective summarising, identifying key words on exam papers and preparing for the day of the examination. Pupils will fill out self-evaluation questionnaires to help them to reflect on their learning and to see what progress they have made this year in PSHE.

## PSHE - What to expect in Year 11

### Autumn term

#### *Sex and Relationships Education*

Pupils will investigate consent, and discuss what constitutes sexual harassment in the workplace. In addition, pupils will participate in lessons designed to raise awareness of reproductive health and the menopause.

#### *Life Online*

Pupils will examine the role of technology in teenage relationship abuse. They will also consider how posting images could lead to regret, including sexting.

#### *Personal Safety*

Pupils will attend a seminar given by The Rap Project to raise awareness of sexual exploitation and rape, and explore potential strategies to reduce risk.

#### *Citizenship*

Pupils will attend lessons designed to raise awareness of how different societies can limit the potential of women, including with violence and (so called) 'honour' related abuse.

#### *Drug Awareness Education*

Pupils will learn about the potentially harmful outcomes for people addicted to prescription drugs.

#### *Careers*

Pupils will return to update their Morrisby profiles to help identify their strengths and consider potential career pathways. In addition, students will begin to use Unifrog to help them with gathering evidence for University and further education course applications.

### **Spring term**

#### *Careers*

Pupils will attend option events and have a series of lessons devised by the Head of Careers to explore career pathways and help guide them with their A Level choices.

#### *Health and Wellbeing*

Pupils will attend lessons devised to raise awareness of breast cancer and cervical cancer. They will also have lessons designed to help them understand the decisions made by women who have experienced crisis pregnancies.

#### *Economic Wellbeing*

Pupils will complete a financial awareness module designed to help them to understand their bank accounts and plan ahead.

#### *Drug Awareness Education*

Pupils will attend a powerful and informative drug awareness seminar given by a recovering addict.

### **Summer term**

#### *Study Skills*

Pupils will use lessons to revise in preparation for their GCSEs.

#### *Evaluation*

Pupils will complete self-evaluation questionnaires to help them to reflect on their learning and to see what progress they have made in PSHE this year.





