



ACADEMIC CHOICES IN YEAR 8 AND 9

In Years 8 and 9, students choose between two pathways of study. Please find below some further information on the two pathways available and subjects available.

Pathway one

- Modern Foreign Language plus either classical civilisation or social sciences.
- Students choose to study one of French, Spanish or German. In addition, students select either classical civilisation or social science as an additional study subject.
- The additional study subject is studied in one lesson a week, with a weekly prep activity and end of unit assessments. Both classical civilisation and social sciences are academic subjects, with end of year assessments and included in reports and grade cards.

Pathway two

- Modern Foreign Language plus Latin.
- This pathway provides the opportunity to study two languages.
- Students choose to study one of French, Spanish or German and, in addition study Latin.
- Latin is timetabled as two lessons a week, one of which is during lunchtime, with a weekly prep activity and assessments.
- Students taking pathway two are unable to choose classical civilisation or social science.

Please complete the academic options choices form on the new joiners webpage to confirm choices for September 2024.

SUBJECT CONTENT

Classical civilisation

The societies of Ancient Greece and Rome have left an indelible mark on the Western world, not only as the foundations for our legal, political and social institutions but also in shaping the way we think, the literature we produce and the art we create.

Classical civilisation gives access to a classical education for those pupils who are not studying the linguistic elements of Latin and/or Greek, providing a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the culture of the classical world. They will study elements of the literature, art and archaeological remains of Greece and Rome, and develop an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts.

Each term has its own thematic focus. For example, in Year 8:

- Autumn term – superstition and magic in the ancient world
- Spring term – Peloponnesian war
- Summer term – Roman entertainment and leisure

Within these themes are the translated works of some of history's greatest writers, philosophers and statesmen. Assessment in classics is designed to develop the skills needed to analyse evidence from a variety of sources and express a response in the form of a compelling written argument – an ability which is highly prized in many careers.

The subject has a direct pathway to GCSE and A Level and has close links with history, philosophy, art and English literature. However, it should be noted that studying classical civilisation is not a requirement for accessing the subject at GCSE or A Level.

Social Science

Social science is a popular option and is taught in half termly themes. Each theme is related to contemporary society and is an introduction to the social science subjects of politics, psychology, business and economics, criminology, citizenship and sociology.

During the two-year bespoke course, pupils will learn about human rights and human rights issues, democracy, the UK's political systems and how to vote. They will gain an understanding of crime, law and our justice system and be able to acknowledge and critically assess how their identity may affect their perspective on issues and how the media provides us with information. Pupils will also have an introduction to business studies by developing their own business plan and look at supply and demand in a unit about economics. Underpinning the teaching will be encouragement for pupils to get involved in becoming an active citizen in our school and local community and an understanding of how they can make a difference to society. They will undertake a social action activity involving the wider community.

The subject lends itself to a curriculum pathway to GCSEs in citizenship and business studies and develops transferable skills that will complement other humanities courses. However, there is no requirement to study social science in order to take these courses at GCSE. If your child is interested in news and contemporary issues, this course will enable them to develop skills and an understanding of how to take an active role in society as an adult.

Latin

Latin is the universal language of Western civilisation, having served as the language of science and academic in Europe for millennia. Whilst it is no longer actively spoken today, the study of Latin is rewarding and beneficial for a wide range of reasons.

Studying Latin aids pupils in mastering English, but it also provides a key to learning the Romance languages, which evolved from Latin, and is an excellent grounding for aspiring linguists. In particular, the study of Latin grammar provides an understanding of the mechanics and structure of all languages, teaching pupils to think in an analytical and systematic fashion.

The Cambridge Latin Course is an internationally recognised Latin course, which has been the foremost course available for decades, recently releasing an updated version with full digital access. Pupils are assessed on a range of translation, comprehension and vocabulary tasks but also on their study of Roman social and cultural practices. Studying Latin helps to foster intellectual curiosity, independence of thought and academic rigour in young people, and can be continued with the GCSE course.