

GCSE Curriculum Guide





Mr Wolstenholme

Assistant Head (Academic)

Lucton Senior School provides all our students with a nurturing environment that allows them to flourish. We relish the opportunity to get to know each pupil's unique attributes, skills and interests and incorporate these into their daily school life. With our small class sizes, our students will have learning that is tailored to them, to support their academic progress as they move through the School, from the challenge of their GCSE syllabus's right through to their move into Sixth Form and further education.

Students are offered a lot of guidance in Year 9 to choose the most suitable Year 10 options for them and their future choices. They also have access to the KUDOS careers programme to help guide the decisions which may influence the rest of their futures. Throughout Year 10 and 11 there is a lot of communication between the pupils, their form tutors, Head of School, SENCo and parents to ensure that all pupils are making the most out of their learning opportunities. Outside of the classroom the pupils have access to a wide range of activities, particularly in the field of Sport and Performing Arts. There is always an opportunity for pupils to join in extra-curricular activities and many of our students have gone on to

successfully represent the school in national competitions.

Our senior pupils are involved in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) which gives them a plethora of different experiences and often leads to the completing the Duke of Edinburgh award.

As your child chooses their Option subjects for their GCSE studies they should be reminded of the following:

- Choose subjects they enjoy, they will be studying them for two years
- Choose subjects that you might need for your future career choice
- Choose subjects you feel you are good at.
- Don't choose subjects just because you like the teacher- you may not have them next year!
- Don't choose subjects just because your friends are doing them.

As students' progress into Year 11 they are invited to apply to be an "Option" and be given more responsibility around the school. The best way to find out about all the things that happen in the Senior School is to come and pay us a visit and I look forward to meeting with you soon.

English



English Language CIE IGCSE English Language

The English Language assessment is 100% based on exams. There are 2 papers which cover a range of skills from comprehension, summarising texts, and comparison of unseen passages. This covers works from across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

The second paper is entitled "Directed writing and Composition". This paper allows pupils to explore their creative writing and composition, based on using description or narrative.

Step Up to English Programme AQA Entry Level Certificate Step Up to English

Step up to English helps students build basic and relevant literacy skills. It offers two "Steps": Silver (Entry Level 1 +2) and Gold (Entry Level 3). This allows the school to have the freedom to tailor the specification to the needs of our pupils.

The two-step approach is ideal to build confidence and provides a perfect stepping stone in preparation for the English Language GCSE.

This allows pupils chance to intensively work on the following key skills:

- Reading and comprehension
- Writing
- Spoken Language

English Literature AQA GCSE English Literature

As with English Language, the exams will account for 100% of the final result.

The first paper covers a Shakespeare play and a 19th Century novel. The second paper examines the modern novel, modern poetry and unseen poetry.

The wide range of material covered allows the pupils to develop their literary skills including:

- Literal and inferential comprehension
- Critical reading
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features
- Comparing texts

English as an Additional Language (EAL) CIE IGCSE English as a second language

This qualification is for our international students. It is aimed at improving their understanding of the English language.

The course is broken down into 12 topics across the two years and this allows students to develop their reading and writing, listening and verbal skills, whilst combining new vocabulary.

Their examinations consist of three sections:

- Reading
- Listening
- Speaking

This course also supports pupils' language development in their other subject choices.

Maths



GCSE Mathematics Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics A

The study of mathematics provides skills which are used across many academic subjects. This course is designed to develop their skills related to Number, Algebra, Geometry, Ratio, Proportion and Statistics.

There is the option for pupils to either do the Foundation or Higher Exam. The Foundation paper is adapted for targeted grades of 5-1, the Higher paper targets grades from 9-3.

100% of the assessment is from the exams, and each paper is 50% of the total International GCSE.

Mathematics is a qualification that is required by most employers and is usually a requirement for entry to higher education. It is an important subject to study and requires logical thinking and analytical skills. Students will be guided through problem-solving techniques and how to work independently.

There are also opportunities for students to take part in external Mathematical challenges and pit their talents against students from other schools.

Edexcel Awards in Maths Edexcel Number and Measure (Level 1 or 2)

For those pupils who find mathematics highly challenging and who would struggle to achieve a pass grade at this stage in the IGCSE course, the Edexcel Awards in Mathematics programme will still be available to help them develop their skills. They

will then be able to access the IGCSE examination at a later date.

Students of our Level 1 and Level 2 Awards will develop a deeper understanding of concepts in number and measure, giving them the confidence to apply this knowledge to the higher level concepts of the GCSE syllabus whilst still gaining a qualification.

The key skills covered in this course are Number, Measure, Charts and Graphs.

Further Maths AQA Level 2 Qualification in Further Maths

For those pupils who have achieved their IGCSE in Maths in Year 10 this is an excellent bridging syllabus for those who go on to sit A level Maths. This is an excellent opportunity to gain an AS Level in Maths as many of that syllabus is covered by this course.

The course covers Number, Algebra, Coordinate Geometry (in 2 dimension), Calculus, Matrix Transformations and Geometry.

It is assessed through 2 exam papers, one calculator and one non-calculator.

The mathematical demand increases as the student progresses through the exam paper.

Science



Science OCR Gateway Suite

The three Science subjects, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are compulsory subjects in Year 10 and 11. In Year 10 all students will have four periods a week of each Science.

In Year 11 all students follow the same programme of study up to the mock exams, after which pupils have the option of entering for a Foundation Level or Higher Level GCSE. Foundation level papers are easier and more accessible, but the highest grade available is a grade 5. The Higher level examination provides an opportunity for students to achieve grades from 4 to 9.

For students who are unlikely to study any of the sciences to A level, we also offer the choice of following the Combined Science route. Following this route, pupils study each science in less depth, and consequently have less content to learn and revise for the examinations.

The Separate Science courses result in 3 GCSE grades, a separate grade for each of the Sciences. Students sit 2 exam papers of 1hr45 minutes for each of the Sciences.

For the Combined Science option, pupils will again sit 6 exam papers, 2 for each Science. Each exam will be 1 hour 10 minutes. The grades are then averaged across all 6 papers.

It is recommended that students who wish to complete an A-Level in Science should be encouraged to complete the Separate Science route as this covers more course content.

All of the Science courses contain required practical elements and each exam paper can contain up to 15% mathematical content.



Combined Sciences OCR Gateway Suite J250

About half of our pupils follow the Combined Science route.

Students are taught by a specialist teacher in each of the sciences. Learners are helped to understand how, through the ideas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas which are of universal application.

Teaching of practical skills is integrated within the theoretical topics.



Biology

OCR Gateway Suite J247

At the start of the course pupils begin studying the microscopic world of Biology and build upon these foundations to grasp an understanding of the macroscopic. They look at cells and learn how to use microscopes. This then leads into organization of the body and looking at different organ systems, particularly with focus on the circulatory system. This is supported by completing organ dissections. In Year 11, pupils cover larger ideas such as ecosystems and medicines. They also look at modern advances in Biology in relation to genetics and inheritance, with ethical debates and views on modern science such as genetic engineering and cloning. The course is full of hands on practical experiences and application of pupils' knowledge to the world around them.

Chemistry

OCR Gateway Suite J248

In Year 10, pupils develop their understanding of key concepts in Chemistry. Their ideas on atoms and particles are refined and applications of Chemistry are introduced in the guise of elements, compounds and mixtures. Students then examine different types of chemical reactions, and energy changes during reactions. All of the theory is supported with relevant practical work and demonstrations.

During Year 11 students learn more about rates of reaction and their importance in industrial settings. There is also an emphasis on current environmental issues, and potential solutions. Students learn how to problem solve, plan investigative work, to use their initiative, and to work and co-operate in groups. They also develop complex laboratory skills.

Physics

OCR Gateway Suite J249

Physics contains the most individual topics of the three Sciences. It involves lots of hands on practical work to get pupils to be able to visualise more abstract concepts. The topics covered across the two years include: Matter, Forces, Electricity, Magnetism, Waves and Matter, Radioactivity, Energy and Global Challenges. The course allows the pupils to develop their understanding of a key concept and apply it to a real-life situation. The variety of topics gives the students a lot to think about. They learn how to use vital mathematical equations to explain the results of their experiments and start to link key scientific ideas together.

Art



Art: Specialism: Fine Art OCR GCSE Fine Art J171

Learners are required to work in one or more areas of Fine Art, such as those listed below:

- Drawing
- Mixed-media
- Printing
- Painting
- Sculpture

This specialism would suit students who enjoy working in any of the above areas. They will learn and develop their skills in drawing and painting and printing, and develop their own personal ideas into creative finished outcomes

Art: Specialism: Graphic Design OCR GCSE Graphic Design J172

Learners study a specific area of graphic communication, including the following:

- Typography
- Communication graphics
 - Design for print
- Advertising
- Illustration
- Package design

This specialism allows students to become confident and creative graphic designers. They will learn techniques that will enable them to eventually meet a design brief such as creating a logo for a new company or producing illustrations for a book.

Art: Specialism: Textiles OCR GCSE Textiles J173

Learners are required to work in one or more areas of Textile Design, such as those listed below:

- Constructed textiles
- Dyed fabrics
- Printed fabrics
- Fashion design
- Installed textiles
- Soft furnishings
- Stitched and/or embellished textiles.

This specialism would suit students who enjoy being creative but want to explore their creativity using new materials. They will have the opportunity to explore techniques such as weaving, surface printing, embroidery (machine or hand), knitting, batik, appliqué and collage.



CDT



CDT Edexcel GCSE Design and Technology

This qualification is split into two units which have creative design and making at its heart.

One unit is exam assessed and the other unit is a controlled assessment.

The exam allows pupils to demonstrate their breadth of understanding of design and technology and a focused section based on their chosen specialist material from metals, papers and boards, polymers, fibres, textiles and timbers.

Across the two-year course pupils must amass a large design folio and the practical work takes many hours of dedication and determination. Most pupils will find the challenging work stimulating and they will develop a strong level of creative skills.



Drama



Drama AQA GCSE Drama

Studying Drama requires emotional maturity and gives pupils a deep understanding of themselves. It helps develop self-esteem and draws on both emotions and creativity.

The course is divided into three components:

- Understanding Drama
- Devising Drama (Practical)
- Texts in Practice (Practical)

Drama is an integral part of the school and we encourage Drama students to get fully involved in school productions. There are also many opportunities for theatre trips.

It must be stressed that the very nature of the subject demands good collaborative skills, dedication and reliability. Drama is hard work but fun and rewarding.

Economics



Economics **CIE IGCSE Economics**

Economics is divided into two main sections; microeconomics and macroeconomics. The former studies the behaviour of individuals in relation to firms and looks at why prices change, what role money fulfills in society, how markets fail and why they are so important. Macroeconomics, on the other hand, focusses on the inner workings of government decision making – fiscal policy, ex-change rates, inflation and other indicators of economic performance. There are six units to cover which are assessed by two exams.

Economics is highly regarded by universities as it shows that candidates are capable of analytical and evaluative thinking, using both diagrams and written answers.

A lot of economics is conceptual, so this means we take real life situations and turn them into diagrams. There is a lot of tough terminology -the course will require good essay writing techniques and a logical mind-set.

French



French **Edexcel GCSE French**

Employers look favourably on candidates with a language qualification. In a multilingual world, companies are increasingly aware of the need for people with strong language skills.

During this course, you will develop an understanding of spoken and written forms of French, in a range of contexts.

You will develop the ability to communicate effectively in French through speaking and writing.

The IGCSE French is assessed through 3 exams:

Paper 1- Listening

Paper 2- Speaking

Paper 3- Reading

Paper 4- Writing

Geography



Geography

AQA GCSE Geography

Geography is a dynamic and flexible subject which covers the physical environment and human's interaction with it.

The GCSE course covers the following topics:

PAPER 1 Living with the physical environment

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK

PAPER 2 Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

PAPER 3 Geographical applications

- Section A: Issue Evaluation
- Section B: Fieldwork (Two geographical enquiries must be undertaken to supplement and develop geographical skills and understanding)

History



History

History is about people, their lives, and the events that shaped them. This course gives you a good understanding of the world we live in today by studying the events of the twentieth century.

The areas that are covered in this course are:

- 1) International Relations from 1919 to 1990
- 2) Russia 1905-1941

You will sit three exam papers on these topics, one of which is based on sources.

History is a subject that requires good analytical skill and the ability to write detailed answers based on primary sources.

ICT



ICT CIE IGCSE ICT

Students develop an understanding of the implications of technology in society and the ways Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can help at home, work and the wider world. They will also be aware of safety and security when using the internet.

There is an emphasis on developing lifelong skills, useful in a plethora of education and employment scenarios. Specifically, these are using Powerpoint to produce outstanding presentations, designing webpages using Microsoft Expression, making use of Word to produce a range of effects in documents, making effective use of spreadsheets using Excel, and using Access to create databases and manipulate and present data.



Music



Academic Music Edexcel GCSE Music

Music is all around us. It influences our moods and emotions and stimulates us in many ways. Following the GCSE music course will develop your understanding of how music is created through four areas of study. These provide focus and detail of specific areas of music. In the course you will learn how to compose and develop skills in performing and appraising music.

The course covers the following topics:

- Instrumental music 1700-1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for stage and screen
- Fusions
- How to compose melodies
- How to compose for, and perform on, your chosen instrument.

Music is a subject that relates to so many other subjects. You do not have to be able to read music to be able to do GCSE, but it certainly helps.



Academic P.E. CIE IGCSE Physical Education

Academic P.E. allows someone with an enthusiasm for sport to explore more details about the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education. The course involves being able to apply knowledge of key movements in different sports to how they are actually carried out by the body. You will learn to name all the major muscle groups, apply knowledge from biological concepts such as respiration and look at ways to plan ways to develop skills in sports. This helps learners to develop an appreciation of the necessity for sound understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.

All candidates must complete two sections:

- A written exam paper which consists of both short and extended written answers where candidates are required to demonstrate skills of description, interpretation and evaluation.
- The second aspect of assessment is the coursework component. The coursework component assesses candidates' performance in four physical activities

The performance of physical activities is a central and integral part of the course. Wherever possible, in the delivery of the course, theory is related to practice and practice is related to theory. This approach enables candidates to understand, as well as to apply, the theoretical concepts.

The theory aspect of this course is crucial in pupils' succeeding in this subject and they should be aware that their physical prowess alone is not enough to get them through.

There are many opportunities for pupils to participate in sporting activities at Lucton outside of the lessons and all our pupils' get the opportunity to represent the school in matches on a Wednesday afternoon with lots of practices at lunch-times and during activity sessions. These

Spanish



Spanish **Edexcel GCSE Spanish**

By 2050, the number of Spanish speakers worldwide is expected to increase to 530 million. It is therefore a very exciting time to be learning Spanish.

Throughout the course, you will be covering topics such as Identity and culture, Your local area, Holidays and travel, School, Work and future aspirations, The environment and much more.

You will learn to communicate in both spoken and written forms of Spanish and increase your knowledge and understanding of Spanish grammar and its application.

The assessment in Spanish consists of 3 exams:

- Paper 1- Listening
- Paper 2- Speaking and Writing
- Paper 3- Reading
- Paper 4- Writing



Religious Studies



Religious Studies, Philosophy & Applied Ethics AQA Short Course 8061 601/8399/8

This course is compulsory for all students at Lucton.

You will study the following topics:

- Beliefs and teachings in Christianity and Judaism
- Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a Christian perspective via two themes:
- Relationships and families
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Dialogues and debates between religious and non-religious views

You will learn skills in knowledge and understanding of other faiths and viewpoints, interpreting and evaluating information, applying and communicating knowledge, reasoning, constructing well-informed and well-balanced arguments and problem-solving. You will also have an excellent opportunity to develop your debating skills.

PSHCE



PSHE is a compulsory subject for all students. It does not have any assessment requirements. As a school we follow the curriculum set out by the PSHE Association, following the topics laid out below.

Year 9	Peer influence, substance use and gangs Healthy and unhealthy friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse, and gang exploitation	Setting goals Learning strengths, career options and goal setting as part of the GCSE options process	Respectful relationships Families and parenting, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and relationship changes	Healthy lifestyle Diet, exercise, lifestyle balance and healthy choices, and first aid	Intimate relationships Relationships and sex education including consent, contraception, the risks of STIs, and attitudes to pornography	Employability skills Employability and online presence
Year 10	Mental health Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change	Financial decision making The impact of financial decisions, debt, gambling and the impact of advertising on financial choices	Healthy relationships Relationships and sex expectations, myths, pleasure and challenges, including the impact of the media and pornography	Exploring influence The influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media	Addressing extremism and radicalisation Communities, belonging and challenging extremism	Work experience Preparation for and evaluation of work experience and readiness for work
Year 11	Building for the future Self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities	Next steps Application processes, and skills for further education, employment and career progression	Communication in relationships Personal values, assertive communication (including in relation to contraception and sexual health), relationship challenges and abuse	Independence Responsible health choices, and safety in independent contexts	Families Different families and parental responsibilities, pregnancy, marriage and forced marriage and changing relationships	

Core Curriculum (Non-GCSE)

These are core activities compulsory for all students.

Form Time

Form time give you and your tutor the time to monitor and discuss your academic progress and your general well-being.

Form periods also allow space in the week for important administrative tasks, for example checking GCSE entries and examination timetables.

Finally, they simply allow you and your fellow form members time to come together as a group; unlike lower down the School, you will not generally be taught in form groups in Years 10 and 11.

House Activities

House activities continue in Years 10 and 11. Indeed, as older members of

the School you will be expected to set a good example to younger students and play a greater role in House Activities in order to develop the leadership and team-working skills that are so greatly in demand in later life.

Games

Your time in Years 10 and 11 is likely to be demanding, even quite stressful on occasions. The scientific and medical community are very clear that regular exercise is crucial in helping to reduce stress and promote the sort of general well-being that will allow you to perform to the best of your ability academically. Games will, therefore, continue to feature in your regular weekly routine.

Matches and tournaments play an important part in the life of the School, and we continue to expect students selected for competitive fixtures in Years 10 and 11 to participate to the best of their ability.



All students follow our CCF course and DofE.

CCF is introduced to the students during Year 8 and a basic syllabus is followed. During the next three years – 9, 10 & 11, the CCF follows a more advanced syllabus, with opportunities for promotion and progression as cadets meet each criterion. There are also chances to take part in weekends away with Lucton School CCF and other activities run by the Cadet Training Team or the Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training in Capel Curig.

During the year cadets will have the chance to take part in:

- Fieldcraft
- Skill at Arms / Weapon Handling including:
 - Blank firing exercises
 - Air rifle ranges
 - Paintball Close Quarter Combat range
 - Live firing, when on annual camp

- Leadership Training
- Method of Instruction
- STEM Training
- First Aid Training & qualifying courses
- Cadet Physical Activity / Testing

DofE is now started in Year 9, which allows steady progression from the Bronze Award through to the Gold Award of those that stay on in the Sixth Form. We try to have a least two expeditions a year, which get progressively longer from that of Bronze through to Gold, during which navigation and camp craft are practised and tested.

On the whole during DofE, the onus is with the students to self-motivate and take ownership of their path to success; however, taking part with CCF during the term time and completing the subjects listed above will count towards skills, physical and some volunteering.





Lucton School, Lucton,
Herefordshire HR6 9PN

01568 782000

admissions@luctonschool.org