



St Margaret's C.E. Academy

YEAR 8 INTO YEAR 9

SUBJECT INFORMATION BOOKLET

2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Choices for Year 8 into Year 9

Your son is now approaching an important point of the compulsory part of his secondary education, and the time has therefore come to begin to choose the subjects that he would like to study in Year 9. This year we are continuing to operate an Options process for students entering Year 9 in order to broaden the range of subjects they can study in addition to giving him adequate time to prepare for their GCSE studies in Year 10.

The transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is an important one, and we are committed to helping your son make that transition smoothly and successfully. In order to do this, your son will need to make the right choices for his studies in Year 9. To support that decision-making process, we have strengthened the Careers advice that is available to pupils.

As part of the process, and as mentioned in the most recent edition of *SMArtTalk*, we would like to invite you to a meeting at **6pm on Thursday 9th January** in the Drama Hall here at school. At the meeting we will explain more about the Options process works, and distribute the necessary paperwork. The options form needs to be returned to us by **Monday 2nd March**.

You will receive two documents to support you and your son as you consider the options available to you. This letter sets out the choices that need to be made, and provides a form for you to communicate back to us what your choices are; in addition, a booklet sets out details for each course on offer.

If you have any questions about the GCSE Choices process, please don't hesitate to contact us:

- subject-specific questions, such as your son's suitability for a course, or detailed questions about course requirements *etc*, are best referred to your son's subject teacher or to the relevant Head of Department. May I take this opportunity to remind you that there is a Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening from **3:45pm on Thursday 27th February**.
- questions about our Careers Education and Guidance programme are best addressed to the colleague who leads this area of our work, Mrs C Roberts;
- if you would like any advice about what adaptations we can make to the process if your son has special educational needs (or is disabled), please contact our SEND Co-ordinator, Mrs N Kavanagh;
- questions about the Option Choices process should be referred to one of our Vice-Principals, Mr S Slater, who oversees it; and
- any pastoral matters may, as always, be referred to your son's Head of Year, Mrs N Harrison.

With my best wishes as you approach this important stage in your son's education,

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Brierley
Principal

Timetable for choice

**Thursday 9th January
6.00 pm**

**Options Evening
The Options Choice Subject Information
Booklet and Option Form Booklet will
be made available at this meeting**

Thursday 27th February

**Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening
from 3.45pm to 6.45pm**

Monday 2nd March

**Final date for submission of the Year 8
Options Form**

Summer Term

**Confirmation of option choices
sent to pupils and parents**

Careers Education and Guidance

Careers Lead: Mrs C Roberts

Careers Education and Guidance at St Margaret's encourages the co-operation and involvement of parents, students, employers and Career Connect. If you or your parents have any matters you wish to discuss please see Mrs C Roberts or one of the careers team in school

Email; careers@stmargaretsacademy.com Tel: 0151 427 1825

Careers Education Programme

Social mobility is vital for an efficient economy and a happy nation. Sadly, England does not score well in this regard. Schools' Careers Departments have a vital role to play in improving that situation by nurturing ambition and countering any hint of a low-aspirations culture.

Our aim is to prepare all pupils for future success by providing a full programme of careers advice, information and guidance that is stable, structured and delivered by individuals with the right skills and experience. This will enable them to make ambitious choices for their futures.

We will also provide good quality, meaningful opportunities for them to encounter both the world of work and other education/training providers.

The "St Margaret's Pathway" is a whole-school approach that structures our careers advice and guidance programme. It draws extensively on outside agencies such as the Careers Enterprise Company, a local Enterprise hub, Career Connect and Elevate (The education Business partnership) – and a strong in-house team.

Pre-14 our strategic priority is to ensure all students aim high. As early as Year 7 we organise an aspirational University Unzipped event and an introduction to our independent Career Connect advisor. This is followed up in subsequent years by a business mentoring programme, appropriate enterprise events, employer encounters and timely advice and guidance for the options processes in Years 8 and 9.

Two individual interviews, a one-week Work Experience placement for all, employer talks, a Careers Fair and a speed-networking event all take place in Key Stage 4. In line with our intent, bespoke interventions (eg one-to-one interviews) to raise aspirations are arranged as required.

In **year 7** – you will have been challenged to think about the careers that are linked to the different subjects you study and will have participated in some introductory enterprise and careers related activities.

In **Year 8 and 9**, you will be given access to a software application online (Fast Tomato) that help you investigate careers choices. You are encouraged to explore career ideas using this computer package. Such tools allow you to answer questions relating to what you enjoy, thus giving you a number of accurate career pathways and provide a detailed overview of a wide range of careers including likely jobs, potential salaries and requirements for the role (e.g. degree etc.)

In **Year 9**, you will also participate in a Careers day, this year it will be "Whats Your Emergency". This is led by a number of employers and professionals.

In Learning for Life you will have the opportunity to explore the local labour market information and the links between what you learn in our curriculum subjects and future careers.

The Careers programme in **Year 10** includes a compulsory week-long work experience placement to enable you to develop skills for the world of work, including teamwork, communication. This has a taught element, delivered in core-PE time for at least 5 sessions leading up to you going out on placement after Spring Half Term.

There is usually a Careers Fair/Meet the Professionals event in Year 10 which involves encounters on a speed networking basis with a wide range of people from the local labour market.

In **Year 11** we host visiting speakers; a programme of Careers talks from industry experts; guidance on post 16 choices; writing CV's; developing interview techniques and writing letters of application. Year 11 also have the chance to participate in a mock interview.

Career Connect Service

The Career Connect Service is a national organisation that we subscribe to. They work in partnership with schools to provide help and advice for young people. Career Connect Personal Advisers provide up-to-date, independent advice and guidance about education, training and employment opportunities. The Careers Connect Personal Advisers take group sessions and aim to interview the majority of Year 11 students but are also available to support Year 9, 10 and Sixth Form students each year.

The Careers Connect Personal Adviser is Karen Gallagher. The advisor spends at least a day in school each week and you can request an appointment by speaking with the school Careers team *Students can also access support via the Careers Connect website or by appointment in Careers Connect Offices across the city.*

Work Inspiration Programme (Work Experience)

In Year 10, you will participate in the Work Inspiration Programme. This programme involves five lessons, during core PE time on a carousel basis, preparing you for the world of work with insight from industry experts; followed by a placement of a week taking place after February Half Term. **You will have the opportunity to organise your own placement if you have a suitable contact.** This will provide you with an invaluable opportunity to sample the world of work, working alongside experienced professionals to learn new skills and enhance your future CV and Personal Statement.

Some important points to consider before making your option choices

- Be realistic; assess your own strengths, abilities and interests.
- Don't be over influenced by the decisions of friends. Seek advice from teachers, Parents/carers, careers advisers, employers and older students.
- If you have an idea for a future career, check for any specific subject requirements utilising software tools and sites we will make available (e.g. Fast Tomato)
- Choose subjects that interest you and that you are good at.
- Use the careers literature available on the school website and noticeboards and bulletins circulated and software to start thinking carefully about your future.
- Read this options booklet carefully and use the knowledge gained in your careers education lessons in Learning for Life to help you make your decision.

Special Educational Needs

The Government define Special Education Needs or Disabilities ('SEND') as follows: "*A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.*"

Students who have difficulty accessing the curriculum in KS3 are given various degrees of support before making their option choices for KS4. Students who hold an Education Health Care Plan from the Local Authority are supported with option choices. Discussions take place with Mrs Natasha Kavanagh, our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo), in consultation with the students and their parents/carers.

Access arrangements allow candidates/learners with SEN or disabilities to access formal assessments and show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment. The intention behind access arrangements is to meet the particular needs of an individual candidate without affecting the integrity of the assessment. Access arrangements are the principal way in which Exam Boards comply with the duty under The Equality Act 2010 to make 'reasonable adjustments'.

Reasonable access arrangements need to be agreed by JCQ, the Exam Board watchdog, prior to an assessment period. Such access arrangements should be the usual way of working for the student within lessons to ensure that The Academy can evidence the needs of the student.

For Key Stage 4 examinations, applications are made to JCQ within the first term of Year 10. Applications are made for those students who have been assessed by a Specialist Assessor using an up to date nationally recognised standardised test. If a student has been privately assessed, for example in the case of dyslexia, we must be supplied with the most recent assessment that has taken place within the current Key Stage, in order to submit the scores to JCQ. Please be mindful that JCQ must recognise the assessment carried out. It should also be noted that the Specialist Assessor must hold the appropriate qualifications as set out by JCQ, complete the relevant sections of Form 8 as required by JCQ as well as hand sign the Form 8 using ink which is not black. The completed Form 8 is needed for the application of Access Arrangements by the SENDCo. A private assessor must have made contact with the centre prior to the assessment taking place, otherwise we may well not be able to accept the assessment report that has been completed.

If a student is to apply for access arrangements on medical grounds, we must have recent medical assessments, of no older than 6 months, along with any other supporting medical evidence.

Access arrangements are made on an individual basis and therefore if you have any queries, please contact our Academy SENDCo directly. It should be noted that access arrangements only last for up to 2 years and re-assessment will need to take place at the beginning of post-16 studies.

Learning for Life

Learning for Life provides an opportunity for students to discuss and face the challenges of life now and equips them to face the challenges of the future. It covers activities and topics which contribute to the development of the individual's self-confidence and self-image through the acquisition of skills, attitudes, knowledge and experiences of adult life. Learning for Life is not an examination course but it contributes to the student enrichment ethos of the school and helps students to become responsible citizens. Although covered throughout the school curriculum, Citizenship is also an integral part of Learning for Life and aims to help students to become sensitive and active citizens of our country.



SUBJECT INFORMATION

Head of Department: Mrs S Davidson

- **What will I learn?**

- **Political Urban Art and Contextual Studies of Architecture**

Students will be introduced to a variety of materials and techniques and will learn about artists' work through research and gallery visits. Students will be encouraged to be experimental, to work from observation and imagination, and to develop their ideas from the beginning to the end. This course will teach you to look at the world in a creative way. During the course students will learn more about Political Urban Art and Contextual Studies of Architecture. Students will have a sketchbook and portfolio to demonstrate all practical learning, ideas development and critical analysis. Tuition is enjoyable, structured, friendly and supportive, resulting in high-grade achievements on this course! Art and Design develops a wide range of skills. Art and design may offer a highly creative and hands-on alternative to other subjects you may be studying at GCSE.

These are the skills that we expect students to develop in their artistic practice:

- producing observational drawings,
- recording ideas and information,
- carrying out research into the work of other artists,
- experimenting with a range of media and techniques,
- developing your ideas from the given starting point, and
- producing a final piece, or pieces, of work based upon preparatory studies and research.

- **How will I learn?**

- Practical lessons within the Art Rooms
- Class wide discussions, talks and viewpoints from Artists and designers
- Visit Galleries – Teacher led as well as curator talks
- Use of Digital Medias (Photoshop & Digital Cameras)

- **How will I be assessed?**

Each project will be assessed according to GCSE criteria, ie 9-1, including homework. All of this work can be put forward for the GCSE period Portfolio of work will be used to form 60% of the overall grade with an Exam worth 40%.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

Set homework relating to the current project, sketchbook work, photography, first and second hand observational drawing using mixed media.

- **Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?**

All work assessed in year 9 will contribute towards the overall GCSE grade; however students would be also eligible to pick the course up in year 10.

Head of Department: Mr C Cooke

- **What will I learn?**

You will be prepared for the Edexcel Business Studies and Economics/Communication Systems. The topics you will be taught are listed below. You will actively engage in the study of business and economics to develop as an effective and independent student, and as a critical and reflective thinker with an enquiring mind.

- You will use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, to build arguments and make informed judgements.
- You will develop and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts.
- You will appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities.
- You will consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

These are the skills that we expect you to develop:

- practical skills – time management, personal organisation and action planning
- presentational skills – addressing audiences using a variety of media and forms
- personal skills – showing evidence of progression
- interpersonal skills – communication and group work
- cognitive skills – reflection and review of own and others' performances.

- **How will I learn?**

Students will learn in a variety of different methods.

- **How will I be assessed?**

At the end of Year 11, you will be tested through two examinations, covering these themes:

Theme 1: Investigating small business

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2: Building a business

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

Regular set homework relating to the current class work.

- **Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?**

No

Head of Department: Mr M O’Gorman

What will I learn?

Advanced programming in Python

You will build on the programming skills taught in year 8 and work towards GCSE standard Python work. You will have the opportunity to learn about programming techniques such as loops, lists, procedures and functions. NASA uses Python to program space shuttles and all these skills are also used by programmers in a variety of jobs such as game and app creation.

Discover how computers work

It is easy to take for granted how computers, phones and tablets work. We use them every day and you will learn how they work by learning the following topics:-

- Elements of a computer system
- The CPU
- Understanding binary
- Binary addition
- Storage devices
- Convergence and new technologies
- Computer communications and networking

Build and interrogate your own software system

You will create a database system and be able to find useful information from it. Databases are used in every software system and every computer game you play.

You will also begin GCSE units of work as you progress through the year in preparation for work in year 10. These topics may include Hardware, Software, Operating Systems, Networks, the Internet and fundamentals of Computer Science.

• How will I learn?

You will learn Python Programming through a variety of practical activities and project based tasks. This will enable you to understand algorithms and designing code at GCSE level. Computational thinking and problem solving tasks will be set throughout the year to challenge you to think independently. Solving problems is a big part of how you will learn to be a competent computer scientist.

• How will I be assessed?

In class assessments will be given to test your understanding of theory units. You will also be given Python programming challenges to design, create and test. This will prepare you for programming assessments if you continue to GCSE.

• What will I be expected to do at home?

Homework will be set on a regular basis. This will consist of theoretical work as well as programming scenarios. Python will be used in class and it is a free download so students will also be expected to use it at home.

• Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?

No

Head of Department: Mr G Richards

- **What will I learn?**

Design & Technology is a very engaging and exciting subject which aims to prepare you for living in a technological world. It gives students the capability and confidence to design and make their own products using the same procedures and principles used in the design and manufacturing industries today.

The Year 9 course is delivered through projects which enable you to work with a variety of materials, including woods, metals and plastics. It covers the following areas: Electronics, Engineering, Resistant Materials, CAD/CAM and Graphics. Special emphasis is placed upon students creating high quality outcomes in a variety of materials via projects such as the Passive Amplifier and Programmable Angle-poise Lamp.

The department is well equipped with leading edge technology, which allows students to build Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) into their work. Students have the opportunity to use computer packages such as 2D Design and CircuitWizard and CAM machines such as laser cutters and 3D printers as well as using traditional tools and equipment.

- **How will I learn?**

Your learning is project based; you will be taught technical knowledge, designing and making skills through a series of exciting projects.

- **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed in four main areas of Design & Technology

- Designing
- Making
- Evaluation
- Technical Knowledge

During each project a range of skills are assessed. Teachers assess work regularly and at the end of each project, students are tested. Students also carry out a self-assessment.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

You will be set regular homework that supports your learning in the classroom.

- **Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?**

Design & Technology currently offer four routes in KS4.

- GCSE Design and Technology – Product Design (AQA)
- GCSE Electronics (EDUQAS)
- BTEC Tech Award in Engineering (equivalent to 1 GCSE)
- Level 1/2 Hospitality & Catering

You would struggle to be able to complete either of the GCSE options if you did not take the subject in year 9, so you would need to take the subject in year 9 to take either GCSE.

If you were opting for the BTEC in Engineering you could take that course in KS4 if you do not take the subject in year 9 due to the specific content of the BTEC, but it would make your progress more challenging.

Head of Department: Mr T Mulligan

- **What will I learn?**

You will learn about the various job roles in the Theatre such as Playwright, Performer, Director, Lighting Technician, Sound Technician and Set Designer and explore in depth specific skills you need to develop in those roles. Moreover, you will learn how an actor controls both his voice and body in performance and how performers achieve characterisation. Pupils will learn how theatrical productions are designed and executed and explore both set texts and devised work.

The main focus throughout all of this learning will be skill development and team work. You will learn how to perform, support, communicate, work as part of a team, meet deadlines and execute high quality drama productions.

- **How will I learn?**

You will look at a selection of plays which include; Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible', Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers', and John Buchan/Patrick Barlow's 'The 39 Steps'. You will also explore various stimuli to inspire devised work and creativity. You will take part in teacher led workshops and lessons which involve full practical participation and you will study elements of performance in a more formal classroom setting.

You will get the opportunity to see live theatre productions and be asked to analyse and evaluate the productions.

- **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed throughout the year at various times depending on the unit of work being studied. These assessments will be practical assessments and involve the pupils performing or supporting performance under exam conditions. They will be judged on their rehearsal process; communication with the audience, individual skills and their ability to evaluate both their own performance and that of others.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

There will be research tasks and some written elements that are to be completed as homework. Actors will be expected to memorise scripts at home and pupils looking at supporting roles will be expected to complete and develop designs. It is encouraged that students watch as much live theatre as possible throughout the course of study.

- **Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?**

Yes, but you will miss the chance to develop key skills required to achieve the top band in this subject.

No

Head of Department: Mrs S Bell

- **What will I learn?**

You will study a range of texts, fiction and non-fiction, and will continue to develop your skills as a writer.

Media and Manipulation:

You will study a range of media types and will explore the motivations of writers and journalists. You will discuss some of the moral debates that arise from journalism and will also consider your own role as consumer of media. You will produce pieces of writing that analyse these texts but will also create your own pieces of journalism.

American Literature:

In these unit, you will study two great pieces of writing: John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* and Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Through these texts, you will explore the methods that these writers use to portray the marginalised and the oppressed and will also discuss the moral challenges that they present to the reader.

Poetry: Love and Relationships.

As suggested, you will read, study and analyse a range of poems that explore the above themes.

Renaissance Writers:

This unit will give you the opportunity to study Shakespeare and his contemporaries. You will study Shakespeare's *Othello* and Marlowe's *Dr Faustus*. Both of these plays will give you a good understanding of this period of writing as well as providing a fascinating insight into heroes, villains and human nature.

- **How will I learn?**

Through teacher instruction, reading, independent analysis and research.

- **How will I be assessed?**

Formal summative assessments will be the same format of reading and writing assessments you will be used to from Y8. You will also sit an exam that will assess how much you have learned and remembered from your study over the year. This will prepare you for the expectations of GCSE exams.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

Read, revise and research.

Head of Department: Mrs R Moore

- **What will I learn?**

- To understand and apply the principles of nutrition and health.
- To learn about the Hospitality & Catering Industry.
- To learn to cook high skilled dishes that are restaurant standard.
- To become competent in a range of cooking techniques (for example, selecting and preparing ingredients; using utensils and electrical equipment; applying heat in different ways; using awareness of taste, texture and smell to decide how to season dishes and combine ingredients; adapting and using your own recipes).
- To understand the source, seasonality and characteristics of a broad range of ingredients.
- Through a range of different techniques, to be creative and experimental with your dishes.

- **How will I learn?**

Learning will take many different forms. You will have practical cookery lessons along with theory to help you understand more about the hospitality industry. We will also explore current food trends and techniques that will enable you to become competent chefs and consumers!

- **How will I be assessed?**

Practical lessons are assessed via verbal feedback and the grading structure for theory work will be in line with the Level 2 qualification that is studied in years 10 & 11. Distinction, Merit, Pass and Fail. Theory work is produced in departmental workbooks and a practical class diary records all practical work undertaken. There are many opportunities in lessons for you to self- and peer-assess work also.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

You will be expected to complete your booklets when homework is set and also bring ingredients to each lesson as required. The list of ingredients is placed on show my homework so you can be prepared.

- **What kinds of dishes will I make?**

- Curry
- Lasagne
- Shepherd's pie
- Bread
- Chicken wings
- Cultural food project
- Fresh pasta
- Cupcake decorating
- Seasonal baking.

From this course, you can go on to study Level 1/2 in Catering & Hospitality in Year 10.

Head of Department: Miss W Monaghan

- **What will I learn?**

You will study a wide range of topics covering: TV, cinema, reading habits, internet, holidays, personality, relationships, clothes, music, where you live, your home & food and drink.

You will also study French grammar. This will cover the present, perfect, imperfect and future tenses as well as modal verbs, imperatives and superlatives so that by the end of Year 9 you will be able to communicate confidently in past, present and future tenses.

- **How will I learn?**

You will follow the Studio 2 Rouge/ Vert course and will work independently, in pairs and in groups. Activities will cover the 4 skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also be given allocated time once a fortnight with the Foreign Language Assistant in order to improve your speaking and listening skills. You will also make good use of online learning packages such as Active Learn, Quizlet and Languages Online in order to enhance your subject knowledge.

- **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed at the end of every module in how well you are developing the following 4 skills:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

You will be expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis as well as grammar rules and you will be expected to produce written work at the end of each unit to show how well you have understood the topic. Online assignments will also be a regular feature of the course. All students should have a bilingual dictionary; looking up new vocabulary is a vital skill for any linguist.

Head of Department: Mrs K Williams

- **What will I learn?**

The Year 9 Geography course covers topics:

- Hazards (volcanic, weather, climate change, UK extreme weather)
- Living World (ecosystems, rainforests, deserts)

- **How will I learn?**

The Geography curriculum for Year 9 will:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes
- enable students to understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
- help pupils become competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
 - interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
 - communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

We will also aim to provide a fieldwork experience for the students whereby they will get to study geography outside the classroom in different and unfamiliar surroundings. Both gathering information to be used in classwork and as the basis for one of their assessments but also applying that theoretical knowledge which they have gained in class in a practical situation.

- **How will I be assessed?**

Assessment throughout year nine will be continual assessment as you have been used to throughout year seven and eight. .

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

In year Nine Geography you are likely to receive one piece of homework per week from your teacher. These homework tasks will be issued and completed in a booklet and will be clearly set in a SMHW. In addition, you will have a weekly class test of 10 short questions.

Head of Department: Mr P Keenan

- **What will I learn?**

Students will begin their GCSE studies. The first GCSE unit studied is Crime from 1000AD to the modern era. In Years 10 and 11, students will complete the other two units. These include topics on Henry VIII and his ministers, Weimar and Nazi Germany, and finally the era of the Cold War. Anglo-Saxon and Norman England 1060-88.

- **How will I learn?**

Students are expected to work hard in lessons to complete a wide range of written tasks. To aid their learning, students will engage with a number of written and visual historical sources. They will be required to judge their content, usefulness and reliability to immerse themselves fully in the historical debate. Students also have the opportunity to join older students on our annual multi-day excursion. In the last three years, we have visited Berlin, Paris and Munich.

- **How will I be assessed?**

Class based tests and homework assignments are used to assess student progress across the course. At the end of the course there are 3 GCSE exams; there is no longer a coursework element in history.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

Students are expected to complete a mixture of written assignments and research tasks. The aim is to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, as well as augment their wider understanding of the topics studied.

Head of Department: Mr M O’Gorman

- **What will I learn?**

You will build upon your IT skills from year 8 and develop them further. You will use software to create IT products and also:

Create a video and using sound in audacity

You will learn how to plan, script and edit a video for a particular purpose. You will learn how to effectively review your work and make improvements.

Plan, build and design a user interface

- You will create a user interface for a computer games downloading service. It will be planned and implemented.

Spreadsheets

- Financial modelling
- Making predictions and analysing data

Cyber Security

- Threats
- Computer system attacks

Modern Technologies

- Cloud technology
- Communication technology

Digital Systems

- How computer systems are designed

- **How will I learn?**

You will be given a range of practical based projects and expected to review and improve what you create. This will enable you to prepare for the BTEC Tech Award in year 10. Interactive lessons including group work and independent study will help you learn a range of theory topics.

- **How will I be assessed?**

In class assessments will be given to test your understanding of theory units. Your project/practical work will be assessed continuously.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

Homework will be set on a regular basis. This will consist of theoretical work as well as practical scenarios. You will be expected to practice your IT skills in your own time by showing a genuine interest in the subject.

- **Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?**

Yes. However, this course will prepare you well for the BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology (GCSE equivalent), which will be an option for year 10.

Head of Department: Mr J O'Halloran

In Year 9 we continue following the Mathematics Mastery curriculum with a heavy emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning. The year 9 curriculum is challenging and directly related to the GCSE specification.

- **What will I learn?**

The specification requires students to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in the following areas:

Graphs and Proportion

- Straight line graphs
- Direct and inverse proportion
- Scales and maps
- Standard form

Algebra

- Sequences
- Expanding and factorising
- Re-arranging formulae
- Linear equations and inequalities
- Solving equations graphically

Geometry and Measures

- Constructions and loci
- Congruence
- Pythagoras' theorem
- Angles in polygons
- Similarity and enlargement
- Transformations
- Trigonometry

Statistics and Probability

- Probability
- Handling data
- Scatter graphs and correlation

This Mathematics Mastery course gives students the opportunity to develop the ability to:

- Acquire and use problem solving strategies
- Select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in mathematical, every day and real-world situations
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- Interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

- **How will I learn?**

Specialist Mathematics teachers in setted groups will teach you. You will experience a variety of teaching styles including:

- Teacher led activities, including discussion with fellow students
- Undertaking appropriate practical and investigational tasks
- Consolidating and practising fundamental skills and routines
- Problem solving activities including applications for everyday situations
- Using computers and graphical calculators to investigate within mathematics
- Using an electronic version of a text book

- **How will I be assessed?**

There are on-going half-termly pre unit and post unit assessments through year 9 covering all the topics taught as they go along. At the end of year 9 there is an assessment covering all the topics covered that year.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

You will be set homework on a regular basis. This will include completing written exercises, reviewing past work, practising newly acquired skills, accessing work provided by Kerboodle www.corbettmaths.com and using the www.mymaths.co.uk website.

It is important to regularly read through your notes to check that you understand the work, nothing is missing and your work is in order.

Head of Department: Mrs C Smith

- **What will I learn?**

- You will continue learning music through Performance, Composition and Listening and appraising with the Elements of music at the core of your understanding.
- You will learn how to analyse music from short set works such as a recent pop song, an African vocal piece or a short classical Film theme.
- You will continue to perform regularly in front of your peers, recording your work with microphones and learning how to progress further through self and peer assessment.
- You would be expected to have instrumental/vocal tuition either privately or through the school peripatetic system.
- You will continue to enhance your keyboard skills.

- **How will I learn?**

Year 9: You will complete a foundation year in the subject developing musical skills and bridging any gaps in knowledge that you may have. It will involve practical lessons exploring different musical styles and learning how to compose using specific musical features. You will use Sibelius and Cubase software to notate your work. It will be expected that you are regularly practising your instrument/voice at home.

Year 10: You will start the analysis of the set works as prescribed by the exam board and complete your first composition. You will complete a number of solo and ensemble performances throughout the year to show progress in musical performance. You will learn about various musical genres set by the exam board.

Year 11: You will complete the analysis of the remaining set works and apply your knowledge to exam style questions in preparation for the examination in May/June. You will also complete your composition and perform pieces for assessment in March 2023

- **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed in various ways using, for example, the school USMA system, GCSE type assessment criteria. You will be given regular verbal feedback about your work.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

- You will be expected to practise your instrument or voice.
- You would also need to listen regularly to many different musical genres of music, read about significant artists and composers.
- You would be expected to complete theory/ listening/ research homework.
- You would be expected to prepare for performances that take place during school time.

- **Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?**

Students who are proficient instrumentalists with a solid knowledge of staff notation, Italian terms and musical genres would be able to opt in year 9 if they did not opt at year 8 level. They would be expected to catch up on their understanding of music ICT during their own time in the summer term of year 9.

Head of Department: S. Davidson

- **What will I learn?**

Historical portraiture for the contemporary world

Students will be introduced to a variety of materials and techniques and will learn about artists' and photographers work through research and gallery visits. Students will be encouraged to be experimental, to work from observation and imagination, and to develop their ideas from the beginning to the end. This course will teach you to look at the world in a creative digital way, whilst demonstrating an appreciation for Historical styles of working in a contemporary world. Students will have a sketchbook and a digital portfolio to demonstrate all practical learning, ideas development and critical analysis. Tuition is enjoyable, structured, friendly and supportive, resulting in high-grade achievements on this course! Photography will develop new digital approaches that will equip students with the skills to succeed in the technological world.

These are the skills that we expect students to develop in their artistic practice:

- producing observational drawings,
- recording ideas and information,
- carrying out research into the work of other artists,
- experimenting with a range of media and techniques,
- developing your ideas from the given starting point, and
- producing a final piece, or pieces, of work based upon preparatory studies and research.

- **How will I learn?**

- Practical lessons within studio space
- Class wide discussions, talks/viewpoints from Artists and designers and photographers
- Visit Galleries – Teacher led as well as curator talks
- Use of Digital Medias (Photoshop & Digital Cameras)

- **How will I be assessed?**

Each project will be assessed according to GCSE criteria, ie 9-1, including homework. All of this work can be put forward for the GCSE period Portfolio of work will be used to form 60% of the overall grade with an Exam worth 40%.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

Set homework relating to the current project, sketchbook work, photography, first and second hand observational photographs using both analogue and digital processes.

- **Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?**

All work assessed in year 9 will contribute towards the overall GCSE grade; however students would be also eligible to pick the course up in year 10.

Head of Department: C. Parkes

- **What will I learn?**

Students at St Margaret's are expected to be committed to PE and sport and to try to make it a central part of their lives – both in and out of school. Students should seldom miss PE lessons, remember their kit and get changed on time. They should make sure they are available for sport events and take responsibility for not letting down others. They should encourage other pupils to get involved and help adults to organize lessons and activities. The students in Year 9 have 3 or 4 hours of PE a fortnight depending on their set. The curriculum offers a wide range of physical activities: football, rugby, basketball, badminton, health related education, athletics, cricket, handball, softball and swimming.

- **How will I learn?**

Lessons take on a variety of approaches to learning, but are in the main based around competitive opportunities and skill acquisition. Students are taught through games and skill based activities.

- **How will I be assessed?**

Students are assessed based on their fitness levels and their skill ability

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

Students are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular clubs at school and join a sports club outside of school to increase their fitness and skill levels.

Head of Department: Mrs K Harding

- **What will I learn?**

- The Nature of God
- Evil and Suffering
- Biblical Literacy

- **How will I learn?**

The topics that are covered in Year 9 are foundational to the RS GCSE studied in Years 10 and 11 at St. Margaret's. The RS Department will use a number of different resources and teaching styles to best fit the needs of our students.

- **How will I be assessed?**

- Weekly Show My Homework 10 RS Facts according to the homework policy.
- End of Unit test three times per year.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

Homework will be published on Show My Homework according to the homework policy.

Head of Department: Mrs S Burns

- **What will I learn?**

You will build on your learning from year 7 and 8 by bringing a number of the previous topics together in a unit called Global Warming. The topic introduces numerous topics from the GCSE course and will introduce you to the level of challenge that the new GCSEs demand. You will then complete a unit called How Science Works which will focus on the skills needed at GCSE to answer questions based on the required practical work in GCSE exams. For students that are ready, GCSE standard questions and activities will be incorporated into lessons and homework. After Christmas pupils will begin the GCSE course.

- **How will I learn?**

In class you will learn in a variety of ways, however the focus will be on continuing to build fluency in the extensive scientific knowledge needed to master more difficult concepts.

- **How will I be assessed?**

You will have an end of unit test for the Global Warming and How Science Works units which includes exam style questions. You will also have weekly knowledge recall tests (Fact tests) for these units. Once you start the GCSE course each unit will have: a 'Knowledge Recall test', a 'Misconceptions test' and some 'Exam Style Questions'.

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

You will be set approximately an hour of homework per week, with the purpose of consolidating topics covered in lessons.

Head of Department: W. Monaghan

In Year 9,

- **What will I learn?**

You will study a wide range of topics covering: family and friends, holidays, hobbies, weather, transport, directions, shopping, food and drink, school and college & work and work experience.

You will also study Spanish grammar. This will cover the present, perfect and near future tenses as well as modal verbs, comparatives and superlatives so that by the end of Year 9 you will be able to communicate confidently in past, present and future tenses.

- **How will I learn?**

You will follow the Edexcel Foundation Spanish course and will work independently, in pairs and in groups. Activities will cover the 4 skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also make good use of online learning packages such as Active Learn, Quizlet and Languages Online in order to enhance your subject knowledge.

- **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed at the end of every module in the following 4 skills:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

- **What will I be expected to do at home?**

You will be expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis as well as grammar rules and you will be expected to produce written work at the end of each unit to show how well you have understood the topic. Online assignments will also be a regular feature of the course. All students should have a bilingual dictionary; looking up new vocabulary is a vital skill for any linguist.

- **Can I study the subject in Year 10 if I do not study the subject in Year 9?**

No, this will not be possible.