

2024-26



# SHEFFIELD GIRLS'

SENIOR SCHOOL

GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

# GCSE Choices

  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS  
GUIDE  
2023**

**INDEPENDENT  
SECONDARY  
SCHOOL OF  
THE YEAR IN  
THE NORTH**

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# Welcome

to GCSE Choices



During your first three years in the Senior School at Sheffield Girls' you have been following a broad course of study covering a wide variety of subjects and you have probably started to get a sense of those subjects you feel most passionately about and are interested in studying in greater depth.

It is time to decide which subjects to study at GCSE and this booklet will provide some extra information which will help you to make those decisions.

Over the next two years at school we will provide a distinct and relevant curriculum which recognises your interests, strengths and values, and which will prepare you for your A Level studies. You will be encouraged to participate in a number of enrichment and super-curricular activities through which you will develop a broad set of skills and attributes which we know that universities and employers value highly.

Most students complete nine GCSEs including Mathematics, English Language, English Literature and Triple or Double Award Science, plus three or four other optional choices. Alongside your GCSEs and any extra-curricular clubs, you will also have the option to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award,

participate in super-curricular competitions and challenges, venture out on educational visits and overseas trips, complete work experience, and engage in careers conversations and events.

As a GCSE student, we encourage you to take ownership of your educational experience; considering your subject choices carefully but also making the most of the wider offer which can be tailored to match your skills, interests and aspirations. There are some example pathways set out in this booklet which demonstrate how you can make the most of the opportunities available to you at Sheffield Girls' but remember that these are only examples - what will your pathway look like?

If you have further questions after reading through this booklet, speak to Mr Adams, Mrs White, or the relevant Head of Department and they will be happy to help.

**Mrs Gunson**  
Head

# Show your steel.

The main text 'Show your steel.' is surrounded by several colorful callouts and icons. The callouts include: 'BE FEARLESS' in a purple diamond, 'BE YOURSELF' in a pink rounded rectangle, 'ASK FOR HELP' in a yellow cloud, 'LEAD' in a purple hexagon, 'TAKE PART!' in a red circle, 'COLLABORATE' in a blue cloud, and 'GET INVOLVED!' in a green oval. A teal circular graphic with the text 'TRY EVERYTHING' repeated around its perimeter is also present. The background is light blue with scattered teal starburst icons.

## Character education and co-curricular activity

By Year 10 you will be familiar with the exceptional all-round education on offer at Sheffield Girls’

Our Girls of Steel character education programme is a continuous thread throughout all phases of your education. Through the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate you will have developed your independence, and your collaborative and communication skills. You will have refined your approach to thinking and learning, reviewing and improving and will understand the common traits of successful leadership.

In Key Stage 4 you can take the next step. Not only can you now focus on those subjects you are most interested in, you can take time to explore those clubs, activities, trips, expeditions and opportunities which most closely match your skills and interests

and you can start to support younger pupils to follow in your footsteps.

Creativity, teamwork, enterprise and positive risk taking are vital ingredients in your school experience, building your confidence and sense of belonging, as well as developing your resilience and intuition which are so valuable as your study and career aspirations develop.

Whether training for sports competitions, setting up your own business, rehearsing for performances or pushing your intellectual horizons, in Year 10 and Year 11 you can test your limits, and in the process, learn how to lead, how to support, how to adapt, how to succeed and

how to fail – not to mention have a lot of fun along the way!

With over 60 different clubs available to you in Year 10 and Year 11 during and after the school day, there is something for everyone and we encourage you to continue to develop new skills and interests outside of the classroom even whilst completing your GCSEs.

COLLABORATE

BE  
FEARLESS

TRY EVERYTHING • TRY EVERYTHING • TRY EVERYTHING



GET  
INVOLVED!

## Service to school and our wider community

We believe that our school community has a responsibility to change the world we live in for the better. This approach is reflected in the varied opportunities for service in Year 10 and Year 11 both inside school and in the wider community.

### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

You can apply for a number of leadership responsibilities during Key Stage 4, including:

Form Prefect, Eco Rep, EDI Champion, Charity Rep, Language Ambassadors, Sports team Captains, Digital Leader

Part of becoming a leader at school is to set an example to our younger pupils in the Infant and Junior School and there are multiple opportunities to get involved with activities with groups from younger year groups, including supporting taster lessons for Year 6 pupils, and supporting Junior clubs and sports activities.

As you enter your final years of Senior School and start to look ahead to Sixth Form you will play a vital role in helping to create a fun, supportive and vibrant environment within our school community and will live our school values of courage, kindness and positivity.

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

An integral part of our co-curricular provision, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers the chance to participate in expeditions in the UK and further afield, as well as ample opportunity to undertake service activities in the local community. During Year 10 you will have the opportunity to complete your DofE Silver Awards.



## Pastoral support and wellbeing

Your pastoral care is of paramount importance and your wellbeing is at the heart of everything that we do. Our pastoral support structure in Year 10 and Year 11 is designed to suit the specific needs of this crucial stage of your education.

We ensure that all students are emotionally supported, make progress, achieve targets and can engage with all areas of school life. The members of the pastoral team endeavour to know you as an individual and, alongside support from your Form Tutor, Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year, you will have access to our School Nurse and School Counsellor.

### HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Good health and happiness are a priority at Sheffield Girls'. You will have full access to our excellent facilities, including the state-of-the-art Fitness Suite and can join a multitude of clubs, teams and activities to support both physical and mental wellbeing.

We encourage you to take part in activities from our co-curricular

programme in order to become more well-rounded, confident and sociable young adults, who can thrive in unfamiliar settings and approach new challenges with an open mind, skills which will support your transition to Sixth Form and eventually to life beyond school.





## Making choices and considering your future career

Recently you have been considering self-awareness and decision-making in PSHE lessons. During the first few weeks of the Spring Term you will be participating in a series of support sessions designed to help you make your GCSE subjects choices.

These sessions will include taking an Aspirations Questionnaire to help you consider GCSEs in relation to potential career choices. Your Form Tutor, Mrs Taylor (Head of Year), Mrs Metcalfe-Murgatroyd (Head of Careers) and your PSHE teacher will help you with these decisions.

During Year 10 you will have timetabled careers lessons.

You will also take the Morrisby Assessment tests and receive a detailed profile and a careers action plan to help you make decisions about Post-16 Choices.

In Year 11, you will have a careers interview and work with your Sixth Form Mentor to make the best choices for your next stage of studying.

Our twice weekly 'Careers Couch' sessions provide an opportunity for you to meet with our Mrs Metcalfe-Murgatroyd to discuss any ideas, problems or questions you might have about your future.

Each half term you are invited to attend a 'Live Lunch', during which Mrs Metcalfe-Murgatroyd interviews one of our School alumnae about their time at School and subsequent career path. It is a great opportunity to hear case studies across a variety of professions and learn more about some of the non-academic qualities and skills which have helped guide our previous pupils through the challenges and obstacles of adult life.







## Important Dates for Year 9 in Spring Term

### GCSE Options Evening (webinar)

Wednesday 24th January  
2024

You and your parents are invited to attend the GCSE Options Evening where you will be given a general introduction and staff will be available to answer any queries about courses.

### Year 9 Consultation Evening

Tuesday 6th February 2024

You and your parents will be invited to make appointments at a Consultation Evening to discuss your progress and possible choices with your subject teachers.

### Careers Fair

Wednesday 7th February  
2024

All senior pupils are invited to our evening careers fair to meet universities, post-18 providers and employers from a wide range of professions and industries.

### Deadline for completed GCSE Choices

Friday 9th February 2024

## YOUR SUBJECT OPTIONS

## COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

*English Language, English Literature, Double Science, Mathematics*

## OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

*Business / Computer Science / Drama / Economics / Fine Art / Food Preparation and Nutrition / Geography / History / Latin / Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish) / Music / Physical Education / Religious Studies / Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)*

## What should I study?

It is important to bear in mind what you enjoy, the skills you will develop and what you are good at, alongside any career plans that you may have at this stage.

You should aim to achieve a broad and balanced set of choices that you can build on in your future studies. Most students will study nine GCSE subjects.

The compulsory subjects are:

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Double Award Science (equivalent of two GCSE subjects)

You can choose four more subjects from the list on this page to make a total of nine. We strongly recommend that you continue with one of the languages you already study and that you choose a humanities subject (Geography, History or Religious Studies).

You must also choose an additional subject as an alternative as it is not always possible for the timetable to provide all your choices.

There is also the opportunity between Year 9 and Year 12 for students to take an additional 'Twilight' GCSE which is taught at the end of the school day. There is a charge to study a Twilight GCSE and a class will only run if there are enough students to make it feasible. The subjects on offer commencing in September 2024 can be found on [page 37](#).

All GCSEs now follow a linear scheme which means that there are end of course examinations / assessment only. These will test your knowledge and understanding as well as the skills you will acquire during the course.

Some subjects will also have an assignment (non-examination assessment) that will be completed in lesson time. Practical work, fieldwork, research, oral and communication skills may also contribute to your final grade.

In addition to the subjects above you will also follow a programme to encourage your individual development. This includes Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and Physical Education as well as General Studies and Life Skills.

### KEY STAGE 4 EXAMPLE PATHWAYS

Throughout Year 10 and Year 11 there is the opportunity to tailor your journey to develop your skills, knowledge and experiences around a specific focus. Some examples of focussed pathways are included in the following subject options section. We provide a bespoke suite of subjects, clubs, activities and super-curricular events to allow you to customise your own choices, matched to your interests and aspirations.

## Completing the choices form

# 1

Choose four subjects to study alongside the core subjects.

# 2

Enter your choices on the form.

# 3

Enter your alternative choice.

You will be allocated four of your choices, depending upon the timetable, so make sure you would be happy studying any of the subjects listed.

# 4

Please complete the form by Friday 9 February 2024.

### GCSES 2024-2026 - NON-EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT INFORMATION



EDEXCEL

# Business

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

The GCSE Business course will provide you with knowledge of all the key aspects of setting up, operating and succeeding in business. Understanding business will open up many career paths in marketing, accounting and finance, human resources and operations management.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Theme 1: Investigating a small business

This theme concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

### Theme 2: Growing a business

This theme examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Data and number skills
- Presenting arguments and making judgments and justified recommendations on the basis of the available evidence
- Recognising the nature of problems and providing solutions
- An active interest in current affairs and the business world

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

During your time studying Business we offer exciting enrichment opportunities such as the chance to take part in the Wings of Hope Achievement Award. You can also take part in competitions such as Girls Are Investors and the Young Financial Journalist competition. You will also have the opportunity to visit local and national businesses like JCB and Jaguar Land Rover.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

If you choose to continue your Business studies at A Level, it offers a very diverse range of disciplines that might be studied at university such as Business and Administration, Business, European Business Studies, Accounting and Finance, Marketing and HR.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Two written examinations at the end of Year 11.



AQA

# Computer Science

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Computer Science is the study of how computers work and how they are used. Almost every aspect of our lives today involves the use of computers and digital technology. A GCSE in Computer Science will build upon the knowledge and skills you developed through your Key Stage 3 Computing lessons and provide you with an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will learn how to make computers do exactly what you want them to, through the application of problem solving and computer programming skills. Research has shown that due to the problem solving skills it develops in students, those who study Computer Science tend to achieve higher grades across all their subjects. Computer Science is not just about writing computer code. It is also about solving puzzles, creativity, changing the future and most of all, having fun.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Unit 1: Computational thinking and programming skills

In this unit you will learn how to use computational thinking skills to solve practical problems and turn your solutions into computer code.

### Unit 2: Computing Concepts

In this unit you will learn about a wide range of topics such as; networking, cyber security, social engineering, mobile technologies and wearable technologies.

## WHAT SKILLS AND QUALITIES WILL DEVELOP?

- Critical thinking
- Analysis and logical thinking
- Problem solving
- Collaborative working

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

The department offers a variety of activities for GCSE students including Robotics Club, the Bebras Computing Challenge and the Oxford University Computing Challenge. You will also have the opportunity to visit The National Museum of Computing and to take part in university workshops on areas such as Digital Forensics and Cyber Security.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

In the future this qualification could help you either with further study of Computer Science or with a range of other courses and careers. A GCSE in Computer Science is a great foundation for

any career including designer, architect, engineer, publisher, medical researcher, sports coach, music or film producer. Don't worry if you don't know what you want to do with your life just yet, remember that most of the jobs that will be available when you leave university haven't even been thought of yet. Computer Science is the very best start you can get for these too.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two examination papers which test your knowledge and understanding of theory topics and your programming skills. Each examination is worth 50% of your final mark.



# Drama

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Drama at Sheffield Girls' is a fun and rewarding subject that develops effective communication skills, design and technical skills, and confidence. If you enjoy acting, have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama and are able to work well with others in order to create successful performances, you will gain a great deal of practical experience through this course. We are a vibrant and engaging department that seeks to get everyone involved and to help students to develop in the areas they're interested in - from on-stage drama to lighting and set design.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

There are two components:

### Coursework: Creating and performing three pieces of theatre

An individual performance (2-3 minutes) and two group pieces (each 15 minutes); one an extract from a play and the other an original devised drama. You will work in groups of between two and six actors to create this devised piece on which you will later answer questions in the written paper. In order to prepare you for this, you will maintain a devising log throughout the rehearsal period. Although you work with others in both the Devised Drama and the Group Extract, you will be individually assessed.

### Written paper

Pre-release material for the written examination is issued in the Autumn Term of Year 11 and comprises two extended extracts from two different plays. You will explore the extracts practically

and from the perspective of an actor, director and designer. You will not be assessed on a performance of the play extracts.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Creative writing and communication skills
- Acting and / or theatre design skills
- Practical, planning, organisation and problem solving skills
- Collaborative working

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

Many trips run throughout the year including visits to local productions and ones further afield such as to RSC productions in Stratford-upon-Avon or to performances in London's West End.

Lunchtime drama clubs continue for GCSE students where you can continue to develop your skills and put on productions in the drama studio.

School plays and musicals are an exciting event on the school calendar; past productions have included *The Wind in the Willows* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. If acting is your focus, auditions are open to all years and for all productions, or if you prefer the backstage action, there are plenty of design, planning and technical roles to apply for. Performance Platform evenings provide our actors with the opportunity to perform monologues or duologues before an invited audience of friends and family.



## LAMDA

Break and lunchtime lessons leading to a LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) qualification are also available in the following subjects:

- Solo acting
- Duologue acting
- Verse and Prose Speaking
- Musical Theatre
- Devising

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

This course can lead to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts in Higher Education although students have gone on to study a range of subjects including Law, Biology, History, Politics and English Literature. It can also lead to a career in the performing arts industries.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Over the two years, you will create, rehearse and perform, three pieces of practical coursework worth 60%
- You will sit a written examination at the end of the course of two hours and thirty minutes, worth 40%

OCR

# Economics

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Economics is about people and their economic choices. This course will enable you to appreciate that we are all part of the economy and that economics relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions of individuals or families to the structures created by governments and producers. It will develop your understanding of how economic issues affect choices about resources and markets and vice versa. An understanding of Economics is an essential life skill which has never been more important than it is today.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Component 1

Introduces you to the main economic agents, the basic economic problem and the role of markets, including the labour market and the importance of the financial sector.

### Component 2

Focuses on the main economic objectives, such as economic growth, low unemployment, fair distribution of income and price stability, and other roles of government. Other aspects are the importance of international trade and the impact of globalisation.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Data and number skills
- Presenting arguments and making evidence-based judgments and recommendations
- Challenging your own assumptions using evidence
- Political awareness and an active interest in current affairs

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

Our Economics students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of challenges and competitions in Year 10 and 11 including:

- Girls are Investors Competition
- Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office Economics competition
- Royal Economic Society Young Economist of the Year competition

You will also have the opportunity to visit the Bank of England in Year 10.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Whatever your career path, Economics is respected by employers and universities alike. Economics graduates are employed in a range of posts in manufacturing, transport, law, communications, banking, insurance, education, investment and retailing industries, as well as in government agencies and consulting. Economics graduates are in high demand and are rewarded accordingly.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Two written examinations at the end of Year 11.



EDEXCEL

# English Language & English Literature

COMPULSORY SUBJECT

## WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

English Language examines the way language is used to communicate through speech, writing and other forms of communication. It might consider how the way we speak changes in different environments or at different ages. English Literature examines texts including novels, plays, short stories and poetry. It thinks about how the context in which it was written impacts its themes and ideas and what it could tell us about our lives today. It also looks at the way an author writes and what technique he or she uses to create literary effects. In English Literature we seek to give students an understanding of the way literature functions in society, how it can be used as a platform to share ideas and how it can give a voice to those who are otherwise silenced or ignored.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### English Literature:

You will study a range of texts, including non-fiction, from different time periods including a selection of poetry, a modern prose text, a modern drama text and a Shakespeare play.

### English Language:

You will examine the way language works including diction and colloquialisms, the development of language from childhood to adulthood and how language shapes the way we understand the world. We cover a wide range of topics to ensure you are fully prepared for your GCSE examinations.

At Sheffield Girls', we ensure the curriculum is varied and reflects the nature of our culturally rich society. We examine texts written by women, people of colour and

people from cultures across the globe. Through the study of literature, empathy skills are nurtured whilst fostering confidence and self-esteem. Girls learn about inspiring and influential women and men who have impacted society through their writing.

## WHAT SKILLS AND QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

### English Literature:

- Reading comprehension
- Critical analysis of text and language
- Developing critical arguments and influencing an audience
- Presentation skills – in writing and discussion
- The ability to assess writers' narrative methods and show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

### English Language:

- The ability to consider and compare writers' ideas and perspectives
- Analysis of linguistic and structural devices and their effects
- Writing skills – developing different styles and techniques to suit audience and purpose.

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

Whilst studying GCSE English you will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of super-curricular activities including public speaking and poetry competitions and you can join our creative writing club. We also complete visits to theatre productions and welcome speakers and authors into school to share their experiences as writers.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

High quality English skills are in demand in every career and at every level and a sound knowledge of the English language will support your other subjects at GCSE and A Level as well.

Students choosing to take English at A Level, or pursue an undergraduate degree in the subject, go into a variety of careers including journalism, creative writing, content creation, broadcasting, speech and language therapy, working with children and teaching.

As language is all around us, it will be useful for almost anything!

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- English Language is assessed by one 2 hour and 15 minute examination (60%) and two pieces of coursework (40%) completed over the two year course.
- English Literature is assessed by one 2 hour examination (60%) and two pieces of coursework (40%) completed over the two year course.

'English Language is such an interesting and fascinating subject as it allows you to use your creative side and write emotive stories.'





## LIBERAL ARTS

## Subject Pathway

*At Sheffield Girls' you benefit from a wider range of GCSE subjects on offer which is ideal for those students who want to maintain breadth across the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and arts. If you are interested in a wide range of topics and modes of study you will benefit from choosing a broad range of GCSEs.*

### SUGGESTED SUBJECT FOCUS

Choose nine GCSEs\* to include one or more from each of the following academic areas:

#### Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Maths, three separate Sciences / Double Award Science, Computer Science

#### Social Sciences

Economics, History, Geography

#### Humanities

English Language, English Literature, PRE, French, Spanish, German, Latin

#### Creative Arts

Fine Art, Music, Drama

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

You can also maintain breadth in your choice of super-curricular and co-curricular activities with the range of activities available at Sheffield Girls'.

Whether you would like to develop and showcase your talents in debating, art, music, drama or sport, there is something for everyone.

We recommend completing the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, where skill and voluntary activities can be matched to your interests, and applying for a role of responsibility such as Form Leader / Student Council Rep.

\* Must include your compulsory subjects.



**Kerry Priest**  
Poet, Writer,  
Artist

*"I am an award-winning poet and interdisciplinary artist. While I was at school I threw myself into every experience: I was on all the school sports teams, I was prefect and house captain. School gave me a wider outlook and the confidence to enter intimidating environments such as Oxford dinners, meetings at the Royal Opera House and working at the Guildhall.*

*I really value having had a thorough education in the arts – Classics, Latin, History – all really important subjects for understanding our own history and our own humanity. My teachers were inspirational and I was encouraged to follow my passion for poetry."*

AQA

# Fine Art

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

The art studios are very different from other classrooms in the school. Our art rooms are spaces where students have the freedom to express their ideas, thoughts and work creatively. The way art is taught means that interaction with other students and with the teacher is different. The art teachers are someone you can discuss ideas with and be guided by individually. Studying art provides the opportunity to develop your existing skills and acquire new ones. The course will suit you if you are creative, enthusiastic and imaginative and want to communicate your ideas and opinions visually. You should enjoy learning how to use different processes to develop your visual skills, and be willing to experiment and take risks with your ideas.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The initial foundation project is spent on a disciplined painting, drawing and printmaking project with the emphasis on developing your recording to a high standard. You will then complete 2 projects focused on still life and portraiture where you will be expected to research and analyse the work of others and then develop your own ideas more independently. Work must be documented, organised, annotated and presented using sketchbooks and supporting studies. In Year 11, you will complete your coursework, followed by an externally-set assignment. Our students focus on drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media and photography.

## WHAT SKILLS AND QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

You will learn a variety of practical skills. You will also learn how to undertake visual research using primary and secondary sources and record observations and ideas in appropriate ways. You will learn how to independently develop and realise ideas and outcomes, and explore and modify your work appropriately. You will come to understand and use a range of materials, equipment, processes and techniques. Finally, you will become familiar with a range of work from past and contemporary practice and from different cultures.

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

Gallery visits enable you to develop a personal and critical appreciation of the work of artists and designers and an ability to relate this, where appropriate, to your own practice.

Students may participate in workshops, and can enter various competitions. The department submits work for the Sheffield Young Artists exhibition and Sheffield Hallam's Future Now exhibition each year and hosts a school exhibition of final year work.

Student art clubs and clinics run in the studios during lunchtimes.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Studying Art at school opens the door to a range of careers in the creative industries. The creative industries are an important part of the British economy - one of the areas of the economy that is still growing. Previous students who have completed GCSE and A Level Fine Art have pursued careers in Graphic Design, Design Engineering, Architecture, Interior Design, Design for Theatre, Medical Illustration, Conservation, Fashion, Art history and Curating. Our students have also gone on to study Medicine, Law, Politics, Mechanical Engineering and Climate Science.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Coursework portfolio (60%)

Externally set assignment (40%)

'Art at GCSE allowed me to explore and be more creative with my work.'



OCR

# Food Preparation & Nutrition

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cookery skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Food, Nutrition and Health

Macro Nutrients, Micro Nutrients, Nutritional Needs and Health

### Food Science

Cooking of Food, Heat Transfer, and the Functional and Chemical Properties of Food

### Food Safety

Food Spoilage, Contamination and the Principles of Food Safety

### Food Choice

Factors affecting Food Choice, British and International Cuisines, Sensory Evaluation, Food Labelling and Marketing

### Food Provenance

Environmental Impact and Sustainability of Food, Food Processing and Production

## WHAT SKILLS AND QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Food preparation skills
- Meal planning, balancing a nutritious diet and knife skills
- Health and safety and hygiene skills
- Scientific understanding of food, nutrition and health

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

After school Cookery Club for Year 10 will be running once a week for students to develop their cookery skills further, explore their creativity and create new recipes. Year 11 students follow a life skills course and have a 'hands on' experience, with a short course in planning and cooking healthy dishes. There are opportunities for practical sessions and baking competitions throughout the Seniors school including our ever-popular cake contest.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Alongside the valuable life skills afforded by the course, the knowledge learnt in this GCSE are relevant to further study and careers in a number of different fields, including public health and nutrition, food manufacturing, food technology, catering, teaching and product development.

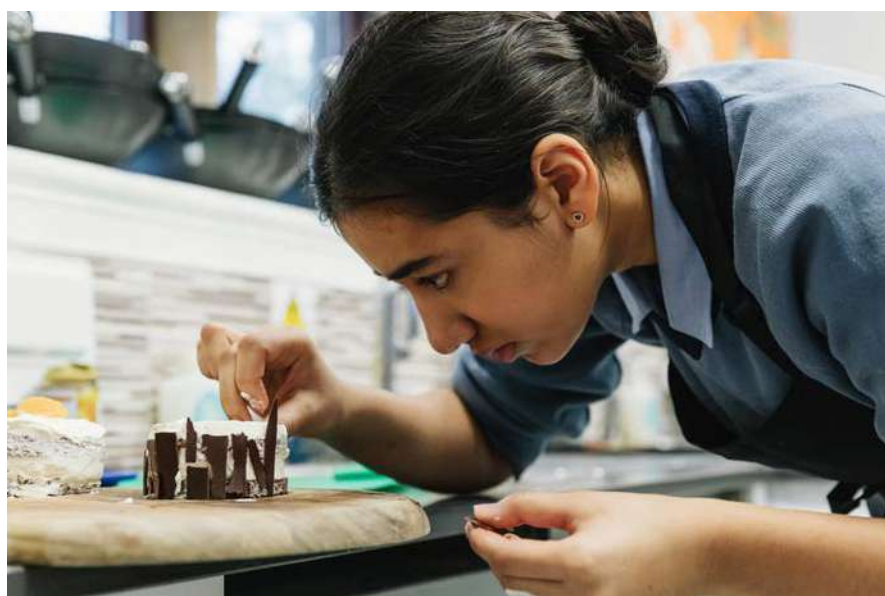
## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Written Exam:** 1 hour and 30 minutes (50%)

**Written Report:** Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) Task 1: Food Investigation (15%)

**Written Portfolio and 3-hour Practical Assessment:** Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) Task 2: Food Preparation Assessment (35%)

'I really enjoyed the cookery masterclass at my father's heart – we learned how to present food skilfully in a professional kitchen.'



AQA

# Geography

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

In GCSE Geography, we aim to help students to develop an understanding of the complex and dynamic world in which we live. You will develop your sense of global responsibility and interdependence, as well as developing your own opinions and attitudes on a wide range of subjects.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment

A selection of topics/issues are:

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards – the hazards and impacts created by earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, tropical storms, other extreme weather events and climate change
- The Physical Landscapes of the UK – river and glacial landscapes
- The Living World – ecosystems, tropical rainforests, and hot deserts

### Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

A selection of topics/issues are:

- Urban Issues and Challenges – population growth in cities, urban change, mega-cities, urban regeneration and sustainable urban living
- The Changing Economic World – variations in development and quality of life over time and space, as well as ways to reduce the development gap
- The Challenge of Resource Management – global inequalities in the supply and consumption of resources such as food, water and energy

### Unit 3: Geographical Applications and Skills

This unit focuses on the interrelationships of different aspects of Geography

- Issue Evaluation – Decision making and problem solving based on real and up-to-date geographical issues
- Fieldwork and Geographical Skills – these skills will be developed during the course.

Fieldwork is an essential component of our Geography course and is an ideal setting in which to develop teamwork and leadership skills, as well as seeing the things learnt in the classroom at work in the real world.

### WHAT SKILLS AND QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Analytical skills
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Presentation and communication skills
- Independent research skills
- A passion for the environment and the world around us

### SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

At GCSE, students participate in fieldwork during a residential trip to Snowdonia in North Wales.



### WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Because Geography is such a varied subject, students learn a huge range of skills that are valuable to studying other subjects or making pupils more active members of the community. Geographers are amongst the most employable people on leaving university. Related career areas include climatology, cartography, emergency planning and management, hydrology, GIS specialisms, and teaching. The 'Green Economy' is a rapidly growing sector of employment and sustainability is at the heart of many Geographical topics at GCSE and A Level.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Three examination papers at the end of Year 11:

Unit 1 = 35%

Unit 2 = 35%

Unit 3 = 30%



## SUSTAINABILITY

## Subject Pathway

*At Sheffield Girls' we often talk about the need to 'future-proof' the world. Sustainability is one of the fastest growing job sectors and may appeal to you if you have a particular interest in environmental sciences and climate change.*



**Gunnet Hawley**  
Climate Change  
Projection  
Specialist

### SUGGESTED SUBJECT FOCUS

Core GCSEs of Maths, English Language, English Literature. Opt for Triple Science instead of Double Award, alongside Geography, two GCSEs of your choosing and Geology as a twilight GCSE.

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Strengthen your skills and knowledge by taking part in Geography and Geology field trips. By standing for the role of Eco Rep, you can take a leading role in organising school sustainability events such as the Clothes Swap. Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award will provide you with a platform for service with a focus on sustainability. You can also arrange work experience in a relevant field.

*"Sheffield Girls' gave me confidence, a strong work ethos and a range of skills which have helped me on my career path. As a climate change projection specialist I pioneer the use of data to develop digital products to accelerate the path to a more sustainable future. Last year I was delighted to be recognised in the Women's Engineering Society's Top 50 Women in Engineering Awards.*

*My time at school instilled in me the importance of always looking to learn new things and expand my knowledge, enabling me to innovate and progress my skills in the climate change space. I strongly believe that we have a responsibility to ensure what we are designing and building will*

*withstand our future climate, and I use a leading-edge climate data tool to help projects all around the world understand what this means for them and how to incorporate it into their solution."*

AQA

# History

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

You will find this course interesting, stimulating and a good basis for understanding issues in the news today, as well as a great deal of fun. History will also allow you to develop skills of analysis, explanation, evaluation and debating. These skills are extremely useful in any career which you might pursue in later life. The course provides you with a real breadth of history and a good grounding in both medieval and modern history. If you have an interest in History, an enquiring mind and you enjoy discussion and debate, this course is for you.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course consists of four parts:

### The history of medicine focusing upon Britain

This involves a fascinating look at how our knowledge of medicine and disease has evolved, starting with medieval ideas about health and medicine and the impact of diseases such as the Black Death, the battle to develop germ theory in the nineteenth century and then finishing with a look at modern medicine and the development of the National Health Service.

### Elizabethan England 1558-1603

In this topic you will explore the 'Golden Age' of Elizabeth I, from everyday life to the royal court and foreign wars. This includes dramatic plots involving Mary Queen of Scots, the defeat of the Spanish Armada and Shakespeare's development of the theatre.

### Germany between 1890 and 1945

Focusing upon the emergence of Hitler and the Nazi Party, it then goes on to look at life in Hitler's Germany finishing with a study of the Final Solution.

## Conflict and tension 1918-39

The final topic looks at the reasons why the Second World War broke out in 1939. We look again at Hitler's aggressive foreign policy, but also at Britain's failure to keep peace by following Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's policy of 'appeasement'.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Habits of independent study
- Confidence to contribute to discussion
- Research skills
- Analytical skills
- The ability to manage information
- A clear, logical written style
- An ability to express your own point of view effectively
- Respect for the views and perspectives of others

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

Year 10 and 11 have the option of various day trips related to the topics in the curriculum including a visit to the Thackray Museum of Medicine and a potential site visit for the Elizabeth paper.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

History provides useful background for a number of other Humanities subjects such as Geography and languages, and is useful for a range of careers, including accountancy, law, banking and finance, business, civil service, human resources, management, journalism, medicine, politics, teaching, television and radio.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two examination papers which test factual knowledge and skills, at the end of Year 11.



## EDUCAS

# Latin

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

GCSE Latin offers students access to some of the most exciting and beautiful literature ever written. It enables you to develop an insight into the relevance of the Latin language, its literature and Roman culture in the modern world. We believe that the study of Latin gives students a much better understanding of the grammar and the rich vocabulary of the English language, as well as providing solid support for the learning of other languages. It is key to the terminology of Medicine and Law, amongst many other areas.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course consists of three components; two are compulsory and the third offers options:

### Latin Language

Students will be assessed on their ability to translate and comprehend a story line in Latin.

### Latin Literature and Sources

You will analyse literary styles, and learn the cultural and social context of the prescribed material.

### Further Study

Tailored to suit the specific needs and interests of our students, as we choose between further study of 'Latin Literature', or 'Roman Civilisation'.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Skills of enquiry
- Skills in logic, discipline and application of knowledge
- Languages
- Historical research skills
- Communication and presentation skills

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

In recent years we have had great success at regional Latin reading competitions, we have visited the British Museum and enjoyed trips to local events, author talks and lectures as well as events at universities. The department has hosted Latin Scrabble tournaments and we lead trips to visit classical sites in Pompeii and the Bay of Naples and have visited Trier in Germany.

In the past, students have had the opportunity to work with local primary schools and girls who are studying Latin at GCSE level visit our Junior School to lead sessions and run clubs introducing Latin, Greek and the ancient world to our younger learners.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

A qualification in Latin is highly valued by employers and universities. Previous students have gone on to study Classics

and classical studies at university as well as medicine, law, natural sciences, modern languages and history. Classicists can enter a wide range of careers such as education, archivists/museum curating, marketing, journalism, law, medicine, translating, humanitarian work, writing and business. Future employers greatly value the skills and knowledge that Latin students bring with them.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Three separate written examinations at the end of Year 11:

**Component 1:** Latin Language

**Component 2:** Latin Literature and Sources

**Component 3:** Latin Literature/Roman Civilisation Additional information





EDEXCEL

# Mathematics

COMPULSORY SUBJECT

'As well as improving judgment and analytical ability, Maths allows you to think about any problem in a rigorous manner.'

## WHAT DOES THIS SUBJECT INVOLVE?

In Mathematics you will study the Edexcel International GCSE (Higher tier) syllabus. Building upon the work you have already done in Year 9, you will become fluent in the key areas of number, algebra, geometrical reasoning and working with data. As well as improving judgement and analytical ability, Maths allows you to think about any problem in a rigorous manner.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will develop existing skills such as solving more complex equations. You will also learn about entirely new topics such as histograms, quadratics and differentiation.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Logical thinking, analysis and problem solving
- Application of knowledge
- Critical thinking and reasoning
- Effective communication of complex ideas
- The ability to work independently
- Determination and resilience

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

Year 9, 10 and 11 can compete in the annual Intermediate Maths Challenge, run by the UK Mathematics Trust. You can take part in problem-solving days at the Sheffield universities and some students enter regional team Maths competitions.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Your mathematical knowledge will open the door to careers in the sciences, engineering and is also important in areas as diverse as business, law, nutrition, sports science and psychology. There are many opportunities to use mathematics to make a difference in society, for example through the analysis involved in medical research, developing new technology, modelling epidemics or in the study of patterns of criminal activity to identify trends.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is by external examination, there is no coursework component. All students study a linear course and take two examinations at the end of Year 11, both of which are calculator papers.

Students also have the option of studying for the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics during year 11. This is a challenging course which offers a superb foundation for continued study of Mathematics at A Level, and which gives the students an additional qualification. See [page 37](#) for more information.



# Modern Languages

## (French, German & Spanish)

'Studying languages has improved my problem-solving skills and taught me to think outside the box.'

### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Studying languages gives you an insight into the culture and traditions of these countries and will offer you a life skill which will be useful in your personal and professional life.

### WHY LEARN FRENCH?

French is a giant among international languages with over 120 million people around the world who speak it fluently and use it on a regular basis. It's the 11th most common language in the world spoken in over 30 countries.

### WHY LEARN GERMAN?

German is the most frequently spoken language in Central Europe with around 100 million native speakers. It's taught in countries around the world and can also help you to develop your English language skills – as English and German are both Germanic languages with lots of crossover. A knowledge of German is therefore important in the world of business, especially as Germany has the largest and most thriving economy in Europe.

### WHY LEARN SPANISH?

If you speak Spanish, you can communicate with almost 500 million people worldwide! Think how many more employment options that gives you! And if you want to take a trip to Spain or Latin America, a little knowledge of Spanish will go a long way. Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world, after English and Mandarin and is the official language in 21 countries. Spanish is the second world language as a vehicle of international communication and third as an international language of politics, economics and culture.

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Each language has the same syllabus and content. Many of the topics covered will be familiar to you, for example:

- Holidays
- Free time, hobbies and sports
- Family and friends
- School, jobs and future plans
- Technology
- TV and Film
- Healthy Living

The emphasis is on developing your ability to use the language effectively for practical communication in situations when you are abroad or when you meet foreign visitors in this country. By the end of Year 11, students are able to communicate spontaneously in French, German or Spanish, equipping them for time spent in countries where these languages are spoken and preparing them for further studies at A Level if they wish to. Students also have regular skills lessons and often use chromebooks in lessons to access listening material and authentic resources on online platforms.

They also have individual time with our language assistants to develop their speaking skills spontaneously.

The MFL department is pleased to consistently achieve some of the best GCSE results in the school and the GDST network.

### WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- The ability to work hard to meet new challenges
- Independent study skills
- Focus and commitment – to learning new vocabulary and grammar each week
- Communication skills
- Cultural awareness
- Thinking skills
- Thinking on your feet
- Problem solving
- Confidence

### SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

We aim to provide students with an opportunity to visit France, Germany and Spain during Key Stage 4 and have done residential, homestays and cultural and language trips. We are always looking for new opportunities to allow pupils to use their language skills in a real context. Added to this, we offer many cultural opportunities and competitions for our students, for example watching foreign language films and getting involved in events with external providers such as Business Language Champions.

The department runs weekly language clinics to support girls at all stages of their learning. Students also have the opportunity to attend language days, events and plays and participate in activities for Languages Week. There is also the opportunity to help out with language classes in the Junior School.

#### WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Being able to speak a foreign language equips students with a variety of transferable skills such as excellent communication skills, independence, resilience, resourcefulness and creativity, opening doors to a multitude of career paths and job opportunities in the UK and around the world. Languages are an excellent complement to a variety of subjects and most universities offer courses in a variety of subjects combined with a language, for example law, business and management studies, information and media studies, sciences, engineering and economics.

There are large numbers of international firms with subsidiary offices in the UK, for example German firms such as BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Haribo, Adidas, Nivea, Siemens, Playmobil, Staedler, Faber-Castell, Lufthansa, T-Mobile, Bosch, Miele and so on. They often look to recruit English speakers with additional language skills.

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are 4 examinations at the end of Year 11 in all the skill areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing and each skill is worth 25%.



**Jomana,**  
**Sixth Form student**

*'I did French and Spanish from Year 7-Year 11 completing both at GCSE. I'm doing French A Level and have a French Instagram account. I read the news in different languages to get more exposure to different cultures. I read books in different languages as I think it's important to read them in the original languages rather than translation otherwise the meaning of some words might get lost.*

*I think taking at least one language at GCSE gives you so many unique skills like communication skills and helps build resilience. I want to study medicine at university so I'm taking a language at A Level because it goes well with all other subjects. I would like to study Spanish alongside my degree so that I don't lose that language and then I want to move to France to complete my training and potentially work there as a doctor and use my French language skills as well.'*





## MODERN LANGUAGES

## Subject Pathway

*Sheffield Girls' offers exceptional teaching in modern foreign languages. A modern languages pathway is ideal for those who plan to continue their language learning beyond GCSE and are looking to give themselves a competitive edge in a global marketplace.*



**Emily Aldridge**  
Head of Global  
Licensing

### SUGGESTED SUBJECT FOCUS

Choose two modern foreign languages from a choice of Spanish, French and German amongst your suite of GCSEs.

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond the curriculum, develop your skills and knowledge further by taking part in the various language competitions and by acting as a Languages Ambassador. Develop your fluency and cultural awareness by also signing up for some of the overseas trips or exchange programmes.

*"My education at Sheffield Girls' definitely influenced my career – it gave me the confidence to present to rooms full of people, to explain myself eloquently and to be able to hold my own in meetings that are still often predominately run by men. The education I received meant that skills I had taken for granted were deemed very valuable once I started working and therefore made me worth more to the business.*

*I worked at a British company for 13 years and was then approached by one of our French competitors to take on a global leadership role with them. I now run a combined portfolio of over 180 licences. My role involves negotiating contracts with the*

*likes of Warner Brothers, Toei Animation and Disney, to get the rights to produce products featuring their brands. I love my job as it involves international travel with annual trade shows in Las Vegas, New York, Hong Kong and London as well as visits to our ten offices around the world."*

# Music

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

GCSE Music enables you to develop your skills and interest through performance, listening to music and composing. The course is ideally suited to students who already play an instrument or sing and would like a deeper insight into the subject. It is essential for anyone considering study of Music at a higher level and provides an excellent core of knowledge and skills for all who participate in music making.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

**Performing:** You can perform on any instrument or voice and you will prepare two pieces with your teacher to last a minimum of four minutes. The standard level for this element is grade 3. You will perform one solo and one duet/ensemble piece. Any style is welcome: classical, pop, rock or musical theatre.

**Composing:** This encourages you to explore and express your own ideas. Throughout the course, you will be taught various practical composition techniques which will help you with your composition coursework.

**Understanding Music:** You will study various musical styles for the listening element of this paper, such as the Western Classical Tradition, Popular music, Musical Theatre, Blues, Jazz, Film music and Fusion. You will also study two set works – one from Western Classical tradition and one piece of popular music.

The course includes:

- solo and ensemble performing
- composing techniques
- an exploration of music from the Western Classical tradition plus popular music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

Performance skills in your chosen instrument. The standard level is grade 3 although you can of course perform above this level if you are already beyond grade 3.

- Technical control, expression and interpretation.
- Knowledge of theory
- Confidence
- Communication skills

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

There are many opportunities for instrumentalists and singers of all abilities. Our clubs include: choirs and instrumental ensembles, Gig and Swing Band, Theory Clinic, Songwriters' Club, Rock School, Piano Club, Chamber music, String Academy, Senior Strings.

Our 16 highly qualified visiting teachers provide instrumental and voice tuition within school hours.

School performance opportunities include: Performance Platform, Christmas Concert, Spring and Summer Serenades, Musical productions, Gig night as well as more informal opportunities to perform such as Alumnae events, assemblies, open mornings etc.

We regularly run Music trips to Cologne, Paris and the Rhineland.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Those who continue their music studies to a higher level pursue careers such as: arts administration, media, performance, teaching, studio and orchestral management, music therapy, publishing, and recording. However, many benefit from the study of Music in their other chosen career paths. Studying Music promotes higher-order thinking, reflection, resilience and creativity as well as developing confidence and presentation skills. You will gain a deep understanding of skills such as analysis and problem solving. You will be constantly considering ideas which go beyond language and this is great brain-training! Creativity is now recognised as one of the most important and in-demand skills at work to help businesses grow. So even if you are not planning a career in Music directly, you will be developing stand-out and transferable skills.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Performing:** (30%)

**Composing:** You will be fully supported in your preparation of two compositions lasting a minimum of three minutes in total (30%)

**Understanding Music:** Listening and contextual questions on two set works (40%)

AQA

# Physical Education

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Sheffield Girls' has an exceptional reputation for sporting success in the city. Studying GCSE PE gives you a chance to combine a love of the practical with the theory. To be successful in this subject you need to be performing practically at a high level, be committed to sport, and have a good knowledge and understanding of sport related issues. It would be advantageous if you trained and competed in at least one sport out of school. If you have an interest in current sporting issues and the ability to or desire to learn how to perform or coach at a high level, this is the course for you.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will develop knowledge in a range of sports and activities and then enhance this with sports psychology, anatomy, biomechanics and discussion topics such as technology, drugs and the history of sport.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Scientific understanding
- Communication skills - expressing concepts and arguments in writing
- A good general knowledge of a range of sports

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

As a GCSE PE student, you are expected to remain or become fully involved in extracurricular school sport. Practical performers will represent the school in their chosen sport and involve themselves in coaching at some of the school sports clubs.

We attend weekly fixtures and regular GDST rallies and participate in a large number of sports competitions and tournaments throughout the year.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

PE is useful for sports related careers including teaching, coaching, sports development, recreation management, equipment design and manufacturing, physiotherapy, sports technology, chiropractic and sports science.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Written Assessment -

### Paper 1

The human body and movement in physical activity (30%).

### Paper 2

Social-Cultural Influences and wellbeing in physical activity (30%).

### Practical Assessment

Three activities in the role of a performer. One must be a team activity, one an individual activity and the third, either team or individual (40%).

'Learning about the science behind sport has really enabled me to take my training to the next level.'



AQA

# Religious Studies

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Religious Studies is a GCSE for those with an open and enquiring mind. This is an exciting and stimulating course for those wishing to broaden their horizons and understand more about some of the issues facing the world in which we live. Throughout the course you will develop skills of evaluation, analysis, discussion and structuring arguments, which will be of value in any A Level subject.

## WHAT YOU WILL STUDY?

The GCSE is split into two sections. Each section makes up 50% of your GCSE.

### Section 1: Beliefs, teachings and practices

In this area of the course you will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Judaism.

### Section 2: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world

In this area of the course you will study the following topics: Religion, crime and punishment; Religion, human rights and social justice; Religion, relationships and families; Religion and life.

## WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- An open mind
- Good written skills
- Good communication skills – verbal and presentation skills

## SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

Year 10 and Year 11 students may have the opportunity to watch a variety of ethical films after school such as Malala and Suffragette, which inform group discussion.

We offer a visit to a local synagogue (Psalter Lane) with input from the Rabbi, and an ethics afternoon with face to face and virtual speakers.

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Religious Studies is a well respected academic subject. It is useful preparation for Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and careers in the voluntary sector.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Each of the two parts of the course are assessed with a 1 hour 45 minute examination. The examination consists of both short and long answer questions.







PSHE trip to the People's History Museum

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Subject Pathway

*We are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We educate all our students about human rights and encourage you to live by our school values of courage, kindness and positivity. If you have a particular interest in justice and fairness in society you can tailor your studies and wider activities to broaden your education and experience in this area.*

### SUGGESTED SUBJECT FOCUS

Alongside your core GCSEs, choose Religious Studies as one of your GCSE choices, as this subject has a strong focus on ethics, and complement this with one or more social sciences such as History, Geography or Economics.

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Participate in activities such as the Chrystall Prize public speaking competition which requires you to prepare a speech on an issue of social importance. Complete your Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award which requires at least six months volunteering. Apply to act as Charities Rep or EDI Champion and make the most of the voluntary activities and partnership projects available to you in school. You can also explore some of the additional opportunities across the city such as Sheffield Youth Cabinet.



**Nikki Alderson**  
Specialist  
Speaker, Author  
and Coach -  
Former Criminal  
Barrister

*"I loved school, there were so many opportunities and things to get involved with, I focussed on languages at GCSE and threw myself into outdoor pursuits. My advice is, don't be afraid to stand out from the crowd.*

*Back yourself, follow your own interests and define success on your own terms.*

*While studying Law at Oxford I realised my interest in being the voice of the underdog, and so rather than train as a city solicitor, I became a criminal barrister. The biggest challenge of my career was also the most rewarding. I worked pro bono in Jamaica supporting Death Row Attorneys and became involved in the most*

*harrowing example of a significant miscarriage of justice, which resulted in the Death penalty being passed. After 5 more visits over the space of 18 months, some self-funded, others having raised money through charity work, I am delighted to say an appeal was won and the defendant released without retrial."*

EDEXCEL

# Science

## Triple Award

DOUBLE SCIENCE – COMPULSORY SUBJECT,  
UNLESS CHOOSING TRIPLE SCIENCE

### SCIENCE OPTIONS

All of our students are required to study Science at GCSE. You can study the Edexcel International GCSE Triple Science as an option, which means studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects, achieving three individual GCSE grades.

Alternatively you can choose to study the Double Award International GCSE, studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics, working towards achieving two GCSEs (Science Double Award).

### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE GCSE SCIENCE TRIPLE AWARD?

Studying Triple Science will allow you to develop a deeper understanding of the three separate science subjects and provides a better foundation for the study of A Levels in these subjects. Studying Science Double Award does not prevent you from studying any of the Sciences at A Level.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Scientific principles
- Analysis and interpretation of data
- How to present scientific arguments
- Evaluation of ethical, moral and social issues
- Investigative activities including
- Risk management
- Evaluation of methodology, evidence and data
- Consideration of the role of the scientific community in validating evidence and in resolving conflicting evidence
- Consideration of the contributions that scientists make to decision making

### WHAT SKILLS AND QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

Studying Science subjects will enable you to:

- A systematic body of scientific knowledge and facts, and an understanding of scientific concepts, principles, themes and patterns
- Appreciation of the practical nature of science, acquiring experimental skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques
- Appreciation of the importance of accurate experimental work to scientific method and reporting Form hypotheses and design experiments to test them
- An enjoyment of, and interest in, the scientific world
- Appreciation of the significance of science in wider personal, social, environmental, economic and technological contexts, and consider ethical issues

- Presentation skills – communicating information clearly and logically, using appropriate scientific terms and conventions
- Practical experimental skills
- Logical thinking, teamwork, practical applications and skills of enquiry

### SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

We support our students through activities in and out of the classroom. These include:

- EDT Industrial Cadets
- Science Silver Crest Award
- Teen Tech Award
- Co-curricular activities and competitions as part national Science Week
- Junior MedSoc





## PHYSICS

is a successful and popular subject in school. Studying Physics provides benefits which last a lifetime and knowledge and skills which are valued by employers generally. Physics enhances your ability to think clearly, to pay attention to detail and to construct logical and reasoned arguments. At GCSE we use experimental work and demonstrations to help students to develop appropriate models of the physical concepts.



## CHEMISTRY

provides a rich diet of experimental and demonstration work designed to stimulate curiosity and an interest in methods of enquiry. We aim to give our students a thorough grounding in the principles and applications of Chemistry and to make them aware that these applications can be both beneficial and detrimental to the individual, the community and to the environment.



## BIOLOGY

is a fantastic course for students looking to expand their knowledge and pursue some of the topics that might interest them about the natural world. Many students aspiring for a career in science, including Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Engineering, among many others, study Biology as part of Triple Science and go on to study A Level Biology.

## PHYSICS

- British Physics Olympiad
- Ukroc – Rocket building competition

## CHEMISTRY

- Salters' Festival of Chemistry
- Chemistry Changemaker Competition

## BIOLOGY

- Biology Challenge
- Plant Club

## WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Biology students have gone on to study the following related degree courses: natural sciences, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, physiology, biomedical science, genetics, marine biology, equine studies and others. Some students go on to study an unrelated discipline such as law; the range of generic skills developed in Biology makes this a feasible option.

Many scientific and medical careers require a qualification in Chemistry. Employers in non-scientific areas regard the skills of problem solving, logical thinking and application of scientific method gained during a Chemistry course very highly indeed. Chemistry therefore fits in well with any combination of subjects at A Level.

Physics is the fast-track to the biggest choice of jobs and the widest range of opportunities. The study of Physics teaches you to approach tasks with thoroughness and versatility. Physics students are always much in demand in further education and in employment because of their adaptability and problem solving skills. The options are infinite but include communications, engineering, health and medicine, veterinary science, industry or commerce, research, architecture.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Double Science is examined by 3 x 2 hour examination papers (one in each subject) at the end of Year 11.

Triple Science is examined by 3 x 1 hour 15 minute examination papers (one in each subject) in addition to the examination papers sat for Double Science.

There is no coursework element.

*'Studying Physics provides benefits which last a lifetime and knowledge and skills which are valued by employers generally. Physics enhances your ability to think clearly, to pay attention to detail and to construct logical and reasoned arguments.'*



## STEM

## Subject Pathway

*It is predicted that in the coming years, approximately 75% of all new jobs will require qualifications and skills in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Sheffield Girls' is renowned for its academic excellence in this area and we are proud to have a far higher percentage of girls choosing these subjects than compared with the national average. This pathway will help you to develop valuable skills such as analytical, mathematical and technical skills, as well as problem solving, and digital literacy.*

### SUGGESTED SUBJECT FOCUS

Study the three separate sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics as part of your suite of nine GCSEs, choosing Computer Science as one of your optional subjects. Consider Further Maths as a 10th GCSE in Year 11.

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Complete a team or individual STEM project beyond the curriculum such as Silver Industrial Cadets or Teen Tech to put your skills into practice, within a real world application. Compete in the UKMT Maths Challenge, Physics Olympiad and be part of the Oxford Computing Challenge. You can apply to become a Digital Leader, achieve Google certification and mentor younger students in a range of STEM clubs. You can also aim to arrange work experience in a relevant field.



**Kitty Randall**  
Chartered  
Engineer

*"Sheffield Girls' saw the potential in me and helped me focus into a career that would suit me. It wasn't just my academic education that influenced my career, the extra curricular activities and soft skills that I developed also showed me that I like working in a team. In engineering you work in teams, bouncing ideas and checking each other's calculations.*

*The company I work for engineers, constructs and installs offshore oil and gas fields. I spent a lot of my early twenties in fabrication yards in West Africa predominantly Angola and Ghana. I really enjoyed meeting new people and the ability as a young graduate to take responsibility.*

*At school, I loved maths. I found the lessons fun and engaging. During A Levels we started to study mechanics, and how you can apply all the basic fundamentals of maths into real life situations. During a casual career discussion, engineering was suggested to me so I went and did some research and decided it was the path for me."*

## Twilight GCSE Options

These courses are an extension to our normal curriculum offer of nine GCSE subjects and provide students with interests in specific areas the opportunity to further challenge themselves by studying for an extra GCSE.

These 'Twilight' courses are delivered in lessons at the end of the school day from 3.40-5.40pm. As with any other GCSE course there will be independent study required, including set homework, and there may also be a non-examination assessment element to complete. A student can only study for one additional GCSE at a time. A course will only run if there are enough students to make it feasible. Only a small number of students in each year group study towards additional GCSEs, and we do expect those who receive a place on these courses to show a full commitment to complete the course and sit the final assessment.

### Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics

**AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics, one year course beginning September 2025**

#### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

AQA Level 2 Certificate is equivalent to a GCSE qualification. The Further Mathematics course builds upon the content of IGCSE Mathematics, developing higher order application of many of the skills learnt at IGCSE. The course also extends into areas of Mathematics which are not covered at all on the IGCSE, including matrices, the factor theorem, the equation of a circle and trigonometric equations.

#### WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

The course is recommended for anyone who is intending to study, or is considering studying, Mathematics at A Level. Much of the content that is covered is also taught during the first year of the A Level course, so students who have taken this course will have a distinct advantage in Year 12. It also develops and refines key mathematical skills from the IGCSE course and helps you to understand them in greater depth, improving your chances of achieving the top grade at IGCSE.

#### HOW IS THIS COURSE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

Further Mathematics is taught in Year 11 only via weekly two-hour Twilight lessons. Candidates will sit two written papers (1 hour 45 minutes) in the summer of Year 11 (alongside their other GCSE examinations). The shorter of these papers is 'non-calculator'. As Further Maths is an integral part of our GCSE curriculum there will be no charge for this course.

### Geology

**EDUQAS Two year course, provisionally taking place on Wednesdays from 3.45 to 5.30pm - Beginning September 2024**

#### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

Geologists are problem solvers so if you enjoy solving problems then you'll enjoy Geology. If you are interested in the origins of the Earth, how it was formed and what has happened to the landscape and inhabitants of our planet through geological time then Geology could well be a great choice for you.

#### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Geology is all about the science of our planet. You will study how fast a dinosaur can run, learn how to survive volcanoes, earthquakes and landslides, understand how our climate has changed in the past and you'll mine for gold. Our planet is complex and dynamic, with the landscapes, rocks and ecosystems around us interacting with one another in an ever-changing environment.

Geology combines the skills used in Physics, Chemistry and Biology to explore these concepts, studying how the Earth came into existence. You'll discover the processes behind volcanoes, earthquakes, and climate change whilst gaining first-hand experience of practical geology. Whether you have an interest in fossils or hazards, engineering or climate change, Geology caters to your interests.

#### WHAT SKILLS OR QUALITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

- Working outside the classroom
- The ability to solve problems and think in three dimensions
- Discover the science behind how our planet behaves
- Understand how living things on the Earth have changed in the past and how the climate will change in the future

#### SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

The course includes a day trip to the Peak District and an overnight residential trip to the Yorkshire Dales. There will also be an optional trip to Iceland in October 2026.

#### WHAT ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CAREERS?

Geologists are very much in demand, particularly in the metals prospecting and climate change resilience industries. If you want to travel with your work and enjoy a challenge this could be for you. Last year Geology graduates from Imperial College had an average salary of £76,000 six months after graduating.

#### HOW IS THIS COURSE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

There is an online theory examination and a written practical paper which contains problem solving exercises based on a geological map and photographs. Each paper contributes 50% of the qualification.

### Music

#### AQA

As well as being an option, GCSE Music can be studied as a Twilight subject in Year 9 and Year 10. Pupils are taught for 2½ hours per week. See [page 29](#) for full details of the programme.

\*There will be an extra cost (to be paid at the start of each academic year) to study Twilight GCSE courses. This will cover the cost of text books and examination fees and a contribution to teaching costs.



# SHEFFIELD GIRLS'

INFANT, JUNIOR & SENIOR SCHOOL

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**GDST**  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

**Sheffield High School for Girls**

10 Rutland Park Sheffield S10 2PE T: 0114 2660324 E: [enquiries@she.gdst.net](mailto:enquiries@she.gdst.net)  
[www.sheffieldhighschool.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldhighschool.org.uk)