

William Ellis School



Key Stage 4 Courses 2019

Introduction

At William Ellis School we strive to give every boy the best educational experience we can. We aim to inspire, challenge and motivate students to learn and achieve excellence and we seek to develop lively and enquiring minds. To help us achieve this we have a relevant, broad and balanced Key Stage 4 curriculum.

For the first three years of secondary education every student covers the same subjects, with no element of choice. In Year 9 boys follow core subjects and are then able to choose some of the courses they wish to pursue in KS4. Boys are involved in creating an individual timetable to suit their talents, interests and strengths.

Choosing GCSE courses is the first major decision that boys have to make and can affect their future education and career prospects. It is a decision which should be made only after careful consultation with teaching staff and parents.

This booklet has been put together to enable both boys and their parents to consider the range of options available. The booklet should provide the necessary information to form the basis for a detailed discussion which will lead to sensible decisions. The choice is not a totally free one. All boys have to continue with certain subjects, and teachers will review students' choices before they are finalised.

We would not expect most boys in Year 9 to have definite plans about the subjects they would like to study in the sixth form or their future career path. The best advice is to ensure that boys make sensible choices that do not rule out particular careers. There should be enough flexibility in the subjects chosen to allow a change in direction later.

It is with this in mind that William Ellis School requires most boys to study at least one modern foreign language and geography or history to GCSE level, as these subjects can allow students to have as wide as possible choice in further and higher education. The school also highly values creative subjects such as music, drama and art and students with an interest in these areas are strongly encouraged to study them at GCSE.

Core subjects

All students follow a core curriculum:

- English language and literature
- mathematics
- science
- a modern foreign language
- geography or history

All boys take part in PE and sport and a PSHE and tutorial programme covering ethics, careers, citizenship and health education.

Science options

There are two science courses; the choice is between combined science or triple science.

In combined science boys study the three science disciplines, biology, chemistry and physics, and it is equivalent to two GCSEs.

Triple science consists of three separate GCSE qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics. This is the recommended course for those who are considering studying science A levels and engineering, medicine or sciences at university. However, students can also study science A-levels in LaSWAP with good grades in combined science too.

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is made up of five elements:

- English (language and literature)
- mathematics
- history or geography
- the sciences (this can include computing)
- a modern language

For most students this combination of academic subjects provides a good basis for their Key Stage 4 programme of study. It provides for the development of a breadth of skills and qualifications useful for future study and training. Other subjects in our Key Stage 4 offer also provide valuable qualifications, enriching experiences and develop vital skills. Please find out more about these at options evening.

Alternative curriculum routes

For some boys a modified curriculum will be in their best interests. If this is the case Mr Horace Parry or Mr Matthew Scott will discuss this with these students and their parents/carers in the next few weeks.

Important note

The school reserves the right to change the specification taught and assessment method for any of the courses described in this booklet.

The final decision rests with the Headteacher and depends, to some extent, on:

- the most appropriate course for the individual student;
- the need for each student to study a reasonably broad and balanced range of subjects;
- the availability of teaching staff;
- accommodation and resources available.

What happens next?

Once boys have given in their forms they will be checked for any errors or missing information. At

this point the school may wish to discuss the choices made.

The school will do its best to give boys their option choices but this may not always be possible.

Courses that do not have enough boys opting for them will not run and boys will be placed in other subjects they have chosen.

If you wish to discuss any matter with the school please contact either:

- Mr Parry, Head of Year 9
parry@williamellis.camden.sch.uk
- Mr Scott, Assistant Headteacher
scott@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Deadline

Complete the choices form and return it to your form tutor by the deadline of **Friday 15th March 2019**

Choosing subjects – how to decide

Boys and parents should spend some time reflecting together on the options ahead. Consider carefully the information about the various subjects carefully and ask questions if there are matters that you would like clarified.

Some dos and don'ts for students considering their options:

Dos	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose the subjects you enjoy and where you have particular interests. • Choose subjects you are good at. • Think about your future and choose subjects that that will help you get the qualifications you need. • Choose subjects recommended by your teachers. • Chose a broad range of subjects to develop a wide set of skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't choose a subject just because your friends have chosen it. • Don't choose a subject just because you like the teacher. You may not have the same teacher for GCSE. • Don't choose a subject you expect might demand less work from you

Summary of Curriculum

Compulsory Subjects –studied by all boys				Optional Subjects
English Language English Literature	Maths	Science	PE PSHE RE (not examined)	<p>You have 4 choices.</p> <p>You must choose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French or German (you may choose both) • History or Geography (you may choose both) <p>You may then choose two other subjects.</p>

Thinking about your future

Do you have a particular career in mind?

If you are considering a particular career, you will find it useful to find out about the qualifications and training needed for that career. Some careers have specific qualifications that you need to achieve but the majority are more flexible. If this is the case please contact Diana Lane (Careers Adviser) dlane@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Sixth Form

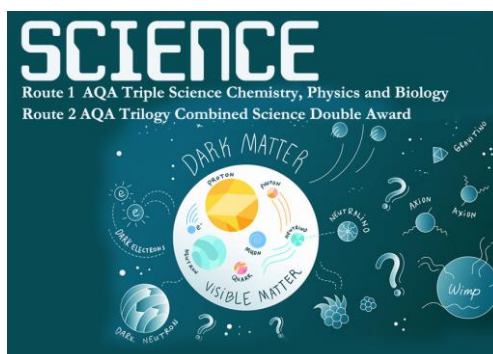
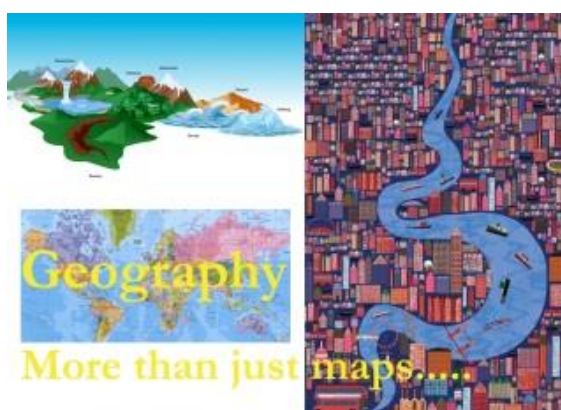
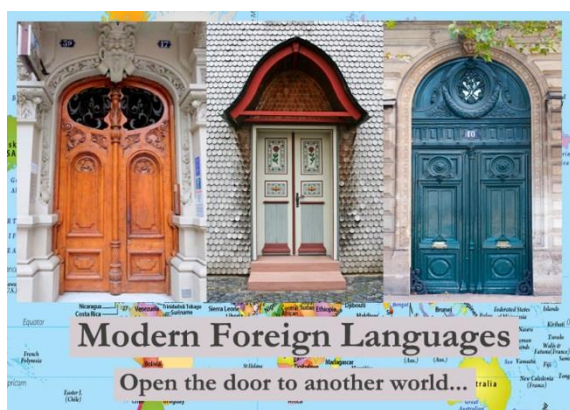
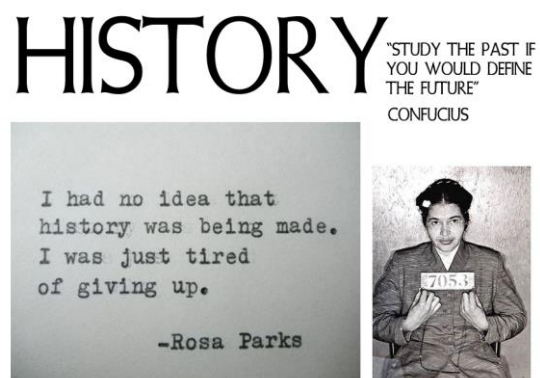
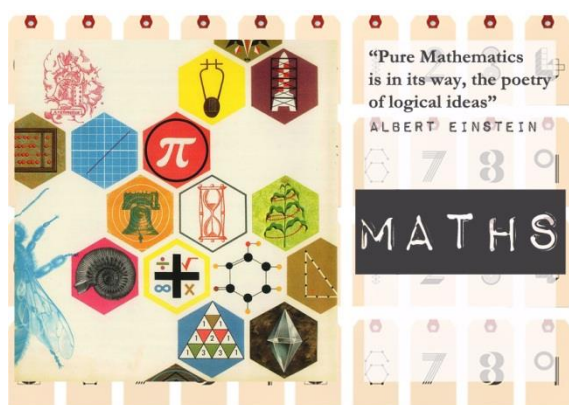
In two years' time you will be moving onto the next step of your education journey and progressing onto further education or possibly into an apprenticeship. We hope that the majority of you will stay onto LaSWAP, our sixth form consortium. The LaSWAP website has information about the courses and pathways that we currently offer and the qualifications required for each pathway. LaSWAP has an exceptionally broad sixth form offer. Although there will be changes over the next couple of years it would be worth looking at the courses and entry criteria for different pathways:

<http://www.laswap.camden.sch.uk/what-to-study/laswap-pathway/>

Higher Education

If you are thinking about going to university, a publication is produced by the Russell Group universities called *Informed Choices* is useful:

<https://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/5686/informed-choices-2018-1-6th-edition-final.pdf>



ENGLISH (Language & Literature)

Exam board: OCR

Specifications: English Language (J351) and English Literature (J352)

Head of English: Ms Damms (damms@williamellis.camden.sch.uk)

[Ms Strike who also leads the department is on maternity leave at the moment]

Why should I study this subject?

Most employers and further and higher education courses will demand a good GCSE in English Language and English Literature. Skills developed in English lessons - reading, writing, speaking and listening are essential for life.

English Language

This subject is all about communication.

- Hearing other people, whether their words are spoken or written.
- Articulating what you think and saying it well.
- Sharing experiences and respecting what other people have to say. It is a subject that breaks down barriers and encourages you to be creative.
- Expressing your feelings and using your imagination.
- Becoming a critical reader of information and influential texts.
- Responding to unseen non-fiction texts from different time periods.

What will I study?

Unseen non-fiction texts from the 19th century and 20th century, including personal writing, autobiography, travel writing, political speeches, newspaper articles and editorials.

The skills of writing imaginative and non-fiction writing for a range of different audiences and purposes.

How is this course assessed?

2 exams, both worth 50% at the end of Year 11.

Communicating information and ideas (01) 80 marks: 2-hour written paper.

Exploring effects and impact (02) 80 marks: 2-hour written paper.

English Literature

This subject involves studying a range of pre- and post-1914 drama, poetry and prose and learning how to make thoughtful and insightful responses to some of the most celebrated works of English Literature.

What will I study?

A Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, a modern British drama and a range of poetry from different time periods.

How is this course assessed?

2 exams, both worth 50% at the end of Year 11.

Exploring modern and literary heritage texts (01) 80 marks: 2-hour written paper.

Exploring poetry and Shakespeare (02) 80 marks: 2-hour written paper.

MATHEMATICS

Exam board and specification: EDEXCEL GCSE linear mathematics (1MA0)

Head of Mathematics: Mr Vettiankal vettiankal@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

The aims and objectives in Mathematics are to enable students to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context
- gain a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study and for employment
- to give students the appropriate mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding to help them progress to a full range of courses in further and higher education.

Mathematics is a compulsory subject for all boys. Most employers and further and higher education courses will demand a good GCSE in Mathematics.

What will I study?

The assessments will cover the following content headings:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

How is this course assessed?

The qualification consists of three equally weighted written examination papers at either foundation tier or higher tier.

- All three papers must be at the same tier of entry and must be completed in the same assessment series
- Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment; a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3
- Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long

The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total mark across all three papers, where 9 is the highest grade. Individual papers are not graded.

- Foundation tier: grades 1 to 5
- Higher tier: grades 4 to 9 (grade 3 allowed)

SCIENCE (Combined)

Exam board and specification: AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) (8465)

Heads of Subject:

Biology: Ms Chughtai Janjua janjua@williamellis.camden.sch.uk;

Chemistry: Mr Davenport davenport@williamellis.camden.sch.uk;

Physics: Mr Fuller fuller@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

Science is around us every day. Global warming, disease prevention and cure, energy prices and crisis, the latest smartphone technology and the discovery of gravity waves are just some aspects to hit the headlines recently. Students study science to understand these issues and to be able to distinguish unsupported claims from accepted fact.

What will I study?

Students will study all three sciences over the two years of the course. This course is about science-based issues, how science is applied to the wider world and forms a basis for further study. Each class has a biology, chemistry and physics teacher.

How is this course assessed?

The course will be examined at the end of Year 11 by 6 x one hour and fifteen minute written exams. Practical work will be assessed throughout the course and examined in the written papers.

Other Useful Information

All papers can be studied at foundation or higher tier. The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total mark across all four papers where 9 is the highest grade. Some students may also be simultaneously entered for an entry level certificate to support them in their learning.

SCIENCE (Triple)

Exam board: AQA

Specifications: GCSE Biology (8461), GCSE Chemistry (8462) & GCSE Physics (8463)

Heads of Subject:

Biology: Ms Chughtai Janjua janjua@williamellis.camden.sch.uk;

Chemistry: Mr Davenport davenport@williamellis.camden.sch.uk;

Physics: Mr Fuller fuller@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

Science is around us every day. Global warming, disease prevention and cure, energy prices and crisis, the latest smartphone technology and the discovery of gravity waves are just some aspects to hit the headlines recently. Students study science to understand these issues and to be able to distinguish un-supported claims from accepted fact. Students who think they may wish to take their study of science further would be suitable for studying this course, as the content will give an insight into some of the topics studied at A-Level.

What will I study?

Students will study all three sciences over the two years of the course. This course is about science-based issues, how science is applied to the wider world and forms a basis for further study. Each class has a biology, chemistry and physics teacher. The students will study each of the three sciences in more detail than the students undertaking the GCSE Combined Science course.

How is this course assessed?

The course will be examined at the end of Year 11 by 2 x one hour and forty-five minute written exam papers for each subject. This means they will sit 6 papers in total. Practical work will be assessed throughout the course and also examined in the written papers.

Other Useful Information

All papers can be studied at foundation or higher tier, although we anticipate all students sitting the higher tier. The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 where 9 is the highest grade.

MODERN LANGUAGES (French and German)

Exam board: AQA

Specifications: French (8658) & German (8668)

Head of Modern Languages Department: Ms Meechan meechan@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

Most companies have a European or International section. More and more job descriptions ask applicants to have knowledge of at least one European language.

The skills associated with language learning are highly respected. Being able to speak another language shows you have developed good communication skills – you can speak, listen, read things carefully and put things in writing – there are very few jobs where these skills are not necessary. Some universities, such as UCL, look require a good GCSE grade in a language regardless of the degree being studied.

Learning a language involves developing a variety of skills, so what you do in lessons is always varied.

What will I study?

All students must study a language at GCSE.

Students currently studying two languages are strongly advised to continue with both languages at GCSE (or to take up Mandarin alongside French or German), if they feel they can manage this. This does **not** use an option and thus these boys will have an extra GCSE.

All other boys will continue with either just French or German GCSE.

You will build on the skills you have been developing already. You will learn how to manipulate the language by studying grammar in more depth so that you can be more imaginative and independent. The topics covered the environment, technology, and hobbies, your family and friends, tourism. You will also learn more about the countries where the languages you study are spoken.

How is this course assessed?

Each language is examined at the end of the two year course:

- Listening Exam – 25%
- Reading Exam – 25%
- Speaking Exam-25%
- Writing Exam – 25%

You will either be entered for foundation or higher tier. You must do the same tier for every skill.

Other Useful Information

75% of the world's population does not speak English. In 2001 51% of the traffic on the internet was in English, in 2011 that proportion had dropped to 29%.

GEOGRAPHY

Exam board and specification: EDEXCEL GCSE Geography (Syllabus A) (1GA0)

Head of Geography: Mr Pomeyie pomeyie@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

The course looks at the real world and encourages students to gain knowledge and understanding about the physical and human processes that shape our planet. This is a current and forward looking course.

Just think...

- How will our planet sustain a population of over 8 billion people?
- What changes will regeneration bring to the Kings Cross site?
- What are the ideas for dealing with climate change?
- What are the main features of coasts and how do they form?
- How can rivers best be managed to reduce the flood risk?
- Will we go to war over water supplies in the future?

...while developing a wide range of geographical skills such as map reading, photo analysis, satellite image analysis, mapmaking, graphicacy, debating etc.

You will also develop your research skills, judge information sources for bias, learn to empathise with people in different situations etc., and there will be plenty of opportunities to develop your ICT skills using geographic information systems (GIS). All are essential skills in the dynamic, multi-disciplinary world in which we now live. Finally, field work is a major feature of the course with trips in the local area, to the Kings Cross redevelopment site and The Mill, to study a small river.

What will I study?

Geography is a fascinating and dynamic course that has been updated to cover a range of topical issues. It is an academic course that will also help you to develop a wide variety of practical skills. The syllabus covers physical and human topics including: the changing UK landscape (coasts and rivers); weather hazards and climate change; ecosystems, biodiversity and their management; changing cities; global development and resource management.

How is this course assessed?

Assessment will involve exams at the end of the course. One exam (25%) is based on fieldwork undertaken in both rural (rivers) and urban areas.

Other useful information

Geography GCSE is excellent preparation for further study, a geographical career or a career in business, from tourism to the media industry, retail to accountancy, aviation to marketing, etc. Employers value good communication skills, teamwork skills, research and decision-making skills all of which are covered by Geography.

Geography combines superbly with most other subjects and **offers more key skills than any other subject**, and in the current economic climate acquiring skills is very important. It is a very flexible subject that can be combined with both science and arts subjects at A-Level. Geography is an increasingly popular subject and, furthermore, geography graduates have one of the highest rates of employment of any core subject.

HISTORY

Exam board and specification: AQA GCSE History (8145)

Head of History & Politics: Mr Edwards edwards@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

Apart from being interesting, history is very useful. Studying history means that:

- you are able to gather and read different kinds of information
- you can analyse information quickly to make inferences and comparisons
- you are able to look carefully at information and check it for bias or propaganda
- you can read maps, statistics, graphs and other diagrams
- you are able to communicate clearly and have learned to express yourself verbally and on paper

History is a good qualification for budding journalists, TV researchers, lawyers, marketing, PR and accountants to name but a few possible careers.

“But I want to be a scientist...”

- remember that scientists have to communicate effectively, work with and manage other people.
- employers and universities like to see that you have followed a balanced course at school. History is an important part of keeping that balance. History can give you the skills that most employers want – whatever the job you have in mind.

What will I study?

In Year 10 you will study:

- Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950-1975
- America, 1920–1973: opportunity and inequality

In Year 11 you will study:

- Britain: migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day
- Norman England, c1066–c1100

How is this course assessed?

Two exams:

- two exams at the end of Year 11
- each exam is worth 50% of the course and both are 1 hour 45 minutes

Other useful information

- ask your history teacher for further reasons why so many of our students choose history each year
- visit website www.aqa.org.uk for further information about this exciting course

Optional Subjects



**Art
and
DESIGN**



COMPUTER SCIENCE



PERFORMING ARTS



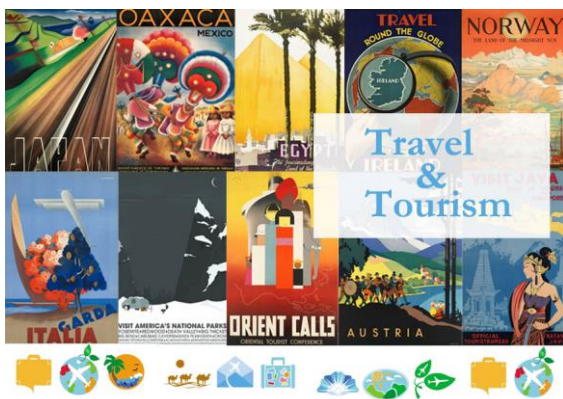
**M
U
S
I
C**



GRAPHICS



Business Studies



**Travel
&
Tourism**



William Ellis
Physical Education

ART & DESIGN – ART

Exam board and specification: EDEXCEL Art, Craft & Design (1AD0)

Head of Art, Craft and Design: Ms Madsen madsen@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

You should study art if you enjoy being creative and like to experiment with different media and techniques. It is an opportunity to develop your own ideas visually and work independently.

Art leads to a range of careers like advertising, interior design, surface design, graphics, architecture and film.

What will I study?

You will work in a range of media which may include drawing, painting, printing, 3 dimensional work, collage, photography and computer aided work. You will be expected to work in sketch books and will also produce larger work. You will be expected to show the development of individual ideas into 'final pieces'. You will also study the work of other artists and crafts people and will produce your own work in response to their work. Initially you will be led and guided by your teacher to extend and develop your skills, knowledge and understanding. You will attend visits to galleries and museums to learn about the work of other artists and designers, and you will write about your work and the work of other artists and designers. By the end of the course you will be confident in expressing your own opinions and generating your own lines of enquiry.

How is this course assessed?

The course is made up of 60% coursework and 40% final exam.

(Every piece of work you do can count as coursework) The coursework and exam are marked internally and moderated by an external examiner. It is important that you are able to produce work independently and at home. The exam project is 75% assessed on the work that you do in lessons, and the final 25% is the grade for your final artwork for the project.

Other Useful Information

It helps if you have some basic art materials at home as independent/homework is an important part of the course. These might be; drawing pencils, felt tips, crayons, paints, glue.

During the course there will be trips to galleries and museums to understand the work of Artists and to generate responses and ideas. It helps if you enjoy going to galleries and museums to look at art, craft and design work first hand.

If you would like more information on the Art GCSE or would like to view examples of students artwork, please visit the William Ellis School Art web-site <http://williamellisart.weebly.com/>.

ART & DESIGN – GRAPHICS

Exam board and specification: EDEXCEL Graphic Communication (1GC01)

Head of Art, Craft and Design: Ms Madsen madsen@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

Graphics is intended for those candidates who are interested in an Art & Design which relates to the appreciation of Graphic communication in advertising, illustration and in the promotion of ideas, information and new images. It is an opportunity to develop your own ideas visually and work independently. Work will include use of traditional and digital graphics, printing and web-based technologies. The course follows the same project themes as unendorsed art, but the projects will have graphic outcomes.

Students completing the graphics course will gain the necessary skills to continue their artistic development at further or higher education level. The course offers a broad skills base including design, creative ICT applications Photoshop and use of mixed media which equips students to go on to Graphics courses as well as Design courses

What will I study?

Skills lessons include: Formal drawing techniques, typography, book illustration, print based study, working with, Adobe Creative Suite: including Photoshop & Illustrator which are introduced at a beginners level through to advanced. Students will undertake a range of small practical projects that will build upon techniques learnt and prepare them for post 16 study. You will visit galleries and museums to help you to study other artists and designers work. You will learn to write analysis of your work and the work of others. The set task is a project is provided by the exam board, students interpret one of the starting points working to their strengths and in their own unique style. You need to be prepared to produce work independently at home or after school for your coursework and examination projects.

How is this course assessed?

The course is made up of 60% coursework and 40% final exam.

The Portfolio is based on learning a range of skills which will allow students to develop as artists and designers; they will produce a range of projects in response to a given brief or stimuli.

(Every piece of work you do can count as coursework) The coursework and exam are marked internally and moderated by an external examiner.

Other Useful Information

It helps if you have some basic art materials at home as independent/homework is an important part of the course. These might be; drawing pencils, felt tips, crayons, paints, glue.

During the course there will be trips to galleries and museums to understand the work of Artists and to generate responses and ideas. It helps if you enjoy going to galleries and museums to look at art, craft and design work first hand.

ART & DESIGN (BTEC)

Exam board and specification: EDEXCEL Pearson BTEC First Award in Art and Design (600/4781/1)

Head of Art, Craft and Design: Laura Madsen madsen@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

BTEC First can lead to either an Award which is equivalent to one GCSE or a Certificate which is equivalent to two GCSEs. It prepares you for a range of art and design related careers or future study.

What will I study?

The BTEC First course includes units on 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional art and design making. You will learn to use a wide variety of techniques and processes. It is an excellent progression route to courses such as BTEC level 3 or A level art and design. You will study the work of other artists and designers and learn how to plan your work in response to professional design briefs.

How is this course assessed?

The course is made up of three units of work, each one has a project brief which outlines what you need to do to achieve either a pass, merit or distinction grade. You will complete two core units then a choice of optional units and a final project. You have the option to either complete more units and get the equivalent of two GCSEs or to complete the equivalent of one GCSE.

Work is marked by teachers in school then an external moderator visits the school to moderate grades for the exam board.

Other Useful Information

It helps if you have some basic art materials at home as independent/homework is an important part of the course. These might be; drawing pencils, felt tips, crayons, paints, glue.

During the course there will be trips to galleries and museums to understand the work of Artists and to generate responses and ideas. It helps if you enjoy going to galleries and museums to look at art, craft and design work first hand.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Exam board and specification: EDEXCEL GCSE BUSINESS (2017 – 9 to 1)

Head of Economics and Business: Mr Harris harris@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

Small businesses accounted for 99.3% of all private sector businesses in 2018. Therefore, Business and Enterprise is all round us.

The NEW GCSE Business, there are TWO themes.

Theme one, 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 two, examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. Theme two also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows. In this theme, students will be introduced to national and global business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions.

This **exciting** GCSE Business in Enterprise examines the **impact of social media** in Business and encourages an entrepreneurial outlook whilst fostering a growth mind-set to help further success in Business Enterprise or other aspects of school life.

What will I study?

Theme 1: Investigating small business

Theme 2: Building a business

How is this course assessed?

The assessment is in the form **two written examinations**. Each exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes. Every 3-4 lessons we have mini challenges to ensure students are prepared for the written papers, along with lots of practical application and support.

Other useful information

If you want to find out more about the skills you might learn or should develop when studying this course, watch programmes like *The Apprentice*, *Dragons' Den* and *Working Lunch*. You can easily find out about the course in detail by asking any of the business teachers, who will show you examples of work.

COMPUTING

Exam board and specification: OCR Computer Science GCSE J276

Head of Computing: Mr Hamilton hamilton@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

Our lives are becoming more dominated by computers, smart phones and internet technologies. A good understanding of programming and how computers work will make you more employable after your education has been completed.

If you are considering moving into a profession which involves programming you will get your first taste of the principles of good coding and an understanding of how programs function. GCSE Computing also provides a solid grounding if you are hoping to study Computer Science at A Level or degree level.

If you enjoy thinking logically, you will enjoy applying your skills to the variety of challenges that Computing offers. If you are considering A Level Computing it will be good preparation and help you work out if Computing is a path that you want to follow.

What will I study?

This course allows you to learn about the principles of programming as well as what happens inside a computer.

Topics covered include: systems architecture, memory, storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, protocols and layers, system security, systems software and moral, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

You will learn how to program using procedural programming languages such as Python. You will also create algorithms and write code to solve tasks set by the exam board.

If you enjoyed the programming part of your Year 9 computing lessons then this course is one you should consider!

How is this course assessed?

Two exams (40% each):

One exam on computer systems.

One exam on computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

One programming project (20%):

Students will solve a task which has been defined by the exam board.

Other useful information

Ask Mr Hamilton if you need to know any more about the course.

Visit the OCR website at www.ocr.org.uk and type J276 into the search box. Here you will have access to sample papers and the syllabus.

MUSIC

Exam board and specification: AQA Music (8271)

Head of Music: Mr Forbat forbat@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

Music is **unique** in that it is recognised as both an **academic** and **creative** qualification. The theory part is academically rigorous and yet its creative side activates different areas of the brain and can come as a welcome contrast to other subjects on the timetable. The process of studying Music has been proven to improve literacy, cognitive speed and thinking, as well as develop life skills such as performing in public. In a world where many traditional jobs will become extinct with the rise of automation and technology, the creative industries and subjects like Music which develop soft skills are becoming ever more important. As a leading Music Technology provider in Camden, your son will have access to outstanding technology facilities that will help increase his marks in composition and give the subject a more modern edge. Your son will also have access to a wealth of experience from our professional instrument teachers and teaching staff; Mr Singleton, the GCSE class teacher, has a Master's degree in composition and is an accomplished pianist and singer.

Students have gone on to take A Level Music and Music Technology at LaSWAP and beyond, and continue on to study the subject at university and go into the Music industry. In 2017, 100% of students achieved A*-C (55% A*/A).

What will I study?

Music provides you with more breadth and depth of musical skills and knowledge.

The AQA syllabus allows students to develop their understanding of the basic building blocks of music: Rhythm, Harmony, Texture, Melody, Timbre, Dynamics, and Structure.

These are developed through **classical music**, **pop music** and other **music from around the world**.

If you cannot read music notation, you will need to learn with our help and in your spare time.

How is this course assessed?

Two Compositions – 30%

One solo and one ensemble performance (or music technology projects) – 30%

Formal listening exam – 40%

Other Useful Information

Boys will need to study at least one instrument (including music technology), and can opt to study two, using our instrumental teachers.

In Year 11, we will record and assess the boys' performances. There are lots of performance opportunities – we run several concerts each year. There are existing ensembles and groups for your son to join, or he can form his own band, if he would like.

PERFORMING ARTS (BTEC)

Exam board and specification: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (603/0406/6)

Head of Drama: Mr Pratt pratt@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

You want to take a practical performance course.

You enjoy performing and watching performances and you want to improve your knowledge and skills.

You haven't performed before but want to have a go.

You enjoy working with others.

You are prepared to work hard over two years, including attending extra lessons and rehearsals after school.

You are creative and have a good imagination.

What will I study?

You will take part in practical workshops led by the teacher in which you will work on your performance skills and your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of performance practitioners.

You will develop your technique by making, rehearsing and performing pieces of various lengths.

You will go to watch some professional performances.

You will watch performances by visiting theatre companies in school.

You will do a lot of practical work.

You will write about your work and about other people's work.

How is this course assessed?

This is a vocational BTEC course.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

You take part in practical work and you are assessed on your contribution and your understanding.

You show your knowledge and understanding in a combination of these forms: extended writing, blog, logbook, PowerPoint presentation, teacher's observations of your work, other students' observations of your work, video recordings of your work, performances.

You will be given plenty of time to complete this work and your teacher will organise the lessons so you get maximum opportunity to do practical work and prepare your written work.

Other useful information

There will be regular theatre trips, starting in the summer of Year 9, and you are expected to attend them all.

A large number of students go on to take drama and theatre studies or performing arts in the sixth form, and many of them continue their training at drama school or university.

We usually organise opportunities for performing arts students to spend some time out of school on a performance project.

Students are encouraged to take part in performance outside school.

SPORTS SCIENCE (CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL)

Exam board and specification: OCR Cambridge National in Sports Science (J802)

Head of PE, Sport and Activities: Mr Rourke rourke@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

Why should I study this subject?

- You have an interest in the science behind both amateur and elite sport
- You enjoy learning the theory of how our bodies perform when playing sport, how they improve over time and training and how psychology plays a major part in sporting performance.
- You have a desire to work in sport as a career in roles ranging from a sports coach, to nutritionists, physiotherapists, fitness coach or one of many other roles.

What will I study?

- The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Science offer learners the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles, and psychology in sport and sports performance.
- Students learn how to prepare participants to take part in physical activity so that they minimise the risk of injuries. They also learn how to respond to common sporting injuries and how to recognise the symptoms of some common medical conditions.
- Students develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of training and how to keep performers in peak physical condition. They apply practical skills in fitness testing and in designing bespoke training programmes to suit individual requirements.

How is this course assessed?

- Unit 1 of 4 is assessed by a written exam.
- Units 3 – 4 will be assessed by written assignments. Each unit will consist of 4 assignments based around one real world sports scenario, using all of the knowledge learnt in lessons.
- All pieces of work, both examination and assignment will all contribute towards the final grade and are of equal importance.
- There is NO planned practical element to this course.

Other useful information

- The course will allow all students to create a fitness programme to improve their own fitness levels
- Students will be given ample opportunity to complete all coursework within lesson time although students will need to work independently to ensure completion of all tasks.

TRAVEL & TOURISM (BTEC)

Exam board and specification: EDEXCEL BTEC First Award in Travel & Tourism (600/6512/6)

Head of Geography: Mr Pomeyie pomeyie@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

What will I study?

Students will investigate units ranging from UK & International Travel and Tourism Destinations to Customer Service. In order to make the course as business orientated as possible these are trips to tourist attractions and local services. One of the main purposes of BTEC qualifications is to help learners to progress ultimately into employment. The vast majority of employers are looking for employability skills to ensure that employees are effective in the workplace.

Why should I study this subject?

This is a vocational course aimed at providing students with an insight into the world of work. It focuses on the Travel & Tourism industry – now the UK's largest employer with over 5 million jobs.

The Travel and Tourism industry is dynamic, wide-ranging and fast-growing, and it offers a huge variety of business and employment opportunities for young people. The tourism industry is important to the UK and developing countries' economies, with job opportunities in many diverse areas.

Even if you do not want to work in the business, studying Travel & Tourism makes an interesting addition to your portfolio of qualifications. The Travel and Tourism course will allow you to develop a wide range of skills that are important in the workplace and will help increase your employability. IT, research, time management, teamwork, communication and customer service skills are all vital components of the course.

How is this course assessed?

In this course 75% of the marks come through on-going coursework and 25% of the marks from performance in exams. Students are given regular feedback on how to improve their coursework and overall grade. Students will complete assignments in each unit, which are graded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. Deadlines are set for assignment completion that allows time for students to develop work through feedback before the final submission.

Other useful information

The new specification allows all students to gain equivalent to grade one GCSE grade between 8-2. Typically students achieve highly, which helps them to gain entry on to a desired post-16 course and ultimately succeed in a rewarding and challenging career.