



D'OVERBROECK'S

OXFORD

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

GCSE Options

Booklet



d'Overbroeck's Senior School
2026-2028

Embarking on your GCSE journey at d'Overbroeck's

Year 10 marks a pivotal moment in your academic journey—the first major opportunity to tailor your studies to your passions and future aspirations. This is your chance to look deeper into subjects that genuinely interest you or that are essential for your envisioned career path.

Your Choices, Your Future

Choosing nine GCSEs from the broad spectrum of subjects you are currently studying might feel overwhelming. The purpose of this booklet is to help you make choices that fit your interests, strengths, and future goals.

What's Inside

- **The GCSE Landscape:** Reflect on factors like personal interest, career aspirations, and areas of strength to select subjects that resonate with you.
- **What's available:** what subjects are on offer.
- **In-Depth Subject Overviews:** Each subject section offers insights into what to expect at GCSE level, including topics covered, learning approaches, and how it might shape your future opportunities.

Next Steps

1. **Explore the Options:** Explore the booklet and see what pathways are available.
2. **Reflect on Your Goals:** Consider how each subject aligns with your interests and future plans.
3. **Seek Advice:** Discuss your thoughts with parents, personal tutor, and teachers, who can provide valuable insights.
4. **Prepare Questions:** Jot down any queries you have about specific subjects or the decision-making process.
5. **Join the Virtual Options Evening:** Bring your questions and enthusiasm to our upcoming event—details are in the accompanying letter.

Making Informed Decisions

When selecting your GCSE subjects, consider the following:

What do you **enjoy?**

- Two years is a long time to be studying a subject in detail - the greater your interest in the subject, the easier it will be to put in the hard work that will drive success.

What are your **strengths?**

- Play to your strengths to achieve the best possible results, laying a strong foundation for future studies.

What do you need for your **future?**

- If you have a clear path in mind, then it is important to make sure that you are taking the subjects which will enable these choices. An application to study Classics at university will be greatly facilitated by taking Latin at GCSE and A level. Anyone thinking about a biological based degree would be well advised to have Chemistry as well and so on.

We're Here to Help

Choosing your GCSEs is a significant step, but you don't have to make it alone. We're here to support you every step of the way, ensuring you make choices that will set you up for success. Discuss your options with teachers, personal tutor, a member of the sixth form team and family members who can offer guidance and support.

Embarking on this journey is both exciting and empowering. Embrace the opportunity to shape your education in a way that reflects who you are and who you want to become. We look forward to supporting you as you take these important steps toward your future.

Best wishes and happy choosing,

d'Overbroeck's Senior School

The GCSE Landscape

GCSEs are your steppingstones to future success, offering a blend of subjects that equip you with knowledge, skills, and a solid foundation for further studies. Graded on a 9-1 scale (with 9 being the highest), these qualifications are recognised and respected worldwide.

Year 10 allows you to focus your studies on areas that genuinely interest you or are crucial for your future ambitions. Whether you're passionate about the sciences, captivated by the arts, or seeking a broad academic experience, your choices now can shape the opportunities available to you at A level and beyond.

KS4 Curriculum structure

Nine GCSEs	1	English Language				
	2	Maths				
	3	English Literature*				
	4	Biology	or	Two Sciences		
	5	Chemistry				
	6	Physics				
	7	Three free choices		Four free choices		
	8					
	9					
and		Higher Project Qualification				
		Academic Explorations				
		Personal Development				
		Sport				

**English Literature may be substituted for an additional free choice (see below)*

What's available?

As the table indicates, all students will study core subjects:

- **Maths**
- **English Language**
- Two or three **Sciences** (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Most of our students also study **English Literature**. However, students with certain learning styles, or for whom English is not their native language, may wish to consider choosing an additional option subject in place of English Literature. The English department will of course be happy to advise on individual students' personal circumstances.

Beyond these, you have **free choice** of a diverse range of subjects, totalling nine GCSEs.

Optional GCSE Subjects:

- Art
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)
- Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy (REP)
- Spanish

It is almost always possible for students to take the exact program of GCSEs that they would like. However, there is a chance that some combinations of subjects may not be possible. We therefore ask students to select a 'reserve' subject. We will confirm subject choices to all students at the start of the summer term.

Level 2 Further Maths

We also offer an additional Mathematics qualification for students who wish to study beyond the GCSE Maths curriculum. This is an opt-in qualification, which can be studied alongside a full timetable of 9 subjects, plus an HPQ and academic explorations, with lessons usually taking place in an after-school slot. For more information, please see the Maths subject page.

Additional Languages

For students with a background in a modern foreign language other than Spanish or French, we may be able to offer specialist tuition in preparation for GCSE. This is currently available for Russian, Mandarin, Italian, and Japanese; other languages may be available depending on demand. Lessons for these take place outside of normal school hours and are charged at an additional hourly rate. This is usually in addition to the regular suite of nine subjects.

If this is of interest, please contact Stephen O'Keeffe directly.

In-Depth Subject Overviews

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Art

Why Study Art?

Art is a subject that nurtures creativity, encourages self-expression, and helps you develop a range of practical and conceptual skills. Studying Art at GCSE offers the chance to explore your ideas and develop your own style, while gaining insights into how art shapes and reflects society. Through this course, you'll learn to work with a variety of materials and techniques, creating artwork that communicates your unique perspective.

What Will I Study?

- **Personal Portfolio Projects:** Work on thought-provoking themes such as *Sense of Place* and *Inside, Outside, and In-between*. These projects give you the freedom to interpret ideas and create artwork that reflects your interests, emotions, and experiences.
- **Exploring Different Media:** Experiment with a wide range of artistic techniques and materials, including sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, digital photography, mixed media, and textiles. This exploration helps you discover your strengths and expand your skills.
- **Cultural Exploration:** Study the art and crafts of different cultures, past and present, to deepen your appreciation of global artistic traditions and how they influence contemporary art.
- **Creative Development:** Maintain sketchbooks to document your ideas, experiments, and reflections. These journals showcase your progress and serve as a valuable tool for refining your creative process.
- **Interactive Opportunities:** Participate in workshops, field trips, and collaborative projects that provide inspiration and broaden your perspective on art and creativity.

Who Is It For?

Art is a perfect choice for students who:

- Have a passion for creativity and enjoy experimenting with materials and ideas.
- Value independent thinking and originality in their work.
- Are eager to enhance their artistic skills and explore innovative approaches.
- Are willing to engage in both practical work and reflective writing about their art.

Future Opportunities

Studying Art can open doors to a variety of exciting careers and help you develop an appreciation of the visual world. Potential career paths include:

- **Creative Industries:** Careers in architecture, graphic design, illustration, theatre design, film, and photography.
- **Art and Culture:** Opportunities in art history, museum curation, art therapy, and cultural education.
- **Innovative Fields:** Roles in advertising, fashion design, interior design, and multimedia artistry.

Art is more than a subject—it's a journey of self-discovery and a way to connect with the world around you. Whether you pursue a creative career or simply want to develop your artistic abilities, studying Art provides the tools to express yourself and see the world from new perspectives.

What Our Students Say:

"You explore so many different ways of expressing yourself in Art, and there's something for everyone. Through visiting artists at workshops and going on trips, you get to widen your perspective and see art from all around the world."



Classical Civilisation

Why Study Classical Civilisation?

Do you want to uncover the roots of Western culture and understand how ancient civilisations have shaped the world we live in today? Classical Civilisation GCSE is your opportunity to explore the myths, history, art, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome. Through this fascinating subject, you will look into the lives, beliefs, and ideas of these influential societies and reflect on their enduring impact on modern thought, literature, and governance.

What Will I Study?

- **Myth and Religion:** Examine the captivating myths, gods, heroes, and festivals that defined Greek and Roman religious practices. Explore their perspectives on the afterlife and how these beliefs shaped their daily lives and cultural identity.
- **Literature and Art:** Read and analyse iconic works by authors such as Homer, Virgil, and Ovid. Study ancient art and architecture to uncover their meanings and significance, gaining insights into how the ancients expressed their values and aspirations.
- **The Homeric World:** Learn about life in Late Bronze Age cities like Mycenae, Tiryns and Troy, exploring topics such as daily life, hunting and war, their decorative arts, tombs and burial, religion and social hierarchies. You will answer questions such as, 'To what extent would Odysseus' Ithaca have looked like Tiryns in the Late Bronze Age?'
- **Critical Thinking:** Tackle thought-provoking questions, such as:
 - What qualities made Herakles/Hercules a hero?
 - How did myths serve to reinforce societal and political power?
 - What lessons can we learn from the collapse of the Bronze Age civilisations?

Who Is It For?

Classical Civilisation is a great choice for students who:

- have a passion for history, literature, and the arts.
- are curious about ancient cultures and enjoy exploring their relevance to the modern world.
- like reading and analysing texts, ideas, and historical contexts.
- are fascinated by mythology, storytelling, and the timeless themes they explore.

What Might It Lead To?

Studying Classical Civilisation provides a strong foundation for a variety of careers, including:

- **Arts and Humanities:** Roles in journalism, creative writing, archaeology, and museum curation, where cultural knowledge and analytical skills are key.
- **Law and Politics:** Opportunities in legal professions, government positions, or diplomacy, where understanding societal structures and rhetoric is invaluable.

- **Education and Research:** Careers in teaching, academic studies, or cultural heritage work, sharing knowledge of ancient societies with others.

By studying Classical Civilisation, you will gain a deeper appreciation of the ancient roots of the modern world whilst developing skills in critical thinking, analysis, and communication that will benefit you in any career path.



What Our Students Say:

"What makes the study of Classical Civilisation relevant and interesting isn't just discovering how concepts like democracy, theatre, medicine, and philosophy were created and affect our modern world, but also understanding how the world worked from an ancient perspective."

Computer Science

Why Study Computer Science?

In a world where technology drives every aspect of our lives, studying Computer Science offers the opportunity to move beyond being a technology user and become a creator. This subject equips you with the knowledge and skills to understand how computers operate, to develop software, and solve complex problems. Whether you dream of designing the next big app or tackling global challenges with innovative technologies, Computer Science is your gateway to making a real impact.

What Will I Study?

- **Core Computing Concepts:** Learn how processors function, examine memory and storage systems, and explore how global networks like the internet connect us.
- **Programming Skills:** Master coding in key programming languages, focusing on problem-solving and algorithm design to build functional and efficient solutions.
- **Cyber Security:** Understand the importance of protecting data and systems in today's digital landscape. Learn about encryption, secure software development, and combating cyber threats.
- **Software and Systems:** Study different types of software, their roles, and how they interact with hardware to power everyday applications and systems.
- **Data and Logic:** Discover how computers process and store information using binary and Boolean logic. Understand data structures and how they support efficient computing.
- **Technology and Society:** Reflect on how technology shapes our lives, exploring ethical dilemmas, cultural influences, and environmental considerations in the digital age.

Who Is It For?

Computer Science is an excellent choice for students who:

- Are curious about how technology works and eager to develop problem-solving skills.
- Have an interest in structured, logical thinking and enjoy breaking down complex tasks into manageable solutions.
- Are creative and like designing or building technology-driven solutions.
- Want to explore the ethical, social, and environmental impacts of technology and its role in shaping the future.

What Might It Lead To?

Computer Science provides a solid foundation for an array of cutting-edge careers, including:

- **Technology and Development:** Opportunities in software engineering, game development, web design, and app development.

- **Data and Artificial Intelligence:** Roles in data science, machine learning, AI research, and predictive analytics.
- **Cyber Security:** Careers in ethical hacking, digital forensics, and securing systems in a rapidly evolving threat landscape.
- **Innovative Industries:** Fields like robotics, biotechnology, and financial technology (fintech), where technology innovation is transforming the way we live and work.

Computer Science not only prepares you for the technology-focused jobs of today but also equips you with the skills to adapt to the ever-changing challenges of the future. Whether you aim to solve global problems or create the next tech revolution, this subject gives you the tools to lead the way.

What Our Students Say:

"I study Computer Science because of the creativity involved and because the world we will be working in will be so full of computers. The thing I most enjoy about the course is the programming because that's where all the problem-solving and creativity comes in."

Drama

Why Study Drama?

If you love performing, storytelling, or exploring the creative world of theatre, Drama GCSE is a subject that can transform your passion into a deeper skill set. Drama is not just about acting—it's about understanding human emotions, working as part of a team, and using your creativity to express ideas. This subject provides opportunities to refine your performance skills, learn about the technical aspects of theatre, and build confidence while collaborating with others on meaningful projects.

What Will I Study?

- **Devised Performance:** Collaborate with your peers to create and perform an original piece of theatre. Using a chosen theme or stimulus, you'll explore creativity and storytelling to bring unique ideas to life.
- **Text Performance:** Look into character development by performing extracts from plays. Learn how to interpret scripts, embody characters, and convey emotions effectively to an audience.
- **Theatre Analysis:** Study a contemporary play in depth and evaluate live performances. Gain insights into theatrical design, direction, and production to better understand how all elements of theatre come together to tell a story.
- **Practical Workshops:** Participate in hands-on sessions to experiment with acting techniques, vocal skills, movement styles, and improvisation. These workshops help you develop versatility as a performer.

Who Is It For?

Drama is an excellent choice for students who:

- Are passionate about acting, directing, or working behind the scenes in theatre.
- Enjoy collaborating with others and experimenting with new ideas.
- Are willing to step out of their comfort zone and take creative risks.
- Have a keen interest in theatre, performance arts, and storytelling.

What Might It Lead To?

Studying Drama can open doors to a wide range of careers, including:

- **Performing Arts:** Roles in acting, directing, scriptwriting, and stage production.
- **Media and Entertainment:** Opportunities in film, television, radio, and voice acting.
- **Creative Fields:** Careers in event management, arts administration, and drama therapy, where creative and interpersonal skills are essential.
- **Transferable Skills:** Drama enhances public speaking, teamwork, and confidence—skills that are valuable in any career, from teaching and business to law and public relations.

Drama is not just about performing; it's about learning to communicate, collaborate, and express yourself effectively. Whether you aim for a career in the performing arts or simply want to develop valuable life skills, Drama GCSE offers a rewarding and creative experience.

What Our Students Say:

"I'm really glad that I took Drama at GCSE. It's my most fun subject—I'm not just sitting at a desk all day. It has built my confidence a lot, and writing our own mini-play was really satisfying. Seeing other people's ideas and working on how to build them in was both interesting and challenging."



English Language

Why Study English Language?

Language is one of the most powerful tools we possess—it has the ability to inspire, inform, persuade, and entertain. Studying English Language at IGCSE equips you with the skills to communicate clearly and confidently, while also helping you critically engage with the texts and messages that shape our world. This subject fosters creativity, analytical thinking, and a deeper understanding of how language influences our thoughts and society.

What Will I Study?

- **Creative Writing:** Develop your skills in crafting narratives and descriptive pieces. Experiment with rich vocabulary, imaginative ideas, and engaging structures to create impactful writing.
- **Analysing Non-Fiction:** Explore a range of non-fiction texts, including speeches, articles, and blogs, to understand their purpose, audience, and the techniques used to persuade and inform.
- **Comparing Texts:** Study texts from different time periods to see how language evolves and reflects changing cultural and societal values. Learn to identify patterns and differences in style, tone, and message.
- **Speaking and Listening:** Build your verbal communication skills through presentations, debates, and role-playing activities. Gain confidence in articulating ideas and engaging with an audience.
- **Exploring Classics:** Analyse excerpts from renowned authors, discovering their techniques and contexts while developing an appreciation for diverse writing styles and historical influences.

Who Is It For?

English Language is an excellent choice for students who:

- Enjoy reading, writing, and exploring a wide range of ideas and topics.
- Are curious about how language shapes thoughts, behaviours, and perceptions.
- Want to improve their ability to express themselves clearly, effectively, and persuasively.
- Appreciate the artistry and power of storytelling, rhetoric, and communication.

What Might It Lead To?

English Language lays the groundwork for a variety of rewarding career paths, including:

- **Media and Journalism:** Roles in reporting, editing, broadcasting, and digital content creation.
- **Law and Politics:** Careers in legal advocacy, speechwriting, policymaking, and public affairs.

- **Marketing and Advertising:** Opportunities in copywriting, brand strategy, and public relations.
- **Education and Research:** Teaching, academic research, and developing educational resources.

Studying English Language not only strengthens your communication skills but also empowers you to think critically about the world around you. Whether you aim to create compelling content, shape public opinion, or simply become a more effective communicator, this subject is a vital step in your journey.

What Our Students Say:

"I love the freedom we have to write and use our imaginations in English Language. One week we can be writing a description of a fishing village, and the next, a story about a dystopian future. It's exciting to explore different styles and express myself creatively."



English Literature

Why Study English Literature?

English Literature GCSE is an invitation to explore some of the most enduring works of fiction, poetry, and drama. Through these stories, you'll gain insight into the lives, emotions, and ideas of others, while reflecting on timeless themes that resonate across cultures and generations. This subject fosters empathy, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of the human experience, equipping you with skills that will serve you in life and in any career.

What Will I Study?

- **Classic Texts:** Read into Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, exploring complex themes such as ambition, power, and morality, while analysing its language, structure, and historical significance.
- **19th Century Novels:** Immerse yourself in the social and cultural worlds of novels like Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, with its exploration of love and class, or Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, a story of transformation and redemption.
- **Modern Plays:** Examine works such as Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, investigating its themes of responsibility, social justice, and the impact of individual actions on society.
- **Poetry Anthology:** Study a diverse collection of poems focused on *War and Conflict*. Link historical and contemporary perspectives while exploring poetic techniques and themes.
- **Unseen Poetry:** Build your analytical and interpretative skills by studying poems you've not encountered before, learning to identify themes, imagery, and structure under time constraints.

Who Is It For?

English Literature is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy reading, interpreting, and discussing literary works across different genres and periods.
- Are curious about exploring universal themes, characters, and historical and cultural contexts.
- Appreciate storytelling as a way to understand and reflect on the complexities of the world.
- Are eager to express ideas critically and creatively through discussion and writing.

What Might It Lead To?

English Literature opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities, including:

- **Creative Industries:** Roles in writing, publishing, filmmaking, and theatre production, where storytelling and communication skills are key.
- **Education:** Careers in teaching, lecturing, or creating educational content to inspire future generations.

- **Media and Communications:** Opportunities in journalism, public relations, content creation, and editing, where strong analytical and writing skills are highly valued.
- **Research and Academia:** Paths in cultural studies, literary analysis, and academic research, contributing to our understanding of literature and its impact on society.

By studying English Literature, you'll develop an appreciation for the power of language and stories to connect us with others, challenge ideas, and inspire change. This subject offers a rewarding way to explore human experiences and unlock your potential as a thinker and communicator.

What Our Students Say:

"GCSE English Literature is satisfactorily complex. It changes your perspective on other works; you can see how authors craft their narratives and the techniques they use to impact readers."



Geography

Why Study Geography?

If you're fascinated by the world we live in and want to understand the challenges shaping our future, Geography GCSE is an excellent choice. This subject connects the physical and human aspects of the planet, providing insight into natural landscapes, diverse cultures, global economies, and the urgent issues impacting our environment. Studying Geography helps you develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills while broadening your perspective on the world.

What Will I Study?

- **Global Geographical Issues:** Investigate major global challenges, such as the causes and impacts of natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes, the effects of urbanisation on cities and communities, and the inequalities in global development between different regions.
- **UK Geographical Issues:** Take a closer look at the landscapes and human activities in the UK, from coastal erosion and river management to urban regeneration projects. Fieldwork will allow you to apply what you've learned in a practical context, exploring local environments and collecting data for analysis.
- **People and the Environment:** Discuss vital topics such as deforestation and its role in climate change, the effects of rising global temperatures, and how sustainable resource management can help preserve ecosystems for future generations.

Who Is It For?

Geography is ideal for students who:

- Are curious about global events, diverse cultures, and how people interact with their environments.
- Enjoy analysing maps, graphs, and data to understand patterns and trends.
- Are passionate about addressing pressing issues such as climate change, sustainability, and urban development.

What Might It Lead To?

Geography equips you with transferable skills that can lead to a variety of careers, including:

- **Environmental Science:** Work in conservation, environmental consultancy, or ecology, helping to protect natural habitats and biodiversity.
- **Urban Planning and Development:** Plan sustainable cities, design infrastructure, and improve transport networks to meet the needs of growing populations.
- **Global Business and Economics:** Pursue roles in international relations, trade analysis, or market research, addressing the complexities of the global economy.
- **Travel and Tourism:** Develop sustainable tourism strategies, manage cultural heritage sites, or promote destinations to travellers.

By combining knowledge of physical and human geography, this subject offers a well-rounded education that prepares you for understanding and addressing the challenges of today's world.

What Our Students Say:

"You study the processes that shape human actions and our planet. You learn how to use facts to make a case, and understand that there is rarely one 'right' response—your own opinions are as valid as anyone else's."

History

Why Study History?

Studying History GCSE enables you to understand key moments that have shaped societies, spot the connections between the past and the present, and reflect on how these lessons *might* influence the future. Through this subject, you'll develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and the ability to form well-reasoned arguments—skills that are valuable in any career.

What Will I Study?

- **America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality:** Did Americans manage to successfully combat inequality from the 'roaring twenties' and the Great Depression to the Civil Rights Movement and campaigns for female equality? This course will help you to understand why America is like it is today.
- **Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950-1975:** Why did the Cold War produce conflicts that caused such devastation in Korea and Vietnam? Why did the USA get involved in each one; who, if anyone, came out victorious; and what lessons can we learn from each of them?
- **Britain: Migration, Empires, and the People:** Why have people come to, and left, Britain, from the Vikings to the Windrush generation, from the Jamestown Colonists to the 'ten pound poms'. Why have empires grown and collapsed over time? How has history defined what it means to be British? What lessons can we learn from the past in a world that is becoming increasingly polarised over issues of identity and migration?
- **Elizabethan England, c1568-1603:** What does the reign of Elizabeth I tell us about the challenges faced by a female ruler in this period? How well did she deal with religious questions or with the conflict with Spain? How did the problem of poverty lead to innovative solutions; Why did the Elizabethan theatre explode onto the London scene; and why did some Elizabethans decide (and fail) to set up a colony in Roanoke?

Who Is It For?

History is an ideal subject for students who:

- Are fascinated by stories of the past and their relevance to the present.
- Enjoy analysing and debating moral, ethical, and societal issues.
- Are keen to read, write, and think critically about different interpretations and perspectives.
- Have a passion for understanding how societies change and develop over time.

What Might It Lead To?

History provides a foundation for a wide range of careers, such as:

- **Law and Politics:** Roles in legal professions, government, or international diplomacy.
- **Charity, Humanitarian and International Development:** Working in jobs that will make the world a better place
- **Education and Research:** Careers in teaching, academia, or historical research.
- **Media and Journalism:** Opportunities in reporting, documentary filmmaking, or writing.
- **Heritage and Culture:** Jobs in museum curation, archival work, or preserving heritage.

By studying History, you'll not only gain a deeper appreciation of the past but also develop essential skills for understanding and shaping the world around you.

What Our Students Say:

"You can apply knowledge from History GCSE to modern-day politics. The Civil Rights Movement and our study about the British Empire provide helpful background to current events like the Black Lives Matter movement."

Latin

Why Study Latin?

Latin is a language that forms the backbone of all Romance languages as well as being a huge influence on English. Studying Latin at GCSE offers more than just language skills—it provides a gateway to understanding history, literature, and the roots of many modern languages. By learning Latin, you'll enhance your grasp of English and other languages, practise logical and analytical thinking, and explore the cultural richness of the ancient world.

What Will I Study?

- **Language Mastery:** Gain a solid understanding of Latin vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. This study enhances logical thinking and helps improve precision in language use, which will provide life-long benefits for any aspect of verbal communication, especially your English writing and comprehension.
- **Original Texts:** Read and translate authentic Latin literature, including poems by Catullus, Ovid, Virgil and other classical authors. Your knowledge of Latin will allow you to stretch out the hand of human fellowship through the centuries and listen to authentic ancient Roman voices. You will explore their chosen themes, their literary brilliance and the historical context which shaped their writing.
- **Roman Culture and History:** Investigate Roman civilisation, from its mythology and architecture to daily life and political systems. Learn about the beliefs and values of the ancient Romans from primary literary sources as well as from material artefacts.
- **Thematic Studies:** Probe into fascinating topics such as love and marriage, the city of Rome, religion, entertainment, heroism and treachery. These thematic explorations allow you to read many short examples from a wide range of ancient authors, bringing aspects of the ancient world to life.

Who Is It For?

Latin is an excellent choice for students who:

- Enjoy studying languages and are intrigued by grammar and structure.
- Are interested in exploring ancient cultures, myths, and histories.
- Have strong attention to detail and enjoy solving linguistic puzzles.
- Appreciate logical reasoning and structured thinking, skills that transfer to many fields of study.

What Might It Lead To?

Latin provides a strong foundation for a variety of careers, including:

- **Law and Medicine:** Understanding Latin roots in legal and medical terminology can give you an edge in these fields.
- **Languages and Linguistics:** Opportunities in research, translation, interpretation, and language teaching.

- **Education and Academia:** Careers in Classics, archaeology, or historical research.
- **Analytical Fields:** Professions in computer programming, cryptography, or other research-based roles that value logical thinking and problem-solving.

What Our Students Say:

"I like Latin because it's really different from other languages. Translating stories provides an interesting insight into Roman life and mythology. If you enjoy Classics or prefer written languages, you're likely to enjoy Latin."

Mathematics (and Level 2 Further Mathematics)

Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a universal language that helps us make sense of the world. From science and technology to finance and design, maths underpins countless aspects of life. Studying Mathematics at GCSE equips you with essential problem-solving, logical reasoning, and analytical skills that are invaluable in both everyday situations and professional settings. It is a subject that opens doors to a wide range of future opportunities and lays the foundation for advanced study and careers.

What Will I Study?

- **Core Concepts:** Build a strong understanding of key areas such as algebra, number, geometry, proportion, statistics, and probability. These topics form the basis for solving real-world problems and understanding complex systems.
- **Real-World Applications:** Explore how mathematics is applied in science, technology, business, and daily life. For example, learn how to calculate interest, interpret data and model physical systems.
- **Problem-Solving:** Develop resilience and creativity by tackling challenging mathematical problems. Asking the questions “What do I know about...?” and “What can I do with this information?” are essential to get started on a problem.
- **Advanced Topics:** For students considering higher-level maths, looking into topics like graphing functions, trigonometry, and vectors, which are crucial for further study in STEM fields.

Who Is It For?

Mathematics is an ideal choice for students who:

- Enjoy working through logical challenges and puzzles.
- Are curious about how maths explains and models the natural and technological world.
- Want to build strong analytical and decision-making skills.
- Are interested in pursuing careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) or finance-related fields.

Level 2 Further Mathematics

We also offer an additional qualification in Mathematics for students who wish to be stretched and challenged beyond the GCSE and are considering studying A-Level Maths and/or Further Maths in the sixth form. This allows students to have additional exposure to some of the most difficult GCSE topics and introduces new abstract ideas and concepts, such as calculus, matrices and advanced trigonometry, which form part of the A-Level Maths (and Further Maths) specification. It acts as a useful bridging course for further study, allows them to work in a fast-paced environment and complements the work they are doing in their GCSE Mathematics lessons, leading to a Level 2 Certificate – a qualification in its own right. Whilst we do not have

any formal entry requirements, Further Maths will be most accessible to students aiming for grades 7-9 in GCSE Maths. They will also need to be available to attend weekly lessons in an after-school slot.

What Might It Lead To?

Mathematics provides a foundation for a diverse range of careers, including:

- **Science and Engineering:** Roles in physics, engineering, robotics, and biotechnology.
- **Finance and Economics:** Careers in accounting, actuarial science, data analysis, and investment banking.
- **Technology:** Opportunities in computer science, software development, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.
- **Research and Development:** Innovation-focused roles in academic research, technical consultancy, and product development.

Mathematics is not just a subject—it's a toolkit for solving real-world problems, making informed decisions, and unlocking your potential in a rapidly evolving world.

What Our Students Say:

"It's really satisfying to work hard to understand something and then be able to use it to solve problems of all different types."



Modern Foreign Languages (French and/or Spanish)

Why Study a Modern Foreign Language?

Studying a modern foreign language such as French or Spanish at IGCSE opens up a world of opportunities. It allows you to connect with millions of people across the globe, gain a deeper understanding of diverse cultures, and develop skills that are highly valued in today's interconnected world. Learning a new language not only improves your communication abilities but also builds confidence, adaptability, and problem-solving skills—qualities that will benefit you throughout life.

What Will I Study?

- **Communication Skills:** Develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to confidently communicate in French or Spanish. Practice real-world scenarios such as ordering food, making travel arrangements, or discussing hobbies.
- **Cultural Insights:** Explore the customs, traditions, and societies of French or Spanish-speaking countries, deepening your appreciation of their rich histories and modern influences.
- **Contemporary Issues:** Discuss relevant topics like environmental challenges, technological advancements, and social issues, helping you engage with global conversations in the target language.
- **Grammar and Vocabulary:** Build a strong foundation in language structures and expand your vocabulary to express yourself clearly and accurately in a variety of contexts.

Who Is It For?

This subject is perfect for students who:

- Are curious about different cultures and enjoy learning about how people live, work, and celebrate around the world.
- Like the challenge of learning new languages and communicating with others.
- Are committed to practicing regularly to improve fluency and overcome language barriers.
- Recognise the benefits of being multilingual in a global society, from travel to career prospects.

What Might It Lead To?

Language skills are in demand across a wide range of careers, such as:

- **International Business:** Roles in trade, marketing, and global customer relations, where bilingualism is a significant asset.
- **Travel and Tourism:** Careers in hospitality, tour guiding, or travel consultancy, offering exciting opportunities to work abroad.

- **Diplomacy and International Relations:** Positions in government, NGOs, and international organisations, where communication across cultures is key.
- **Translation and Interpretation:** Work in media, legal, medical, or literary translation, bridging language gaps and fostering global connections.

Studying a language not only enhances your academic skills but also enriches your personal and professional life, opening doors to opportunities you may never have imagined.

What Our Students Say:

"Taking Spanish for IGCSE is really interesting because there are so many different aspects we cover in lessons. I particularly enjoy the speaking lessons, as it allows you to find out more about the culture of Spanish-speaking countries."

Music

Why Study Music?

If music inspires you or plays a meaningful role in your life, studying Music at GCSE is an exciting opportunity to deepen your skills and understanding. It is a unique blend of creativity and discipline that allows you to explore your passion, develop your talent, and express yourself in ways that connect with others. Music fosters teamwork, confidence, and problem-solving while offering a fulfilling and enjoyable learning experience.

What Will I Study?

- **Performance:** Enhance your ability to perform on your chosen instrument or voice. You will work on solo and ensemble pieces, building confidence and refining your technical skills. Performances provide a chance to showcase your growth as a musician.
- **Composition:** Learn to create original pieces of music, experimenting with various styles, genres, and techniques. Whether you're inspired by classical, jazz, pop, or electronic music, this component encourages you to find your creative voice.
- **Appraisal:** Study a diverse selection of musical works, ranging from classical masterpieces like Beethoven's symphonies to contemporary compositions such as the *Star Wars* soundtrack. Gain insight into the context, structure, and techniques used in these works.
- **Music Theory:** Develop a strong understanding of the foundations of music, including notation, harmony, rhythm, and melody, giving you the tools to compose and perform with confidence.

Who Is It For?

Music GCSE is ideal for students who:

- Have a passion for playing an instrument or singing and enjoy performing in front of an audience.
- Are excited about composing their own music and exploring their creative ideas.
- Enjoy learning about and listening to different musical styles, from classical to modern.
- Are willing to dedicate time and effort to practicing and developing their craft.
- **Students need to be at Grade 3 standard or above on their instrument/voice by the end of Year 9.** This is because, in the performance assessment, top marks are only available for performances of Grade 4 or 5 pieces. Music students are expected to have weekly lessons on their instrument or voice so that they continue to hone their practical skills.

What Might It Lead To?

Music is a versatile subject that can open doors to many exciting career paths, including:

- **Performance and Composition:** Roles such as professional musician, composer, or conductor, creating or performing music on stage and in studios.

- **Education:** Teaching music in schools, leading workshops, or offering private lessons to inspire the next generation of musicians.
- **Production and Technology:** Careers in sound engineering, music production, or audio design for live events, recordings, or digital platforms.
- **Media and Entertainment:** Opportunities in film scoring, video game music composition, or music-related broadcasting and journalism.

Music is not only a subject but also a lifelong skill that enriches your personal and professional life, connecting you to a world of creativity and expression.

What Our Students Say:

"I have really enjoyed the music course so far. Exploring different kinds of music which you might not have heard of before is exciting. Composing gives you a good opportunity to create music you wouldn't usually be able to do."



Physical Education (PE)

Why Study PE?

If you have a passion for sports, fitness, and understanding how the body works, GCSE PE offers a comprehensive and exciting way to explore these interests. It's not just about participating in sports—it's about learning how to optimise performance, maintain health, and appreciate the broader impact of physical activity on individuals and society.

What Will I Study?

- **Practical Performance:** Develop skills in a range of sports and physical activities, focusing on technique, tactics, and strategy. You will also evaluate and improve your own performance, applying what you've learned to achieve better results.
- **Anatomy and Physiology:** Study the human body in depth, including the muscular, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems, to understand how they contribute to movement, endurance, and athletic performance.
- **Fitness Training:** Learn about the principles of fitness and training, including how to design effective training programs, the role of nutrition in performance, and strategies to prevent and recover from injuries.
- **Sports Psychology:** Explore how psychological factors, such as motivation, confidence, and focus, influence performance and well-being in sports and physical activity.
- **Socio-Cultural Influences:** Discuss the role of sport in society, including its ethical dimensions, how technology is shaping sports, and the social and cultural factors that influence participation and success.

Who Is It For?

GCSE PE is ideal for students who:

- Are actively involved in sports and physical activity, preferably at a competitive level.
- Have an interest in biology and are curious about how the body functions and adapts to physical demands.
- Enjoy analysing performance, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and finding ways to improve.
- Are interested in exploring the psychological and social aspects of sports, including teamwork, ethics, and the role of technology.
- **You will also need to be participating regularly in competitive sport at a high level, covering at least two sports.** If you have any doubts about whether your sport will be acceptable, just check with a member of the PE department.

What Might It Lead To?

Studying PE can open doors to a wide range of exciting careers, including:

- **Sports Science:** Roles in performance analysis, biomechanics, sports nutrition, and exercise physiology.
- **Health and Fitness:** Careers as a personal trainer, physiotherapist, sports coach, or rehabilitation specialist.
- **Education:** Opportunities in teaching PE, leading sports development programs, or working in youth and community sports.
- **Sports Management and Media:** Careers in sports marketing, event management, journalism, or broadcasting.

GCSE PE is a dynamic subject that combines practical skills with scientific knowledge, offering a pathway to understanding and excelling in the world of sports, fitness, and physical health.

What Our Students Say:

"I really enjoy learning how I can improve my fitness to help improve my sports performances. The topics we learn are so different throughout the course, which makes them interesting."



REP (Religion, Ethics, and Applied Philosophy)

Why Study REP?

What makes us human? How should we live? REP (Religious Education and Philosophy) is a subject that invites you to explore profound questions about life, morality, and the nature of existence. It challenges you to engage with diverse beliefs, ethical dilemmas, and philosophical ideas that have shaped societies and cultures throughout history. Studying REP broadens your perspective, strengthens your critical thinking, and helps you develop skills to navigate complex issues in the modern world.

What Will I Study?

- **Religious Beliefs and Practices:** Examine the core beliefs, teachings, and traditions of Christianity and Judaism. Learn how these religions shape the lives, values, and practices of their followers, and explore their influence on history and culture.
- **Philosophical and Ethical Issues:** Discuss key topics such as relationships and family dynamics, the ethics of peace and conflict, and questions of justice in crime and punishment. Reflect on the origins of life and humanity's place in the universe.
- **Contemporary Debates:** Delve into modern issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and environmental responsibility. Understand how religious and secular viewpoints intersect and often diverge on these critical topics.
- **Critical Analysis:** Build the ability to assess different perspectives thoughtfully and construct well-reasoned arguments. Develop the skills to express your views clearly and respond respectfully to opposing ideas.

Who Is It For?

REP is an excellent subject for students who:

- Enjoy discussing and debating complex moral, philosophical, and ethical questions.
- Are curious about different cultures, religions, and worldviews.
- Appreciate thinking deeply about abstract and practical issues.
- Want to understand the ethical and philosophical dimensions of contemporary society.

What Might It Lead To?

REP equips you with transferable skills that are highly valued in many fields, including:

- **Law and Ethics:** Careers in legal professions, human rights advocacy, and ethical consultancy.
- **Politics and International Relations:** Opportunities in diplomacy, policy-making, and working with NGOs or international organisations.
- **Education and Academia:** Roles in teaching, academic research, or cultural and religious studies.
- **Counselling and Social Work:** Careers in mental health services, community support, and mediation, where understanding diverse perspectives is essential.

By studying REP, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the world's diverse beliefs and ethical systems, equipping you to navigate life's challenges with empathy, insight, and a strong sense of moral reasoning.

What Our Students Say:

"I enjoy REP because it allows you to debate things that you can't in other subjects. It's fascinating to learn about what other people believe and how those beliefs impact their lives and society."

Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

Biology

Why Study Biology?

Biology is the science of life, offering insights into the mechanisms that sustain all living organisms, from the smallest cells to the most complex ecosystems. Studying Biology at IGCSE enables you to explore the fascinating intricacies of the natural world, while fostering curiosity, analytical skills, and a deeper understanding of the challenges facing our planet. This subject provides a strong foundation for further scientific study and careers in a range of fields.

What Will I Study?

- **Core Concepts:** Explore the structure and function of cells, the biochemical processes that drive life, and the organisation of organisms. These building blocks help you understand the foundations of living systems.
- **Biological Systems:** Explore vital systems such as plant organs, the nervous system, the endocrine system, and the cardiovascular system, learning how they work together to support life.
- **Ecosystems:** Examine the relationships between organisms and their environments, investigating how energy and nutrients flow through ecosystems and how humans impact these delicate balances.
- **Genetics and Evolution:** Study the principles of inheritance, the process of evolution, and advancements in genetic engineering. Gain experience with statistical methods to analyse biological data.
- **Health and Disease:** Investigate a range of diseases, from infectious illnesses to hereditary conditions, and learn how biology contributes to the development of treatments and preventive measures.
- **Global Challenges:** Discuss critical topics like food security, biodiversity management, and climate change, emphasising the role of biology in solving some of the world's most pressing problems.

Who Is It For?

Biology is ideal for students who:

- Are curious about living organisms, ecosystems, and the natural world.
- Enjoy investigating scientific questions, conducting experiments, and solving problems.
- Are eager to participate in laboratory and fieldwork, gaining practical scientific skills.
- Appreciate the ethical, environmental, and mathematical aspects of science.

Future Opportunities

Biology is a gateway to a variety of exciting careers, including:

- **Healthcare:** Roles in medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, pharmacology, and veterinary science, where biological knowledge is essential for improving health and well-being.

- **Environmental Sciences:** Careers in conservation, ecology, marine biology, and wildlife research, addressing critical environmental challenges.
- **Biotechnology and Research:** Opportunities in biomedical science, genetics, research administration, and advancing technology to benefit humanity.

Whether you aspire to understand life at a molecular level, protect ecosystems, or contribute to breakthroughs in medicine, studying Biology opens up a world of possibilities.

What Our Students Say: *"You get to go into real detail about how things work and how they all piece together—it's like wow! Everything makes sense, so it's not a memory game—if you understand it, you won't forget it."*

Chemistry

Why Study Chemistry?

Have you ever wondered about the substances that make up our world or how reactions create entirely new materials? Chemistry is the science that explores these mysteries and more, acting as a bridge between physics and biology. By studying Chemistry at IGCSE, you will gain insights into the properties, composition, and behaviour of matter—from the materials you encounter every day to the technologies shaping the future.

What Will I Study?

- **Foundational Concepts:** Explore the fundamental building blocks of matter, including atomic structure, the particle model, and chemical bonding. These concepts form the basis for understanding how substances interact and transform.
- **Reactions and Processes:** Investigate different types of chemical reactions, inquire into energy changes, and study the principles of dynamic equilibria that govern many natural and industrial processes.
- **Hands-On Learning:** Conduct experiments to develop practical skills, such as synthesising compounds, analysing ionic substances, and separating mixtures. This hands-on approach enhances your understanding of theoretical principles.
- **Real-World Applications:** Learn about how we extract metals from the ground and tailor their properties to their uses. How different polymers have given modern materials with tunable properties.
- **Chemical Calculations:** Learn about moles and how they are crucial for chemists to understand the quantities and ratios in which substances react in. It gives us a handle on relating the impossibly small size of molecules to something macroscopic and measurable in the lab.
- **Organic Chemistry:** GCSE give a first glance at organic chemistry and the types of molecules that make up living things. Learn about the different types of molecules and how they are interconverted from one to another.

Who Is It For?

Chemistry is ideal for students who:

- Are curious about the materials and processes that shape the world around us.
- Enjoy problem-solving and using logical thinking to tackle scientific challenges.
- Have confidence in mathematical reasoning and an interest in applying it to scientific problems.
- Appreciate visualising scientific concepts through models, diagrams, and practical experiments.

What Might It Lead To?

Studying Chemistry can lead to a wide range of exciting careers, such as:

- **Healthcare and Medicine:** Pursue roles in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or veterinary science, where chemistry forms a core foundation.
- **Innovation and Research:** Explore opportunities in biochemistry, environmental science, and materials development, contributing to breakthroughs in technology and sustainability.
- **Engineering and Industry:** Work in chemical engineering, nanotechnology, or product design, applying chemical knowledge to solve real-world problems.
- **Creative and Analytical Fields:** Branch into forensic science, art conservation, or environmental policy, where analytical thinking and chemistry expertise are highly valued.

Chemistry is not just a subject—it's a way of understanding the world and contributing to solutions that improve lives. Whether you're fascinated by the smallest particles or inspired to tackle global challenges, Chemistry provides the tools to make a difference.

What Our Students Say:

"I like how you can take what you have studied in the lesson, make an experiment, and go like 'that's true.' Studying things like covalent bonding, you can look around you and say 'oh—that's why things don't just melt!'"



Physics

Why Study Physics?

Physics is the study of the universe at its most fundamental level, from the behaviour of subatomic particles to the movement of galaxies. It's a subject that combines curiosity with practical application, challenging you to ask "why" and "how" about the world around you. Studying Physics at IGCSE develops problem-solving, analytical thinking, and a deep understanding of natural laws, equipping you with skills that are valuable in any field.

What Will I Study?

- **Fundamental Forces:** Investigate the forces that shape the universe, including gravity, electromagnetism, and nuclear forces. Learn how these forces govern motion, energy, and interactions.
- **Energy and Waves:** Understand how energy is transferred and conserved, and explore the behaviour of waves, from sound and light to seismic waves.
- **Electricity and Magnetism:** Study electrical circuits, components, and the principles of magnetism, learning how these concepts power modern technology.
- **Modern Physics:** Investigate into cutting-edge topics such as astronomy, nuclear physics, and the properties of matter at the atomic level. Gain insights into groundbreaking discoveries and their implications.
- **Practical Investigations:** Conduct experiments to observe and measure physical principles in action, building hands-on skills and reinforcing theoretical knowledge.

Who Is It For?

Physics is ideal for students who:

- Are curious about how things work, from everyday objects to the mysteries of the cosmos.
- Enjoy mathematics and using it to solve real-world problems.
- Are hands-on learners who like testing theories and conducting experiments.
- Are fascinated by topics like space exploration, cutting-edge technology, and the fundamental laws of nature.

What Might It Lead To?

Physics opens the door to a vast range of exciting and rewarding careers, including:

- **Engineering:** Fields such as mechanical, electrical, aerospace, and civil engineering, where physics principles are applied to design and innovate.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Careers in robotics, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology.
- **Research and Development:** Opportunities in astrophysics, quantum mechanics, particle physics, and materials science, pushing the boundaries of human knowledge.
- **Medical Physics:** Roles in radiology, medical imaging, and the development of healthcare technologies that save lives.

Physics is more than a subject—it's a way of thinking that helps you understand the world and solve complex problems. Whether you're dreaming of building the next space telescope, developing sustainable energy solutions, or just curious about how the universe works, Physics provides the tools to turn your curiosity into action.

What Our Students Say:

"Studying Physics is like unlocking the secrets of the universe. It's challenging, but incredibly rewarding when you understand complex concepts and see how they apply to the world around us."



The Broader Curriculum

Year 10 and 11 at d'Overbroeck's senior school offer students an opportunity to expand their learning beyond the traditional curriculum. We promote intellectual curiosity, personal growth, and critical thinking through three key components:

- **Higher Project Qualification (HPQ):** Students independently research topics of their choice, developing advanced skills in analysis, time management, and project presentation. The HPQ culminates in a written report or a creative artefact. This is internally assessed and externally moderated, and is equivalent to half a GCSE.
- **Academic Explorations:** Half-termly courses, taught by Sixth Form experts allow students to explore diverse subjects such as psychology, economics, business, philosophy, environmental science, and politics, fostering curiosity and encouraging deep, thought-provoking discussions.
- **Personal Development (PD):** This program equips students with essential life skills, focusing on health, relationships, and life beyond school, ensuring well-rounded personal and academic growth.

Further details of these aspects of the curriculum are included below.

Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)

Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)

The Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) empowers students to explore their passions through rigorous research and independent work. This programme allows students to develop advanced skills in research, project management, and critical analysis, culminating in a creative or academic output that reflects their unique interests and curiosity.

Students can choose to produce either:

- A Research-Based Written Report (approximately 2000 words)
- An Artefact with Accompanying Written Report (minimum 500 words)

Both pathways provide the flexibility to investigate thought-provoking questions and ideas that resonate with students' personal or academic interests, whilst being supported by weekly timetabled lessons throughout.

Practical Exploration

The HPQ is an excellent platform for students to tackle topics that ignite their curiosity. Here are some examples of projects that past and current students have pursued:

- **Film and Media:** Why do horror fans enjoy horror films? How have horror films evolved over time? What is the effect of A.I. on filmmaking and audiences, especially in light of recent debates around actor likenesses?
- **Science and Technology:** How can surveillance drones be improved to minimise human risk? How high and fast can model rockets go, and could they be used to measure weather conditions?
- **Ethics and Philosophy:** Why do we separate art from the artist? Should countries prioritise economic growth or sustainable development? What are the psychological and physical effects of crowds?
- **Art and Design:** How do designing and sewing relate to, but also differ from, other art forms? How can issues in the ballet world be conveyed through visual art?
- **Sport and Economics:** Do more expensive football boots make a player better? Which cricket bat is superior, English willow or Kashmir willow?
- **Social Issues:** Does social media influence our fashion choices? How reliable is eyewitness testimony in court cases, and how does stress impact its reliability?
- **Environmental Concerns:** What could our world look like in the future as climate change intensifies?
- **Technology and Society:** What is the impact of A.I. on high-level jobs? Should A.I. be limited by laws?

Using Projects to Enhance Learning

These projects are designed to be embedded throughout the programme, encouraging students to apply what they learn in real-time. By working independently, students develop vital skills such as time management, research analysis, and critical thinking, which they will refine and present in both written and verbal formats. This hands-on approach ensures students gain both academic and practical experience that prepares them for future challenges.

Academic Explorations

The Academic Explorations programme is an exciting weekly opportunity for students to engage with thought-provoking topics that are shaping our world. Designed as a series of short, focused modules taught by Sixth Form teachers, the programme encourages students to explore new perspectives and think beyond the boundaries of the traditional curriculum. From Philosophy to Environmental Science, each module is crafted to inspire curiosity, spark meaningful conversations, and even ignite debates around the dinner table.

Course Structure

The programme is centred on interactive dialogue and aims to foster stimulating conversations within the classroom. Each week, students will tackle challenging and intriguing questions through a blend of research, problem-solving, and classroom discussions, promoting critical thinking and intellectual exploration.

Modules

- **Psychology**
 - Dive into groundbreaking psychological experiments that have transformed our understanding of the human mind and behaviour.
- **Environmental Response**
 - Explore the urgent challenge of global warming and sustainability. This module examines how individuals can take meaningful action and participate in ongoing online debates about our planet's future.
- **Politics**
 - Gain insight into significant political movements and current events, both in the UK and across the globe, offering a clearer understanding of today's political landscape.
- **Philosophy**
 - "Have you ever wondered?" Explore timeless philosophical questions and ideas that have shaped human thought throughout history.
- **Economics and Business**
 - Unpack the complexities of the global economy and understand how its trends impact students and the wider world.
- **First Aid**
 - A practical, hands-on module teaching essential first aid skills to prepare students for emergencies and day-to-day skills with confidence.
- **Sociology**
 - Discover how societal structures influence human behaviour, examining pivotal studies that reveal the profound impact of social dynamics on decision-making.
- **Film and Media**
 - Research into the power of visual storytelling by exploring how mainstream media and film shape our understanding of communication in everyday life.

Personal Development

Personal Development (PD) lessons provide students with an essential foundation to lead safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives while achieving their full potential. Our Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) curriculum is thoughtfully designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and practical strategies they need to navigate life's challenges and opportunities with confidence. The curriculum is designed to cover three main strands: Living in the Wider World, Health and Wellbeing and Relationships. For further information on the topics covered in our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), please refer to our school RSE policy.

For students in Years 10 and 11, the Personal Development curriculum covers:

Year 10 Personal Development Curriculum Overview

- Relationships: Addressing extremism and radicalisation
- Health and Wellbeing: Exploring influence, such as peer, social media and extremism.
- Living in the Wider World: Financial decision making
- Health and Wellbeing: Mental Health
- Relationships: Healthy relationships (including consent)

Year 11 Personal Development Curriculum Overview

- Health and Wellbeing: Building for the future
- Living in the Wider World: Next steps (revision toolkit sessions)
- Health and Wellbeing: Independence
- Relationships: Changing relationships
- Relationships: Families
- Revision for GCSE subjects

Through this program, we aim to give every student with the confidence and skills they need to thrive both during their school years and beyond.