



Kimbolton School

GCSE Options 2023-25



Key Dates

During Spring Term

Together with your parents, you need to give serious thought as to which GCSE subjects to choose. You should take this time to discuss your choices with your tutors and subject teachers.

Third Form Pupil and Parents' Evening Thursday 19th January 2023

This falls shortly before the options choice deadline. Use this for fine-tuning purposes, but most of the deliberations and discussions with staff should have taken place before then. Pupils should attend this meeting with their parents.

Options Deadline

Friday 10th February 2023*

Deadline for submitting GCSE choices.

** After this deadline, subjects will be blocked together, firstly to create teaching groups, and secondly for the 2023-25 timetable. These subject blocks are grouped to maximise the availability of requested subject combinations. After this time, it will only be possible to change subject choices if this can be accommodated within the blocked structure and if class size allows.*



Welcome to your next steps

Welcome to the next stage of your education at Kimbolton School. Entering the Fourth Form is an exciting time and step one is making decisions about your GCSE subjects.

On hearing the term GCSE your mind might go straight to exams and, although you will take external exams at the end of Fifth Form, GCSE subjects are more than their assessments. They are a chance for you to develop your passions, explore academic ideas and consider your future goals and ambitions.

Although there are some compulsory GCSES, our curriculum is flexible and accommodates a host of academic interests. Each of you has the opportunity to build your own curriculum based on your individual interests and strengths. This booklet offers plenty of advice and information about your choices which I hope you find useful. Consider the topics and skills offered within each subject, as well as the methods of assessment.

GCSE years are also about your participation and contribution to the wider Kimbolton School curriculum. When thinking ahead to Fourth Form, consider what else you would like to get involved in during your GCSE years. There is much on offer in our extracurricular programme, as well as Thursday afternoon opportunities with the Combined Cadet Force and Community Service Unit – more about these in the summer term.

Being successful at GCSE is the result of many factors. Firstly, pupils who keep on top of their organisation and workload find the transition to Fourth Form more manageable. Make sure you plan your week carefully. Think about what you need to achieve each week and how you are going to go about it. Having work routines will really benefit you from day one and ensure that you keep on top of deadlines. Secondly, GCSE years are about you, your teachers and your parents working together to support your personal and academic progress. Do not be afraid to ask for help and make use of the support in school both from your tutors and your subject teachers. Thirdly, make sure you ask questions. Ask questions when you're not sure of something, go to subject helpdesks to ask for clarification on a topic and ask questions because you are curious about the subject you are learning.

I look forward to seeing all that you will achieve personally and academically during your GCSE years. There is much to look forward to and I encourage you to make the most of all your opportunities.

Mrs R Taylor
Deputy Head (Academic)



How do I fit my GCSE course together?

Step by Step

Step 1

Maths and English

Everyone takes Mathematics, English (resulting in both Language and Literature GCSEs).

Step 2

Your first big decision is with regard to Science (choice A or B below must be taken):

Choice A – Choosing to do Biology, Chemistry and Physics as 3 separate subjects (Separate Sciences) and so leaving three further choices to make. Pupils who already feel a strong interest in studying A level science subjects are advised to choose this option.

Choice B – Choosing to do Combined Science, which is the equivalent to two GCSEs and so leaving four further choices to make. Pupils who have strong interests in a broader range of Arts, Humanities and Creative/Technical subjects are advised to choose this option.



Step 3

Choosing your other subjects

Now you need to make your final option choices. This involves selecting 3 or 4 (depending on your Science choice) further subjects from the lists opposite.

You MUST select at least one Humanities subject and at least one Foreign Language.

A balanced course would also include a Creative subject.

Humanities

Geography
History
Philosophy, Religion
& Ethics

Modern Foreign Languages

French
Spanish

Creative/Technical Subjects

Art
Computer Science
Drama
DT (Engineering)
DT (Product Design)
Food and Nutrition
Music
Physical Education

Your final combination of GCSEs should look like one of the following:

1 + 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ENGLISH (Language and Literature)	MATHS*	BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS	Humanities Option	Foreign Language Option	A further option subject

1 + 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ENGLISH (Language and Literature)	MATHS*	COMBINED SCIENCE	COMBINED SCIENCE	Humanities Option	Foreign Language Option	A further option subject	A further option subject

* Set 1 and 2 Maths pupils also take a Further Maths qualification (see page 9).

In addition to their GCSE studies, all pupils in the Fourth Form attend PSHE, PE and Games lessons, and join CCF or CSU.





Entry to Kimbolton Sixth Form

Entry to our Sixth Form requires 5 GCSE grades at 6 or above, with passes in Maths and English.

Head of Sixth Form **Mr Matt Gilbert**
msg@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

Future Career Choices

When making GCSE choices, the aim should be to select subjects that will keep as many options open as possible. Factors affecting choice should include ability and an interest in the subject. The core subjects cover the needs of most careers. Those with ideas about their future direction should ensure that they check on specific requirements. Careers such as medicine, veterinary science, physiotherapy, architecture, teaching and nursing need a real sense of vocation as well as a qualification in certain academic subjects and those with sufficient interest in these areas will probably already have researched the requirements.

Through PSHE lessons, pupils are introduced to the many resources available to help them explore their options. Mrs Bates will be pleased to give advice on options choices, careers matters and university entrance. The Careers Room in the Castle is open at all reasonable hours. All pupils benefit from the Morrisby careers guidance and support in the Fourth and Fifth Form, administered by external careers experts in conjunction with our own careers team.

Head of Careers **Ms Gill Jackson**
gaj@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk



GCSE Subject Options

2023-25



English Language and English Literature

English at Kimbolton is exciting, thought-provoking, and mind-expanding. In part, the study of language and literature is the key to gaining a greater understanding of ourselves – of culture, history, society, politics. It challenges us to think beyond the everyday and allows us to reflect on situations and emotions we may never have experienced.

Through the study of language in non-fiction and literary texts, you will discover how writers can persuade and inform us about important events and issues. You will explore how writers describe personal experiences, whether entertaining or harrowing. You will learn how to analyse how these different pieces of writing (or speeches) have been constructed and how language has been manipulated to its particular function; and in doing so, you will develop your own skills as a writer for diverse purposes.

Through our study of literature, you will learn how to interpret and extract meaning from texts, and you will be taught how to construct arguments in response to these texts. Looking at poetry, prose and drama across four centuries, you will examine political, social and historical factors and explore themes such as power, violence, morality and love. Whether witnessing the violence of 12th century Scotland, falling in love in a seedy hotel room in modern day Paris, or perhaps even exploring an imagined dystopian future, you will learn about experiences apparently far away from your own, but you will confront issues and ideas that are closer than you might think.

English is essential because ...

Communicating well matters – whatever you choose to do when you leave school. English is a minimum requirement for many further education, higher education, and job role specifications.

Beyond the classroom

We try to make the study of English fun and creative with theatre trips to see *An Inspector Calls* and *Macbeth*, a visiting acting troupe to perform our pre-1900 text *A Christmas Carol* and an online English Language conference. Our Senior Literary Society runs once a fortnight, with students from the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Forms, and teachers presenting on an aspect or topic of literature that interests them.

Did you know?

Shakespeare added over 1,000 new words to the English language.

“ English Literature has helped me to think more critically and read things from different perspectives. It has also helped me to articulate my ideas clearly; a useful skill for all subjects. ”

EVA

Head of English **Mrs A E O'Donnell**
aeo@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/english

“ The skills learnt in English Language aren't only useful for the subject itself but prepare you for the wider world. Without these skills, a lot of doors close. ”

NATHAN



OCR GCSE English Language J351

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/english-language-j351-from-2015/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via two exams.

OCR GCSE English Literature J352

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/english-literature-j352-from-2015/specification-at-a-glance/

Assessed via two exams.



CORE SUBJECT

Mathematics

Mathematics is important in all aspects of everyday life: from shopping or planning a holiday, to buying a house. It's a core skill that most employers look for, as well as a powerful tool for understanding and communication across the world. Maths helps you learn to problem-solve, and to think creatively and critically – skills that are valued in many careers from architecture to motorsport and medicine.

Our Maths Department is dedicated to helping you achieve. We offer a range of qualifications to suit all abilities, so that the least able receive a solid grounding in all aspects of the subject while, at the opposite end of the ability spectrum, our most gifted mathematicians are fully stretched.

Sets 1-5 take Higher Level. Sets 6 and 7 take Foundation Level (with a maximum achievable grade of 5) at the end of the Fourth Form, with a view to gaining a grade 4 or 5 a year early. In Fifth Form, some will retake Foundation while others will progress to Higher Level.

To gain a grade 5 you will need to be proficient in number work - ratio, percentage, fractions. You will need a basic understanding of averages and be able to decipher data in frequency tables. Area and basic trigonometry are required as is basic algebra. Jumping to grade 9 and you will have also had to master differentiation, vectors, and circle theorems, as well as developed many problem-solving skills.

Maths is essential because ...

It is a requirement for access to further and higher education. The problem-solving skills used in answering maths questions are necessary for most future jobs – you might not need to find the circumference of a circle in later life, or solve quadratic equations, but the processes you need to go through are highly-valued skills.

Beyond the classroom

We encourage you to seek assistance outside lessons, and in the run-up to exams, and run a helpdesk most lunchtimes in the week. Our top two sets will participate in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge, and there is also an opportunity to take part in our annual House Maths competition.

Did you know?

Markings on animal bones indicate that humans have been doing maths since around 30,000BC.

Head of Mathematics **Mr A S Jessup**
asj@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/maths



“

Maths has helped me think of easier ways to find solutions to a vast array of different problems, and has increased my general thinking speed.

ALEX

”

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics A (all pupils)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-mathematics-a-2016.html>

Assessed via two exams.

AQA Level 2 Further Mathematics 8365 (pupils in sets 1 and 2)

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/further-mathematics-8365/specification-at-a-glance

All pupils from set 1 and the majority from set 2 also take an AQA Level 2 Further Maths exam.

Assessed via two exams.



Sciences

Pupils must choose one of the two possible routes outlined below.

Combined Science (2 GCSEs) is where pupils study all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) but end up with *two* GCSEs.

Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs) is where students study all three sciences in greater depth and end up with *three* GCSEs.

A Level science subjects are accessible via either route.

Combined Science

Combined Science is offered to allow pupils who have a wide range of interests to maximize their options in other subjects. It also allows students whose strength lies in other curriculum areas to spend six lessons a week on their science subjects rather than the nine lessons a week if the separates route is chosen. It is important to emphasize that the level of challenge in the Combined Science course is the same as the Separates courses, but there is less content to cover. Sciences at Kimbolton are taught by enthusiastic subject specialists in our four modern and well-resourced labs.

The course structure provides two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics lessons each week, a total of six science lessons, which is equivalent to two GCSE subjects in the timetable. Each science subject is examined in a separate paper at the end of the Fifth Year and the results are then combined to give two Science GCSE grades (e.g. 9,9, 9,8, 8,8, 8,7 etc). Although there is no coursework, practical work is a key component of the course, and pupils complete a number of required practicals during their studies which are then examined in the written papers.

Separate Sciences

This route allows pupils who have a keen interest in and aptitude for the Sciences to focus on their academic strengths. Most A Level candidates across the science subjects have taken the Separate Sciences course. There are three lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics each week, a total of 9 lessons, which is the equivalent of three GCSE subjects in the options structure. Each science subject is examined in separate papers at the end of the Fifth Year and the results lead to a separate grade (e.g. 9; 8; 7 etc.) for each subject. Although there is no coursework, practical work is a key component of the course, and pupils complete a number of required practicals during their studies which are then examined in the written papers.



CORE SUBJECT

Biology

Biology is the study of the natural world: living organisms and their structure, life-cycles, adaptations, and environment. This knowledge can ultimately be used to improve our world in many areas including public health, disease control, natural resources, pollution, animal care and conservation.

During lessons you will explore seven key subject areas: cell biology, organisation, infection and response, energetics, homeostasis, inheritance and evolution, and finally ecology. You will be learning exciting novel ways that our biological understanding leads to treatments for infertility and heart disease, why biodiversity is so precious to our ecosystems and how an understanding of pathogens and how they spread can help reduce the impact of future pandemics.

As with the other sciences, Biology helps you improve your skills in many areas: research, analysis, communication, problem-solving, presentation, creativity, and organisation.

Biology is essential because ...

We need a society of scientifically-literate people who understand why biodiversity and conservation are so important to the future health of the planet. Biology also gives you the maths skills to manipulate and analyse data, helps to combat fake news and misunderstanding, and plays a pivotal role in the UK economy. Learning how our own bodies work allows us to make good and ethical decisions in our adult lives.

Beyond the classroom

Our after-school STEM club allows keen scientists to work on projects of their choosing, while Gardening club focuses on conservation issues and plant sciences. We also have a thriving Medical Society, which offers Fifth and Sixth Form students the chance to discuss ethical issues and hear visiting speakers – often former students following medical careers. The Biology Challenge competition, organised by the Royal Society of Biology, is open to Fourth Form pupils.

Did you know?

The UK has one of the most productive and established life science sectors, supporting around 240,000 jobs and generating an annual turnover of £70 billion.

Head of Biology **Mr P Whatling**
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www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/biology



“ Biology has been interesting, immersive and fun with a range of new topics and practicals looking at everything from a tiny piece of DNA to the whole planet!

HANNAH”

Separate Sciences: AQA GCSE Biology 8461

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via two exams.

Combined Science: AQA Combined Science Trilogy 8464

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via six exams
(two each for Biology, Chemistry, Physics).



Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of all matter from some of the smallest things we know, in sub-atomic particles, through to some of the largest, in the Earth's atmosphere. In-between we look at industrial, household and theoretical chemistry of all descriptions.

You will learn how atoms, the building blocks of all matter, are formed, interact with each other and cause reactions to happen. Techniques to measure how much of a chemical is needed for a reaction, how fast it reacts, and how much energy it gives can show how to avoid waste and enhance efficiency. Organic chemistry will reveal a vast field of study from crude oil at the refinery to the chemicals in our food, clothes, and homes.

Analytical techniques will lead to an understanding of global heating as well as approaches to reduce your carbon footprint. The use of electricity in manufacturing and industry, as well as its creation from batteries, will show how the 21st Century will need to be powered. All this will come from theoretical and practical studies making you a dexterous, imaginative, and thoughtful student, with a broad set of skills and understanding.

Chemistry is a requirement for many science courses at university, as well as medicine and veterinary studies.

Chemistry is essential because ...

It develops your analytical and evaluation skills. Allows you to explore big and abstract ideas. Develops your practical skills.

It is a requirement for many science courses at university, including medicine and veterinary studies.

Beyond the classroom

Pupils benefit from the chance to explore areas outside the GCSE curriculum during KSTEM Week - our biennial celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Fourth Form Chemists also enjoy participating in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition.

Did you know?

The contribution of chemistry-using professionals to UK GDP was estimated to be £87 billion in 2019.

“ Chemistry takes all aspects of life and applies them together to teach you how the world works – right down to nitty gritty particles.

AMAYA



Separate Sciences: AQA GCSE Chemistry 8462

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via two exams.

Combined Science: AQA GCSE Combined Science 8464

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via six exams
(two each for Biology, Chemistry, Physics).



Head of Chemistry **Mr E C Drysdale**
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CORE SUBJECT

Physics

Physics opens doors to some of the most exciting, cutting-edge, rewarding jobs in the world. From cancer treatment to tackling climate change, gaming to robotics and artificial intelligence, physicists are on the front line, helping to shape the future. At a time when jobs are changing, the subject offers a vast and expanding range of career paths. It's not only science and technology. What many people don't realise is how valued and respected physics skills and ways of thinking are in other, often well-paid, industries – like finance and law.

You will learn about digital electronics, electricity, atomic physics, electromagnetism, thermal physics, forces and motion and waves, such as light and sound. Physics is a practical subject and in most lessons we have demonstrations and class experiments to develop the practical and intuitive skills which are essential to becoming a scientist. We have equipment that can be wirelessly linked to an iPad to develop your skills for collecting data using sensors, and displaying the results for class analysis.

Physics is a subject which will enhance your written and mathematical skills, along with the ability to troubleshoot and solve problems. As such it allows synthesis of learning across all fields and gives you the opportunity to develop your understanding of Physics within the context of other subjects.

Physics is essential because ...

The challenges we face in the future will require increasing numbers of people trained in science and technology to combat both the results of climate change and to reduce the effects. It is only through developing environmentally conscious scientists and technologists that we will be able to find solutions to the problems we encounter in the future.

Beyond the classroom

We have developed bespoke practical experiences that support learning across the IGCSE and attend lectures at the Cavendish lab at Cambridge University. Our Astrophysics Club offers the opportunity to take an Astronomy GCSE in Fourth Form. Pupils compete in international competitions such as the British Physics Olympiad.

Did you know?

The Large Hadron Collider is the biggest machine ever built by humans, it is 27km long and 100m below the Swiss and French countryside; it accelerates particles which reach temperatures 100,000 times hotter than the sun's core. Its cables would stretch from the earth to the sun 6 times with enough left over for 150 trips to the moon and back!

Head of Physics **Mr C M Holmes**
cmh@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/physics



“ It's the closest thing to magic you'll ever find. You can not only see how things are, but you can explain what happened in the past and also predict what will happen in the future. ”

SAM

Separate Sciences: Physics Cambridge IGCSE 0972

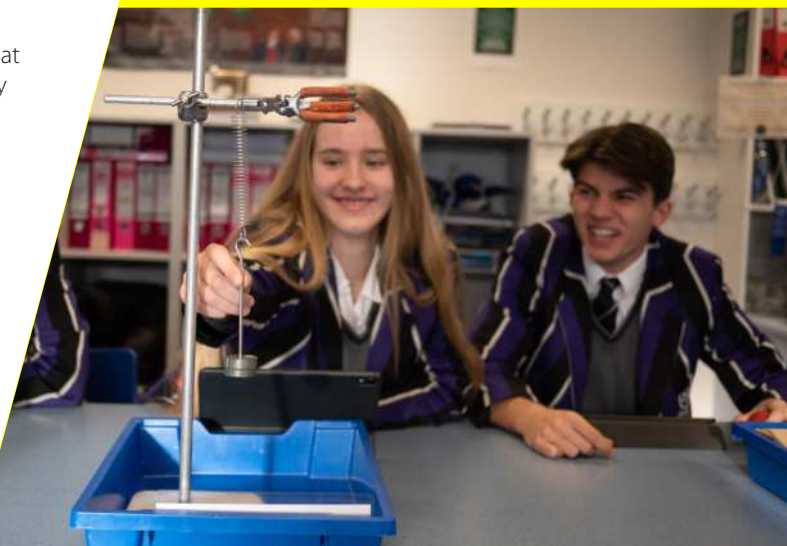
www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-physics-9-1-0972

Assessed via three exams.

Combined Science: AQA Combined Science Trilogy 8464

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via six exams
(two each for Biology, Chemistry, Physics).



Geography

Geography provides you with an excellent foundation into understanding the processes and concepts that shape today's world. It gives you the opportunity to study a wide range of interesting, relevant geographical topics, encouraging appreciation and awareness of both physical and human environments, as well as different communities within our own society and globally.

Over the two-year course you will learn about Physical Geography including natural hazards such as weather and climate change, physical landscapes in the UK, ecosystems, tropical rainforests, and other environments. In Human Geography you will explore urban issues, the changing economic world, and resource management.

The emphasis is on understanding topics and places, alongside the acquisition and development of skills such as data analysis, photograph and map interpretation, critical thinking, and empathy. You will learn how to communicate your ideas and give evidenced opinions.

Geography sits comfortably between the Sciences and Arts; in terms of future A Level choices and careers it broadens opportunities and is often said to 'open many doors and close none'.

You will enjoy Geography if you ...

- Are excited and concerned by global environmental issues.
- Have an interest in the Natural and Human world, and the relationship between them.
- Want to understand how the world works.
- Have an enquiring mind.

Beyond the classroom

You will undertake fieldwork in local town centres and at Stanwick Lakes nature reserve. You are also encouraged to join in and support the Duke of Edinburgh Award, participate in outdoor CCF activities and to be an active participant in our Ghana partnership and overseas trips.

Did you know?

90% of the Earth's population live in the Northern Hemisphere.

“
Geography is fast paced and interesting, helping me keep up to date with global issues.
”

MATTHEW



AQA GCSE Geography 8035

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via three exams.



Head of Geography **Mr S Wilson**
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www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/geography

HUMANITIES OPTION

History

History is not merely the study of past events, but the analysis of how historic moments continue to shape the world we live in today. The study of History generates satisfying enjoyment through persistent enquiry. For those who are curious about the past, hungry to comprehend their present and future, and enjoy stories laced with human triumph and tragedy, then History is for you!

In this course you will focus on the turbulent and confrontational events of the 20th Century: international political developments, the role of ideology, the impact of individuals, and the impact of both peace and conflict on nations and societies. The course is divided between two broad themes: International Relations since 1919 and in-depth study of Germany, 1918-45. Focus points include: "To what extent was the League of Nations a success?", "How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?", "Why was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?", and "What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?"

During your studies you will gain an understanding of key historical concepts: cause and consequence, change and continuity, and similarity and difference. You will hone your skills of investigation, analysis, evaluation and communication, and gain an appreciation and understanding of Britain's role in European and global history. Being trained as a historian will allow you to think clearly and boldly, equip you with the tools to debate, and allow your opinion to be heard. You will emerge from your two-year studies with a set of academic skills unrivalled and enthusiasm for the topics duly covered.

You will enjoy History if you ...

Are curious about the past.
Want to understand current events and future possibilities.
Enjoy human stories of war, peace, tragedy and triumph.

Beyond the classroom

There are numerous opportunities to enrich your History studies – from the School's History Society to educational trips to Europe. Previous visits have included Poland, Berlin and Munich.

Did you know?

Cambridge University ranks History as a 'cornerstone' subject for those interested in Humanities-related studies after GCSE.

Head of History **Mr O J Chipperton**
ojc@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/history



“

History is an exciting subject which I really enjoy. We've studied many different topics, one of the most interesting being Hitler's rise to power.

EMMY

”

Cambridge IGCSE History 0977

[www.cambridgeinternational.org/
Images/414490-2020-2022-syllabus.pdf](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/414490-2020-2022-syllabus.pdf)

Assessed via two exams
and one piece of coursework.



Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Religion is inescapable in our world; it informs our traditions and our cultures, it underpins much of our law-making and politics, and has left an indelible mark on our history. Studying this subject has never been more important to understanding the world around us.

“The diverse themes and topics make each lesson different and interesting. The debating skills, both oral and written, helped me learn to listen and understand views different to my own as well as how to formulate my own thoughts coherently.”

EMILIA



AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: 8062

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via two exams.

The course has two parts. Firstly, an in-depth study of two vastly different religions (Hinduism and Christianity) – which between them account for nearly four billion people on the planet, more than half of the world’s population. We study the key theological principles of each faith, such as their beliefs about God, life after death, human purpose, and the origins of life, as well as investigating how these beliefs are translated into practice through worship and religious festivals.

Secondly, you will explore a range of ethical and philosophical ‘themes’ wherein you apply your understanding of Christian beliefs to modern-day scenarios such as war and peace, the existence of God, and the ethics of crime and punishment.

You may consider questions such as “is the death penalty ever justified?”, “is pacifism a coherent belief in the 21st century?” and, “is it possible to prove or disprove the existence of God?”. You will critically evaluate various Christian responses to such questions and also compare and contrast these ideas with your own views and humanist or atheist standpoints.

Over two years you will develop your ability to think critically, distinguishing between opinion, belief and fact, whilst recognising bias, prejudice and stereotyping. You will be able to construct balanced arguments, debating issues in a respectful manner.

You will enjoy this course if you ...

- Are interested in the in-depth study of culture, religion, and the impact of beliefs on modern life.
- Relish the challenge of grappling with abstract and complex ideas.
- Enjoy constructing arguments and essay writing.

Beyond the classroom

Our studies into Hinduism include a visit to the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, the largest Hindu temple in the UK. Within school, the Philosophy Society allows you a chance to discuss ethical and philosophical topics and learn more about theologians and philosophers. You are welcome to join visits run throughout the year to different places of worship.

Did you know?

Studies show that 84% of the world’s population identifies with a religious group.



Head of PRE **Mrs C E Thomas**
cet@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/pre

FOREIGN LANGUAGES OPTION

French

Speaking a second language stimulates your brain, enhances creativity, and boosts international career opportunities. The proximity of France to the UK, and the increasing number of Britons with second homes there, makes French a valuable subject.

We teach French in small sets, in dedicated language classrooms, offering you the opportunity to learn in a variety of ways and using a range of technology. The aim of the course is to help you develop the ability to use French effectively and confidently for purposes of practical communication. You will be encouraged to become a confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged learner.

The syllabus provides opportunities for contextualised learning, creative thinking and problem solving, with an emphasis on 'authenticity'. We are keen to promote the importance of grammar and positive learning skills to engender accurate expression and confidence. Topics covered include family, house and home, local area, school, leisure, future plans, world of work, and the environment.

You will enjoy this course if you ...

- Enjoy communicating with others.
- Enjoy reading.
- Have a logical mind.
- Are stimulated by a breadth of topics.

Beyond the classroom

Our International Society offers the chance to travel (in school!) through cultures and languages via a varied programme of multilingual films, food and fun. Pupils are also encouraged to join the lunchtime French Club. A proposed GCSE trip to France in 2022 will enable pupils to experience the French language, lifestyle and culture at first-hand.

Did you know?

More than 300 million people speak French on five continents. French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts.

Head of French **Mr R E Knell**
rek@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/french



“

Learning French allows me to feel informed and knowledgeable about another culture and language that isn't my own. Understanding and speaking French is a useful skill to develop as it is spoken in various countries around the world, not just France.

FIFPA

”

Pearson Edexcel French (1FR0)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/French/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-Pearson-Edexcel-Level-1-Level-2-GCSE-9-1-French.pdf>

Assessed via four examinations (Listening/Reading/Writing/Speaking).



Spanish

“ Speaking a foreign language, like Spanish, opens up a world of opportunities. It enables you to experience and learn from people of all different cultures and it grants plenty of job opportunities worldwide. ”

JODIE



Pearson Edexcel GCSE Spanish

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Spanish/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-Pearson-Edexcel-Level-1-Level-2-GCSE-9-1-Spanish.pdf>

Assessed via four examinations (Listening/Reading/Writing/Speaking).

We believe languages should be accessible and enjoyable for pupils of all abilities. Our Spanish course will help you progress and develop a passion for languages, through culturally engaging content that covers both familiar and new topics.

The flexible programme of study offers manageable content structured across five themes: identity and culture; local area, holiday and travel; school; future aspirations, study and work; and international and global dimension. Content is presented through authentic situations and provides an engaging real-world focus that enables you to see language in context while honing your skills of speaking, reading, writing, and listening. We offer plenty of opportunities for interaction in speaking and test grammar through language-specific apps and websites.

All themes must be studied in the context of both your home country and that of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken, which enables you to establish comparisons and increases your appreciation for the rich cultural heritage and diversity within the Hispanic world.

You will enjoy Spanish if you ...

- Would like to know more about all things Hispanic.
- Want to use the language for communication.
- Are interested in current affairs and cultural diversity.
- Want to exploit the benefits of working, living and travelling abroad.

Beyond the classroom

Our trip to Barcelona is a highlight for many pupils. Spanish Club, led by our Spanish Assistant, is an opportunity to develop your understanding of the cultural aspect of the course through art, cinema, music, food, current affairs, and more. This is complemented by an International Society, which focuses on the importance of all languages.

The poetry Declamation competition enables you to refine your reading skills and learn beyond the syllabus, while the Stephen Spender Prize is a chance to take part in a national translation competition. In school, our own UK Linguistics Olympiad challenges you to test your problem-solving skills with interesting puzzles.

Did you know?

The British Council ranks Spanish first in the list of *“languages which will be of crucial importance for the UK’s prosperity, security and influence in the world”* (Languages for the Future, 2017).



Head of Spanish **Mrs M Viruete Navarro**
mvn@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/spanish

CREATIVE/TECHNICAL OPTION

Art

At Kimbolton we are fortunate to have four well-equipped art studios, with a kiln, an AO size etching press, and a photography and Mac suite. This allows all of our GCSE pupils to work across disciplines as diverse as ceramics, printmaking, painting and photography.

The GCSE course is designed to inspire, challenge and motivate. You will initially explore a variety of media, techniques, and starting points such as still life, portraiture, and landscape. You will be encouraged to develop your knowledge and understanding of art history through written analysis and copying artists' pieces. The next step is to explore, create and communicate your own ideas within your own art works; these smaller projects will form your first piece of coursework.

During the Spring term of the Fourth Form, you will begin to work on a second major coursework project. Individuality and independence are called for at this point, as you should now be driving your own learning. A good quality project will consist of several sketchbooks of preparation work and experimentation, as well as a large final piece of artwork, completed by December of the Fifth Form. The Externally Assessed Assignment is started in mid-January. You will rise to the challenge of creating an original outcome from one of the six stimuli provided. This project culminates in a 10-hour practical exam, taken in May.

You will enjoy Art if you ...

- Are creative.
- Like working on independent projects.
- Are happy to develop your own ideas outside of the classroom.
- Like experimenting with materials.
- Enjoy researching artists and learning about art history.
- Like to work at your own pace, whether that be fast or slow!

Beyond the classroom

We open the Art department on Saturday mornings throughout the school year, giving you the opportunity to work on your own projects for longer than 50 minutes at a time. We also run 'Raise a Grade' sessions after school, near to deadlines, so that you can improve your work.

After school, there are opportunities to channel your artistic abilities in different areas through Open Art, Set Design club and Ceramics club. Art pupils are encouraged to enter competitions such as the Cambridgeshire Young Artists Competition and The Royal Academy Summer Show.

Did you know?

According to the Creative Industries Federation "The creative industries employ over 2 million people in the UK and are projected to create an additional one million jobs by 2030".

Head of Art **Mrs L D Bamford**
ldb@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/art



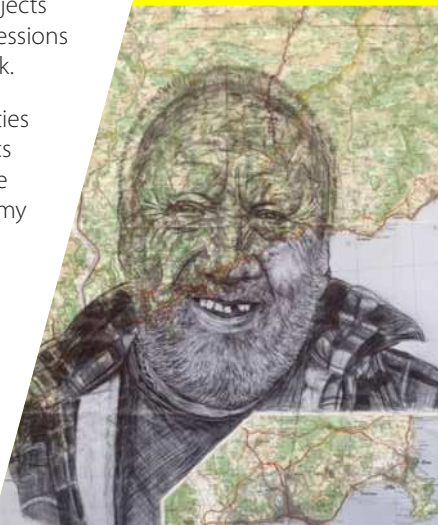
“ Art gives you the opportunity for independent thinking and creativity and gives you a chance to do something completely different to your other subjects. Art also helps me to express my thoughts and feelings in a way that I can't in my other lessons.

SOPHIE

AQA Art and Design 8201-8206

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via a coursework portfolio (60%) and an externally set assignment (40%), which includes a preparatory period of approximately 10 weeks and 10 hours of supervised exam time.



Drama

“ Drama gives you good communication skills and the chance to put yourself in someone else’s situation. It is a fascinating subject ... a certain colour of costume or placement of light can convey so many different meanings.

ISABEL



Pearson Edexcel GCSE Drama

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/drama-2016.html>

Assessed via one coursework component – devised group practical exam (performer or designer option) and written coursework (40%); one scripted performance exam (20%); one written exam (40%).

In Drama you will learn how to devise your own original theatre for an audience, working together and exploring a range of styles and genres including physical theatre and theatre in education. You will perform scripted pieces chosen especially for you by your teachers, and will study exciting plays and live performances, going on theatre trips both locally and to London.

We arrange for workshops from professional theatre practitioners to help you with devising, and you will work as designers as well as performers when considering how to use lighting, sound, costume and set to bring plays to life. You will develop your reflective and analytical skills when talking and writing about your own performance work as well as live theatre you have seen. You will develop your creativity and communication skills in your practical work and writing, and build your skills in problem-solving, planning and organising as you work independently and as a group after teacher-led work. You will also develop your own performance skills including voice, movement, characterisation and interpretation of script.

We have a well-equipped theatre space with lighting and sound boards, where you can create as a performer or designer, and many clubs and productions to participate in.

You will enjoy Drama if you ...

- Are a good team player who enjoys communicating and working with others.
- Enjoy reading plays, considering how to stage them for performance.
- Like watching and talking about live performance and have an analytical mind.
- Are a creative person who wants to perform and make theatre for an audience.

Beyond the classroom

There is a whole school production every year, alternating between a play and a musical. There is also the opportunity to work as student director for the junior school show and to help out at Ingrams and Third Form Drama clubs. We often put on a Fourth Form play in the summer term and there’s the opportunity to take LAMDA classes in acting, devising, speaking verse and prose, musical theatre and public speaking. We run many trips throughout the year, going to see plays such as *War Horse*, *The Woman in Black*, *Les Misérables*, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, as well as practitioners such as Splendid and Frantic Assembly.

Did you know?

The UK’s creative industries, including drama and performance, contributed £115.9billion to the economy in 2019, according to the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. More than two million people were found to work in the creative industries.



Head of Drama **Mrs N Akielan**
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www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/drama

CREATIVE/TECHNICAL OPTION

Music

Music is a fascinating and far-reaching subject that can suit all sorts of pupils, not just the most able musicians, with skills in listening, analysis, the history of music, composition and performance all included as part of the course. You will develop your knowledge and understanding through four interrelated areas of study: musical forms and devices, music for ensemble, film music, and popular music.

Many of the common musical forms and devices used by composers today have their origin in the Western Classical Tradition. By following this area of study, you will be able to make links between the music we listen to as individuals, the pieces we play and our compositions, too. Music for ensembles forms the basis for a study of texture and sonority, covering a diverse range of musical styles such as jazz and blues, musical theatre and traditional chamber music.

The film industry is of commercial and cultural interest in both the UK and abroad. There are many areas of specialism for musicians within this industry and we will, in addition to considering how music for film is created, developed and performed, and the impact this can have on an audience, compose our own music to create mood and atmosphere through engaging with the story of a film. Finally, popular music is a wide-ranging and diverse art form encompassing several distinct genres and idioms, and the course allows time to explore a variety of music and the 'behind-the-scenes' work involved in its production.

You will enjoy Music if you ...

Are naturally curious to know more about how music works. What inspired composers to write their music and how did they go about doing this? Analysing and appreciating these processes will further inform your playing on your own instrument and the music you compose.

Beyond the classroom

Our Music School is an extremely friendly department with extensive facilities for study and performance. We organise a plethora of ensembles and performance opportunities to suit all tastes and levels of experience. Furthermore, we endeavour to take our exam students to hear live concerts on a regular basis.

Did you know?

The breadth of skills taught in Music GCSE support and complement virtually every other subject, from the sciences through to the humanities and languages.

Head of Music **Mr D C Gibbs**
dcg@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/music



“

I love our Music lessons because they allow me to study all sorts of different types of music, which helps me broaden my understanding and appreciation of the music I like playing and listening to.

IZZY

”

Eduqas GCSE Music

www.eduqas.co.uk/media/by5boopf/eduqas-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf

Assessed via one written exam, one performance (non-examined assessment, minimum one solo and one ensemble, 30%), one composition (non-examined assessment, comprising two contrasting compositions, 30%).



Computer Science

Computer Science has created our modern world – those who have experience of programming and know how to use computers not only get the best paid jobs, but will be the ones to shape our future. Computer Science is one of the most sought-after qualifications today.

Our course is fully online with resources, video lessons, guides, and revision all on Showbie, meaning you have a complete overview from Day One. You can learn at your own pace and revisit topics whenever you like, to gain maximum confidence and understanding. During the two years you will enjoy a variety of programming projects and challenges working with a combination of iPads, Raspberry Pi computers and the iMac suite.

Topics covered include: algorithms – the building blocks of programming; binary – what language computers think in; programming languages – the evolution from fortran to python; hacking and security – the battle of good vs. evil; and computer ethics – will computers destroy or save our world? You will grow in confidence using your own initiative to complete work, while developing your logic and problem-solving skills. Experimenting with your programming, researching on the internet, and collaborating with others to complete challenges. Many students have gained insights into what they would like to do after school as a result of taking Computer Science at GCSE.

You will enjoy Computer Science if you ...

Have a logical mind and like building new things. Computer Science requires you to be creative like an artist, problem-solve like a mathematician and learn a new vocabulary like a linguist. While it is a 'science', it is also a creative subject!

Beyond the classroom

Stretch your imagination with our after-school Robotics Club, designing, building and coding advanced rovers to extend your digital skills. We have a Digital Learning "Open Room" on Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes.

Did you know?

Developing Skills in Computer Science opens doors to careers in Software Development, Games Design, Web Development, Robotics, Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence, to name a few. These are highly-paid and lucrative sectors, as well as the ones that will shape our future world.

Head of Computer Science **Mr M W Reed**
mr@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/dl

“Computers were created to solve the world’s challenges and I want to be a part of the next generation of scientists who are ready to solve the world’s future problems.”

JOSH



OCR GCSE Computer Science – J277

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via two exams.



CREATIVE/TECHNICAL OPTION SUBJECT

Design and Technology (DT)

In Design and Technology you will have the chance to work and learn in a safe yet challenging environment, with an emphasis on producing work of the highest quality. Traditional craft skills are taught alongside the new tools of the design world including rapid prototyping and technology.

In both the Product Design and Systems & Controls courses you will design and make products that solve genuine, relevant problems within different contexts whilst considering your own and others' needs, wants and values. This will enable you to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools.

Coursework for Product Design includes the design and manufacture of a Bluetooth speaker; these are usually made from plastics and/or timber, using traditional skills, but can also employ laser cutting and vacuum moulding of component parts. For Systems & Control, the coursework focusses on CAD/CAM and the design and manufacture of an LED desktop lamp with moveable mechanical features; this can be achieved by methods such as concrete moulding, MIG welding, lathe turning, 3D printing, laser work and CNC.

You will enjoy DT (Product Design) if you ...

Have an interest and aptitude in making a variety of products in traditional materials and aspire to good graphical presentation techniques.

You will enjoy DT (Systems & Control) if you ...

Have an aptitude towards maths and an eye for accuracy and new technologies.

Beyond the classroom

We recognise the importance and relevance of industrial visits. All pupils visit the JCB factory site for a tour of the museum, design studios and the manufacturing assembly lines.

Did you know?

DT offers a wide range of career opportunities within dozens of engineering disciplines, as well as architecture, industrial design, product design, teaching, automotive design, manufacturing, construction, marketing, and management. Your ingenuity, problem-solving skills, teamwork, and practical knowledge will be highly valued by today's employers.

Head of DT **Ms M Flack**
mcf@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/dte



“

DTE offers opportunities to be creative but also to learn valuable practical skills. I really enjoyed using CAD/CAM and having a go at MIG welding.

WILL

”

Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) Design and Technology 0979

www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-design-and-technology-9-1-0979/

All pupils study common content and must also choose one of two specialist options:

- 1) Resistant Materials (Product Design), or
- 2) Systems & Control (Engineering Mechanisms).

Assessment is 50% coursework and 50% exams.



Food and Nutrition (F&N)

“ F&N is the most useful subject. We plan our own recipes, cook, analyse, and evaluate. We learn about food safety and nutritional analysis. If you're interested in food, how it impacts your body, and the science behind it, you'll find F&N fascinating.

ERICA



OCR GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition J309

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-j309-from-2016/specification-at-a-glance/

Assessed via Food Investigation non-examined assessment (15%); Food Preparation Task non-examined assessment (35%) and written examination (50%).

Food and Nutrition (F&N) aims to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. You will develop strong practical cookery skills and techniques as well as an understanding of nutrition, developing life skills that enable you to feed yourself and others. The course is relevant to the world of food today, to understand the global challenges to supply people with nutritious and safe food.

The course covers the relationship between diet and health, focusing on the dietary needs of different groups of the population. We also study food provenance and security. You will gain an appreciation of where food comes from, how it is processed and the impact of technological advancements on production. An understanding of the science of cooking gives you the knowledge to adapt recipes and understand the purpose of ingredients. The development of individual practical skills is vital, so you will have plenty of opportunities to create dishes that you and your family can enjoy. Amongst other things you will learn to portion a whole chicken, fillet fish, make pastry, bread dough and pasta. You will also undertake product analysis to enable you to become an informed consumer.

Lessons are taught in two modern, purpose-built rooms and we have a vast range of resources and equipment to enable you to develop advanced practical skills, as well as a computer suite for all non-examined assessment work.

You will enjoy F&N if you ...

- Enjoy food practical activities and want to develop your own skills.
- Want to understand what you should be consuming and why.
- Are keen to find out why food changes when cooked and the impact of adapting recipes.
- Want to be a discerning consumer, able to make suitable health choices for life.

Beyond the classroom

The Great Kimbolton Bake Off on Open Day is a chance for pupils to show off their individual flair and culinary skills. We also work alongside the School's catering company to host a pop-up restaurant for parents showcasing pupils' food. A highlight of the year is our joint trip to Barcelona with the Spanish Department.

Did you know?

Since the coronavirus lockdown more than a fifth of people cook every meal from scratch. The average household now spends almost seven hours a week cooking their meals, compared to six hours previously. One in five have also widened their repertoire of recipes and 35% are better at using leftovers to avoid food waste.

Head of Food Preparation and Nutrition **Mrs LV King**
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www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/fandn



CREATIVE/TECHNICAL OPTION

Physical Education

Physical Education will open your eyes to the world of sports performance. You will enjoy the chance to participate in three different sports, as well as developing your knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

You will learn about the human body and movement in physical activity and sport, looking at applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, and physical training – utilising your ability to understand and interpret data. You will also develop your knowledge of the role of sports psychology, and socio-cultural influences on participation and health, fitness and well-being.

Non-examined assessment (coursework) accounts for 40% of your overall grade and is dependent on your ability to perform in three sports (one team, one individual, and a third which may be either), along with a written piece of performance analysis and evaluation. During the two-year course you will gain skills in data analysis, observation, problem-solving and presentation.

You will enjoy Physical Education if you ...

Have a scientific brain, enjoy keeping up to date with sporting current affairs and have a keen interest in the body and how to improve performance.

Are able to play at least two approved sports to a good level (either in or out of school and in a competitive manner).

Beyond the classroom

We have a wealth of sports facilities including a 25m swimming pool, five badminton courts, Sports Hall, two astroturf pitches, numerous football and cricket pitches, and netball/tennis courts. Our Sports Department organises inter-House competitions and extra-curricular activities to cater for everyone, from the committed athlete to those participating for exercise and enjoyment. We offer additional training and practice sessions for all the major sports and many of the minor ones, including hockey, football, netball, cricket, swimming, gymnastics, tennis, and equestrianism. The annual Gym & Dance Display is a highlight of our calendar.

Did you know?

NHS Guidelines recommend that adults aged 19 to 64 do at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity a week, or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity a week, as well as strengthening activities that work all the major muscle groups.

Head of Physical Education **Miss T M Lloyd**
tml@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/pe



“

When playing sport I now understand why I feel a certain way or what is happening when I do physical activity. The content, especially the psychological aspects create enjoyable class discussions.

DAN

”

AQA GCSE Physical Education 8582

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582/specification-at-a-glance

Assessed via two written exams plus 40% non-examined assessment (30% practical performance in three sports and 10% written analysis and evaluation).



***** GCSE options deadline: Friday 10th February *****



Submit your GCSE choices



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#thisiskimbolton