



Cobham Hall

A day and boarding school for girls and boys aged 11-18



GCSE OPTIONS

Options for Academic Year 2024/25

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"The school offers an excellent curriculum with a wide choice of options at GCSE and IGCSE."
ISI Report

WELCOME TO UPPER SCHOOL AT COBHAM HALL

As students approach the end of Year 9 they have the opportunity to consider their futures as they look towards GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education). This booklet begins with a short explanation about GCSE and the National Curriculum. It offers advice to students about how to choose their subjects. To help with this decision-making, staff have given brief descriptions of the nature of GCSE in their own disciplines.



A Cobham Hall education is an education for life. Our innovative, skills-based curriculum is designed specifically to develop the crucial competencies students will need in our rapidly changing world: skills in complex problem-solving, project and time management, critical thinking and creativity; resilience, communication, determination, teamwork and compassion. The development of these core skills continues through Years 10 and 11, underpinning all learning - regardless of which GCSE options you choose - and very specifically in our Global Perspectives IGCSE course.

I look forward to welcoming all students into Upper School and supporting them on their journey through GCSEs and on into our Sixth Form.

Mrs Melissa Thompson (BSc Hons, PGCE)
Head of Upper School



Cobham Hall Perspectives



Cobham Hall



Perspectives

You are • You do • You become



GCSE Information

Every maintained school within the State sector is obliged by law to provide a balanced and broad curriculum which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at school and in society.
- prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

This law does not apply to Independent Schools but the majority of faculties at Cobham Hall follow the National Curriculum content as most GCSE courses are based on this; however a number will follow the IGCSE curriculum.

The current grading structure has been brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.

Current GCSE examinations are awarded a grade from 9-1, with 9 being the highest, instead of A* to G. Please see adjacent chart for comparisons.

The current GCSE content is more challenging, with greater emphasis being placed on examinations rather than coursework.

Some practical subjects such as Art, PE and Drama involve a certain percentage of internally assessed work which is marked internally by teachers but moderated by external assessors.

French and Mathematics papers are arranged in tiers, Higher (Graded 9 - 5) and Foundation (Graded 5 - 1), with candidates taking the level most appropriate to them.

English as a Second Language (ESL) IGCSEs still remain graded A* to G.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	D
3	E
2	F
1	G
U	U

**Please note, that to maintain a broad academic curriculum and to aid in a successful application for Sixth Form and beyond, students are unable to drop a GCSE subject later in the course. Please ensure that the volume of coursework and time required outside of lessons are taken into consideration when choosing subjects.*

What Will I Study?

During the course of Year 9, students will have the opportunity to choose the subjects they would like to continue through to GCSE level. In Years 10 and 11 students study a reduced number of subjects, some of which will lead to a GCSE or IGCSE examination, which will normally be taken at the end of Year 11. Every student's timetable will include English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Global Perspectives, PSHE and Core PE, as these are compulsory subjects. For international students, an IGCSE in English as a Second Language (ESL) is also compulsory.

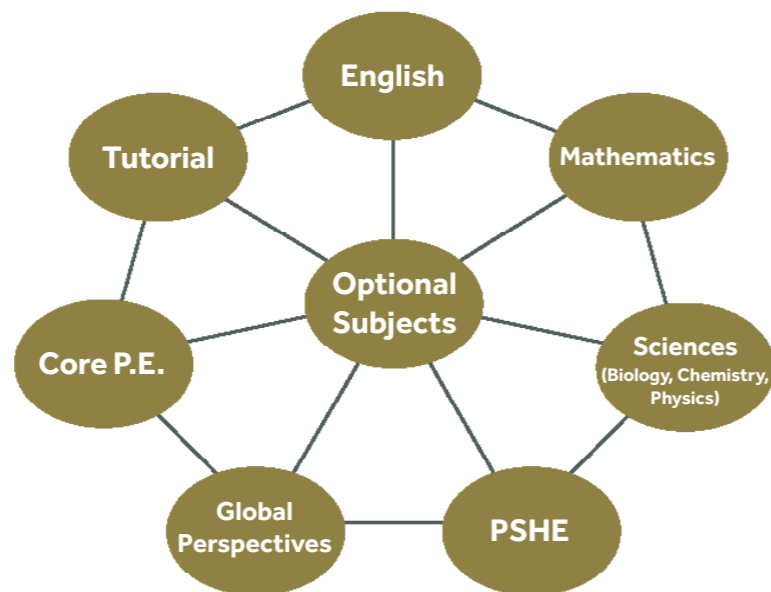
The Sciences are available as a Triple Award or as a Double Award. For both, students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with similar topics covered. However, the Double Award has a reduced curriculum content and so topics will be covered in less detail. Students that would like to study Science at A Level are advised to take Triple Science.

Global Perspectives is a skills-based GCSE course that is a compulsory part of the curriculum. Students will study and critically evaluate key global issues from different viewpoints: personal, local/national and global. This subject helps to prepare students for the challenges of tomorrow.

PSHE is a compulsory part of the curriculum but not available as a GCSE examination. The course includes aspects of study skills, careers education, sex and relationships education and preparation for work experience, usually taken in Year 10, whilst tutorial sessions enable students to receive further support from their tutors.

All students participate in core Physical Education lessons, and the majority of students either continue The Duke of Edinburgh's Award to earn their Silver Award, or if joining Cobham, begin with the Bronze Award.

This booklet will explain what is involved for choosing subjects, as well as providing specific information for all GCSE subjects. This should enable you to provide as much support as possible as students move towards their GCSE examinations.



Compulsory Subjects
English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Physics, Chemistry and Biology
Global Perspectives
English as a Second Language (ESL)

Optional Subjects* - Choose from:
Art, Craft and Design
Computer Science
Drama
French
Geography
History
Music
Spanish
Physical Education

* Please note, optional subjects will only run if there is sufficient demand.



Choosing Your Options

Advice to Students

It is important to think carefully about which subjects to continue to study at GCSE level. Each student should find out all they can about the different subjects and discuss possible ideas with parents and teachers. There will still be a chance to change option choices after the Year 9 summer examinations in May. However, the GCSE option blocks will have been fixed by then and it may well be that choices are restricted. Before turning to the descriptions of individual subjects, here are some tips about how to make good choices.

- 1. Give each subject serious consideration**
 Mathematics, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Global Perspectives are the compulsory subjects, while international students whose first language is not English take ESL instead of English. All students are encouraged to study a Language unless there is a valid educational reason why this is not the best qualification for them.
- 2. Choose wisely**
 Choosing subjects should be based on your preferences, not your friends' and not your parents'; it is harder to gain a qualification in a subject that you do not enjoy, and your grades may suffer as a result. Also, if you are not passionate about the subject, it is unlikely that you will follow that path in the future. Your learning is about your personal development and career aspirations, so the most important thing you can do is pick the subjects that you're interested in! What fuels your curiosity? What motivates you? What ideas and concepts are you fascinated by?
- 3. Think about the sort of person you are**
 What do you enjoy doing? What methods of study and assessment suit you best? What subjects do you enjoy most? What do you find particularly uninspiring? What subjects do you receive the best marks for? Why? These are the questions you should be asking yourself and it might be a good idea to list subjects in order of your ability (as seen by yourself and your teachers) and in the order in which you enjoy them. Give reasons why subjects are high or low on these lists.
- 4. Careers**
 Some students have in mind a possible future career when they select their option subjects. Many may be unsure at this stage, which is absolutely fine. That is why it is important to carefully consider your subjects. However, possible future careers have been included for each subject as inspiration for you to research.

You may also like to look at the following websites to research other career opportunities:

- www.cxk.org/our-services/services-young-people/
- www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Compulsory Subjects



English Language and Literature (AQA - 2 GCSEs)

Overview

English Language and Literature are fundamental requirements for further study of any kind. More importantly, understanding of how texts are constructed to make sense of your world, and the ability to speak and write persuasively, are essential skills for all walks of life.

Course Summary

The GCSE English Language course covers a wide range of skills: writing, reading, speaking and listening. While studying English, you will improve the fluency and accuracy of your own written expression. You will read a variety of texts, learning to distinguish between fact and opinion; to follow an argument; to select material appropriate to purpose and to appreciate writers' use of language. You will develop your ability in speaking and listening so you can communicate clearly for different purposes and to different audiences. This is formally assessed with a presentation which is called the Spoken Language Endorsement and awarded a separated grade (pass – merit – distinction).

As in many schools, at Cobham Hall you will study English Language and Literature side-by-side. English Literature offers you the opportunity to read and respond to a wide range of texts from the literary tradition and from modern writing. You will discover more about Shakespeare and about well-known novelists and famous poets. You will explore universal themes, like: love and loss; youth and age; power and reputation, and appearances and reality. You will develop your close-reading and analytical skills which are useful to many other subjects as well as life in general. This experience should encourage you to read widely and to enjoy your reading.

Assessment

Written Examination	
Language:	
Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Writing and Reading = 50%	
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives = 50%	
Spoken Language Endorsement: separate qualification, recorded speech, internally assessed, externally moderated.	
Pass - Merit - Distinction	
Literature:	
Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel = 40%	Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry = 60%

Required Skills

An appreciation for literature and how writers create texts to engage and enthuse readers. Skill at speaking, listening, reading and writing and understanding of how to communicate to different audiences for different purposes.

For the Future

Careers which lend themselves most naturally to the good communication that is promoted through a study of English include: Advertising, Author, Barrister, Publisher, Book/Newspaper Editor, Journalist, Legal Executive, Solicitor. However, good communication is essential to life and underpins all careers and endeavours.



Mathematics (Edexcel/Pearson - GCSE)

Overview

Maths is a beautifully complex, yet profoundly fundamental field of study that permeates the world we live in. Although a compulsory subject, developing mathematical thinking, problem solving skills and competence in calculations are crucial skills for life that will also support many other subjects you will study at GCSE.

Course Summary

The course will cover the following topic areas:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Number | 4. Geometry and Measures |
| 2. Algebra | 5. Probability |
| 3. Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change | 6. Statistics |

The course aims to enable students to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context

Assessment

Written Examination

Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment. Papers 2 and 3 - a calculator is allowed.
Tiers: Higher (Graded 9 - 4), Foundation (Graded 5 - 1)

Required Skills

The course builds on the Mathematics studied in Key Stage 3 (or equivalent).

For the Future

As well as equipping you with essential life skills, having a good Mathematics GCSE is essential for further study, training and employment. For students who find particular enjoyment and success in the subject, there are numerous career options to consider, especially within Business and Finance, Science and Engineering. Specific examples include Accountant, Actuary, Computer Programmer, Economist, Engineering – civil, aeronautical, mechanical, Scientific Researcher, Statistician and Teacher.



Biology (Edexcel/Pearson - IGCSE)

Overview

Studying Biology gives people a better appreciation of natural history and the processes that occur in living things. By following the Biology specification, students will be made more aware of the impact of human activities on the environment. Biology helps students to develop greater self-awareness, including their place in the natural world and personal health.

Course Summary

Biology covers topics such as Reproduction, Diet and Digestion, Heart and Circulation, Ecology, Photosynthesis and Food Production. Students will carry out practical work to help them develop a variety of skills, including independence. Students learn to plan investigations, collect and tabulate data and present that data graphically.

Assessment: Triple Award

A student who takes IGCSE Triple Award Science will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects and, if they pass all three, are credited with three IGCSEs.

Written Examination for the Triple Award - Biology

Paper 1 = 61.1% Paper 2 = 38.9%

Assessment: Double Award

A student who takes IGCSE Double Award Science will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as a single subject, but would be credited with having achieved two IGCSEs.

Written Examination for the Double Award

Paper 1 (Biology) = 33.3%
Paper 1 (Chemistry) = 33.3%
Paper 1 (Physics) = 33.3%

Required Skills

Ideally, students should have some competence in using English, as they will meet a considerable amount of biology-specific language. Students excel in Biology if they are able and willing to discuss what is being taught, describing and explaining observations and patterns in data.

For the Future

IGCSE Biology should be taken if students are considering further studies in Biology, Psychology, Biochemistry, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Biomedical Sciences, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Environmental science. In addition, Biology is useful if students are considering careers in the food industry or teaching.



Chemistry (Edexcel/Pearson - GCSE)

Overview

Chemistry is a challenging subject drawing upon mathematical and linguistic reasoning. It explores the world around us in terms of the structure and bonding of matter and how matter can interact. Chemistry is everywhere in the world around you! It's in the food you eat, clothes you wear, water you drink, medicines, air, cleaners, etc. Chemistry is sometimes called the "central science" because it connects other sciences to each other, such as Biology, Physics, Geology and Environmental Science. It explains how things work and makes life's little mysteries a little less mysterious.

Course Summary

There are four modules covering: the basic principles of chemistry (structure, bonding, REDOX and moles), inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry and physical chemistry. Students will also be required to complete practical work as there are practical based questions in the exams.

Assessment: Triple Award

A student who takes IGCSE Triple Award Science will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects and, if they pass all three, are credited with three IGCSEs.

Written Examination for the Triple Award - Chemistry

Paper 1 = 61.1% Paper 2 = 38.9%

Assessment: Double Award

A student who takes IGCSE Double Award Science will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as a single subject, but would be credited with having achieved two IGCSEs.

Written Examination for the Double Award

Paper 1 (Biology) = 33.3%
 Paper 1 (Chemistry) = 33.3%
 Paper 1 (Physics) = 33.3%

Required Skills

As well as mathematical / numerical skills, chemists will develop many other skills that are transferable to other areas. These skills include: analysis and problem solving, time management and organisation, written and oral communication, monitoring / maintaining records, team work, computer skills and many more.

For the Future

Chemistry qualifications do not just lead to jobs in the field of chemistry. They are essential for all medical courses (Medicine and Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Biomedical Sciences), Chemistry is essential for Biochemistry and Chemical Engineering. Chemistry can also be invaluable in Geography, Geology and Earth Sciences.



Physics (Edexcel/Pearson - IGCSE)

Overview

Physics is a subject that encompasses both communication and mathematical skills. It helps develop the skills needed to not only learn information but also solve problems related to the real world.

Course Summary

We cover all of the standard Physics topics (forces and motion, electricity, waves, nuclear, astrophysics, pressure and energy) in both theoretical applications and practical situations. Mathematical skills are developed as the course progresses as are the analytical and application skills necessary to do well.

Assessment: Triple Award

A student who takes IGCSE Triple Award Science will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects and, if they pass all three, are credited with three IGCSEs.

Written Examination for the Triple Award - Physics

Paper 1 = 61.1% Paper 2 = 38.9%

Assessment: Double Award

A student who takes IGCSE Double Award Science will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as a single subject, but would be credited with having achieved two IGCSEs.

Written Examination for the Double Award

Paper 1 (Biology) = 33.3%
 Paper 1 (Chemistry) = 33.3%
 Paper 1 (Physics) = 33.3%

Required Skills

A willingness to learn and think about how the world around you works, and how Physics fits in everyday life.

For the Future

Study: A Level Physics.
 Work: Engineering, Radiography, Teaching, Astronomy, Physics.



Global Perspectives (Cambridge - IGCSE)

Overview

Global Perspectives provides opportunities for enquiry into, and reflection on, key global issues from different perspectives: personal, local/national and global. This subject encourages awareness of global problems and offers a range of opportunities to explore solutions through cooperation and collaboration. It enables them to become independent and empowered to take their place in an ever-changing, information-heavy, inter-connected world.

Course Summary

Students will have opportunities to acquire and apply a range of skills to support them in these challenges, including: researching, analysing and evaluating information, developing and justifying a line of reasoning, reflecting on processes and outcomes, communicating information, and reasoning and collaborating to achieve a common outcome. Candidates explore stimulating topics that have global significance. They assess information critically, explore lines of reasoning, discover how to direct their own learning and develop an independence of thought. Global Perspectives emphasises the development and application of skills that will be useful for further study and for young people as active citizens of the future.

Assessment

Written Examination
Written Paper = 35% (1 hour 15 minutes)
Individual Report = 30% (1500 - 2000 words)
Team Project = 35%

Required Skills

Students will be required to research, analyse and evaluate current global issues and reflect on different perspectives. They must be keen to work collaboratively and have good communication skills to excel in Global Perspectives.

For the Future

This subject will help students to gain a stronger understanding of the world around them. With the ability to think critically and have a global perspective, students are preparing for the challenges of tomorrow and the possibility of future change.

English as a Second Language (ESL) (CIE - IGCSE)

Overview

The programme of study supports and enhances student performance in the different academic subjects taken in Years 10 and 11 across the School, particularly those which require a well-developed standard of literacy for successful outcomes at GCSE level. The qualification is excellent preparation for the next steps in a student's education. It also equips students with many of the specific language skills which are highly sought after by employers when they come to enter the workplace.

Course Summary

The Cambridge International Examinations IGCSE English as a Second Language (ESL) is a language acquisition and development course, which extends over two years.

During the IGCSE ESL course, students practise and develop their English language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing), whilst expanding their knowledge of a variety of contemporary topics. They develop grammatical understanding and communicative competence and extend their vocabulary repertoire. By the end of the first year of the programme offered at Cobham Hall, and as part of their preparation for the IGCSE ESL, students may be entered for the Cambridge First for Schools Examination (FCE), part of the Cambridge English Language Assessment suite of internationally recognised qualifications. It equips students with essential communication skills and demonstrates that they can use every-day written and spoken English for both study and work purposes at Level B2 of the Common European Framework of References for Languages.

IGCSE English as a Second Language:

- provides an in-depth study of the English language and develops students' communicative competence
- develops students' understanding of a wide variety of academic and non-academic texts
- enables students to understand standard spoken language encountered in personal, social and academic contexts
- enables students to write clear, well-structured texts using an appropriate style
- develops students' ability to express themselves fluently, spontaneously and appropriately in a range of contexts.

Assessment

Written Examination
Foundation and Higher level
Reading and Writing Examination 70%
Listening Examination 15% Speaking 15% assessed in a formal Oral Examination at school A* - G

Required Skills

It is designed for learners whose first language is not English, but who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their academic studies.

For the Future

Further Education and careers in: Diplomatic Service, Translating, Publishing, International Development, Journalism, Law, Tourism, Marketing, Banking, Teaching, Business Administration, NGOs.

Optional Subjects



Option: Art, Craft & Design (AQA - GCSE)

Why Study Art and Design?

If you enjoy being creative, problem solving and working independently then this is the right subject for you. Art, Craft and Design is a broad and flexible course where you have control over the direction and media that you work in. In the context of this specification, the disciplines will include: painting, drawing, printmaking, textiles, photography and digital media, You will develop your visual and practical skills and You will experiment with different ideas using a wide range of materials, taking creative risks with your work and learning from your experiences.

Course Summary

You will develop your visual skills and build a portfolio of work by completing a wide range of activities and in-depth assignments. Throughout the course, you will:

- Develop and explore ideas
- Select and experiment with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- Record your ideas, observations and insights
- Present personal and meaningful responses.

Written Examination
n/a
Non-Examination Assessment
Component 1: Personal Portfolio (consists of 2 projects) = 60%
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (choice of 7 projects set by AQA) = 40%

Required Skills

At Cobham Hall, everyone starts at the same level, you will learn the basics of how to put a project together which then leads to more advanced and personal work. It is important that you have an interest for the subject and a desire to learn about historical and contemporary art from different cultures. It is also important that you want to learn how to use materials and different techniques to develop and express your own ideas. A flair for creative ideas is important along with the perseverance and resilience to use feedback to refine your work independently.

For the Future

Throughout this course you will develop many transferable skills, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills. These skills will prepare you for further study or the world of work. Creative thinking leads to stretching boundaries and innovation, qualities much respected in such a competitive world. Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. 1 in 8 businesses are in the creative economy and the creative industries are growing at almost four times the rate of the wider UK economy.



Option: **Computer Science** (OCR - GCSE)

Why Study Computer Science?

Studying GCSE Computer Science builds essential skills like problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity through coding and algorithms. It prepares students for advanced studies and tech careers, enhancing digital literacy and adaptability in a tech-driven world. The subject fosters innovation and critical thinking, valuable in any profession, and opens doors to exciting opportunities, empowering students to shape the future.

Course Summary

GCSE Computer Science provides students with a solid foundation in computing principles, including computer systems, computational thinking, algorithms and programming. It emphasizes problem-solving and critical thinking skills, preparing students for further studies and careers in technology. The course also covers cyber security, networks, and the ethical impacts of digital technology, ensuring students are well-rounded and ready to navigate the digital world confidently.

Assessment

Written Examination

Paper 1: Computer Systems = 50%
 Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming = 50%

Required Skills

No prior Computing/Computer Science is required but would be an advantage. A keen interest in the subject with good Mathematics, logic or problem-solving skills would be ideal.

For the Future

Students can progress to study A level Computer Science course, a diverse academic and career paths in AI, cybersecurity, software development, system architecture, data science and more. The field offers intellectual stimulation, rapid career advancement, and the chance to make significant societal contributions through innovative technology.



Option: **Drama** (AQA - GCSE)

Why Study Drama?

Drama is essential at fostering the collaborative skills needed to work together as a group to produce creative and innovative material. The students have the opportunity to study and explore leading practitioners as well as mastering their own performance and directing skills.

Course Summary

The students learn about the various styles of theatre and the practitioners that championed these styles. They have an opportunity to explore these styles practically as well as watching live theatre in various professional stage spaces, and work-shopping with various touring theatre companies. The students themselves create collaboratively a piece of devised drama for their examination based on a selected performance style. In addition they have to study additional texts and perform extracts from the plays to an external examiner. Alongside their practical the students study and write about a published text, exploring this from a performer, director and designer's point of view.

Assessment

Written Examination

Understanding Drama = 40% (written examination)
 Devising Drama = 40% (practical and written report)
 Texts in Practice = 20% (practical)

Required Skills

The students will need to have a great interest in Drama and Theatre from all aspects, with enthusiasm to practically contribute. They must be keen to work collaboratively with a group and have a willingness to learn the theoretical aspects of the subject and communicate using the written and spoken word.

For the Future

Students can progress to study A Level Drama and Theatre Studies and further again at degree level. The subject is excellent at cementing those interpersonal skills and therefore ideal for those interested in Law, Public Relations, Medicine, Business and Marketing as well as the creative industries.



Option: **Geography** (Edexcel/Pearson - IGCSE)

Why Study Geography?

Geography enables students to explore our exciting and ever-changing world, the challenges it faces and their own place within it. It is a fantastic subject for developing a wide range of different skills and giving students the independence required for higher level study.

Course Summary

Students will actively engage in the process of geographical enquiry to develop as effective and independent learners. This will involve planning and undertaking investigations out in the field. Fieldwork trips currently include Reculver coastline and Maidstone town centre. They will develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world as well as developing their awareness of global issues and the need for a sustainable future.

Assessment

Written Examination

Paper 1 : Coastal Environments and Hazardous Environments = 40%
 Paper 2 : Urban Environments, Economic Activity and Energy, and Globalisation and Migration = 60%
 (Fieldwork and geographical skills are assessed within the written papers)

Required Skills

Students should be able to start the course with basic map, cartographic, graphical and analytical skills. It is useful for students to have a good understanding of topical global issues, an appreciation for the need for sustainability and an awareness of the challenges facing the future of our planet.

For the Future

Geography can be studied at a higher level at Cobham Hall as the A Level course builds on the knowledge developed at Key Stage 4. It is also a subject which supports students going on to further study and employment as it enables such a wide range of skill development and independence. Some of the jobs undertaken by Geography students are Air Traffic Controller, Chartered Surveyor, Civil Engineer, Conservation Officer, Environmental Consultant, Oceanographer and Teacher.



Option: **History** (Edexcel/Pearson - IGCSE)

Why Study History?

Studying the past helps us to understand the world in which we live; events in the last century can explain some of the problems and opportunities of the modern world. Studying History also helps to develop some very important skills such as weighing up evidence and deciding whether it is trustworthy, explaining ideas, formulating an argument, learning to think critically about what you are told and using different types of information to find out about the past.

Course Summary

The GCSE syllabus covers the key events of the twentieth century and develops students understanding of how the past has been constructed but also how our world today was created. These topics also provide a firm foundation for studying both history and politics at A-Level.

The topics covered are: Paper 1 - 'The Development of Dictatorship: Germany 1918-45' and 'A world divided: Superpower relations 1943-75. Paper 2 - 'The Vietnam Conflict 1945-75', and 'The Middle East: Conflict, Crisis and Change, 1917-2012'

Written Examination

Paper 1 : Topics 1 and 2 = 50%
 Paper 2 : Topics 3 and 4 = 50%

Required Skills

All students are welcomed on the course, and the main requirement is enthusiasm and an interest in the subject matter.

For the Future

The broad range of skills which the study of History helps develop can be helpful in a whole range of different professions including: Advertising, Academic Research, Archaeology, Business, Charity Work, The Civil Service, Insurance, Intelligence Services, Journalism, Law, Library / Archive Work, Publishing, Media (Print, TV or Film), Museum Work, Politics and Teaching. Careers may also include anything which requires analytical and communication skills, and history graduates find work in almost every area of life.



Option: Languages - French or Spanish (AQA - GCSE)

Why Study Languages?

Languages are really important in the world we live in, and give you great skills for the rest of your life. The internet has brought everyone much closer together so chatting, blogging and networking with people of different languages from all over the world is dead easy. Imagine all the other people you could communicate with and all the amazing places you could travel to or work at, and all because you can speak their language!

Course Summary

The course focuses on the four communicative skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students are encouraged to use their skills at every opportunity – on holiday, in conversation, and by using online and specially designed print media in the target language.

Students will hone these language skills over the course through the study of familiar topics such as:

- people and lifestyle
- popular culture
- communication and the world around us

Assessment

Written Examination

Paper 1: Listening = 25%, Paper 2: Speaking = 25%, Paper 3: Reading = 25%, Paper 4: Writing = 25%
NB: French and Spanish papers are tiered - Higher (Graded 9 - 5) and Foundation (Graded 5 - 1), with candidates taking the level most appropriate to them.

Required Skills

Students wishing to follow the French or Spanish GCSE courses must be able to demonstrate prior learning in their chosen language. They must be familiar with basic grammar, including verbs in three time-frames, and everyday vocabulary.

For the Future

University study and careers in the following areas: International Relations, Translating, Interpreting, Law, Banking, Finance, Diplomatic Service, Publishing, Media, Teaching, Journalism, Tourism, Marketing, Business Administration, NGOs, International Development.

Option: Music (Edexcel/Pearson - GCSE)

Why Study Music?

Learn to compose and play your instrument to a higher level, while studying styles and techniques used in musicals, music for the movies and more.

Course Summary

GCSE Music is for a musician who likes to:

- rise to a challenge
- work to meet long-term goals
- find out how things work
- answer both factual questions and opinionated questions
- perform/make music
- work independently and enjoy making music with others

Lessons include: theory, aural dictation, composing & performing, and studying the set works:

Area of Study 1:	Instrumental Music 1700-1820 Bach - Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, 3rd movement & Beethoven - Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Pathétique, Mvt 1
Area of Study 2:	Vocal Music Queen - 'Killer Queen' & Handel - 'Music for a while'
Area of Study 3:	Music for Stage and Screen 'Defying Gravity' from Wicked & 'Main title/Rebel Blockade Runner' from Star Wars
Area of Study 4:	Fusions 'Samba Em Prelúdio' & 'Release'

Assessment

Written Examination

Section A has 8 questions from set works studied in class, plus one previously unstudied. Section B is a long answer question comparing and contrasting extracts = 40%

Non-Examination Assessment

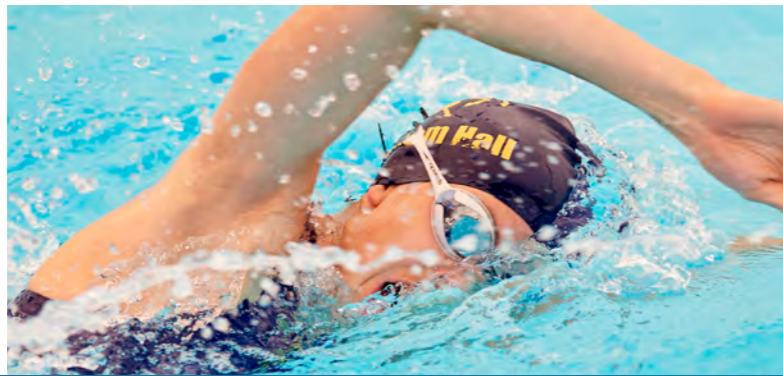
Perform two contrasting pieces one solo and one ensemble piece = 30%
Create two compositions one based on genres studied in class and one free choice = 30%

Required Skills

You must be taking instrumental lessons on any instrument or voice, and be a minimum of Grade 3 ABRSM or equivalent on entering GCSE in Year 10. It is expected that you will already participate in other music-making opportunities such as band, orchestra, choir etc.

For the Future

You could continue down many different musical avenues. Former students currently study everything from classical opera (touring New York and performing at Carnegie Hall), to musical engineering (and discussing the future of radio in driverless cars!). Many employers like musicians as they show self-discipline and are very self-motivated.



Option: **Physical Education** (AQA - GCSE)

Why Study Physical Education (PE)?

This GCSE PE qualification syllabus is exciting and interactive. It is a linear course meaning that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course. The subject content includes applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well being. Each student will also have a practical performance assessment in physical activity and sport. This will be in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). There is also an analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Course Summary

PE is the study of physical movement, safety and health and wellbeing. There is a wide range of activities associated with PE including sports, dance and weight training. Physical education helps develop and maintain confidence, wellbeing and social skills that can be more difficult to achieve through other subjects. The students will have two teachers concentrating on different areas of the syllabus throughout the course. Their practical sports will be delivered in core PE. Students are encouraged to pursue their chosen sports outside of school where possible.

Assessment

Written Examination
Paper 1: 30% Paper 2: 30%
Non-Examination Assessment
The practical performance in physical activity and sport is assessed in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). There is also an analysis and evaluation section of performance to bring about improvement in one activity (this is equivalent to 10%). The entire practical section equates to 40%

Required Skills

Students should most certainly have a love for sport! They need to have at least two strong sports. Students must be willing to put time aside after school to develop their three sports to gain experience and enhance their skills in order to reach their full potential. You'll gain many valuable skills from studying Physical Education that will help you in other GCSE and A Level subjects as well as your future career. Some of the skills that you will develop include communication skills, social skills, evaluative skills and physical fitness skills.

For the Future

Physical Education lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries that you may not have considered before. For example, many nutritionists, physical therapists and chiropractors have a degree in PE. Some careers that you could consider doing with PE include: Sports Science, PE Teaching, Physiotherapist, Professional Sportsperson, Sports Coach/Consultant, Sports Policy at local and national level, Diet and Fitness Instructor or a Personal Trainer.



Additional Qualifications Available

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

Students have the option to work towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award and may even progress to the Silver and Gold Awards as they move through their GCSE and A Level years. Encouraged throughout the School and timetabled in Year 9, the majority of our students complete The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Award has three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold. At Bronze and Silver levels, the Award encompasses four core sections: volunteering, physical, skills and the expedition. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award seeks to develop key skills that are prized by universities and employers alike: confidence, resilience, teamwork, initiative, determination, perseverance and communication.

ABRSM (Associated Boards of the Royal Schools of Music) or MTB (Music Teachers' Board):

Students are able to continue or begin lessons in singing or in an instrument of their choice, and may be able to go forward for grading with the Associated Boards of the Royal Schools of Music or the MTB.

LAMDA (London Academy of Music and the Dramatic Arts):

Students are able to continue or begin lessons in Voice, Drama and Communication and may be able to go forward for examinations in areas such as public speaking, musical theatre and others.

Additional charges apply for each of these qualifications.

Support at Cobham Hall

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

The role of the EAL Department at Cobham Hall is to provide all students whose first language is not English with the English language support they require. The EAL staff offer personal support, advice and encouragement and deliver tailored EAL lessons which are designed to enhance students' access to the whole school curriculum. Our primary task is to assist both new and established students to integrate fully into the language, culture and academic life of the UK, and of Cobham Hall in particular. In addition, we seek to improve each student's own communicative competence in the language in order to enable them to benefit fully from their time in the School and to achieve the best possible examination results at GCSE and beyond.

On arrival at Cobham Hall, overseas students are tested in spoken and written English and a programme of EAL support lessons is normally set up for them. At GCSE level, students whose first language is not English follow the IGCSE English as a Second Language Course (see IGCSE English as a Second Language). However, should the need arise, it may be possible for extra EAL support to be offered either in small groups which are timetabled alongside their mainstream lessons, or as one-to-one sessions. Students are encouraged to develop academic English skills which can be applied across all subject areas. At GCSE level, this involves focusing on all four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening), with particular emphasis on the language demands and requirements of GCSE-type questions. The EAL staff liaise regularly with subject teachers and may offer subject-specific support lessons where necessary, especially in the revision period before summer examinations.

Specific Learning Difficulties and Learning Support

At Cobham Hall we value all students as individuals, and supporting additional educational needs is an integral part of our mainstream school ethos. The Student Support Department works with students from all age ranges and abilities across the school including Year 10 and beyond. We work closely with all departments, as well as the pastoral support team, to ensure we are kept informed of any new concerns about students. Where possible we try to meet every student's needs within the classroom by ensuring that our planning and teaching approaches are effective and meet the needs of our students. High quality adaptive learning strategies are in place so that the most progress is made.

For some students, who need a more individualised approach, we are able to offer a one-to-one or a session within small groups. In Year 10 and above, the emphasis is on developing Study Skills: time-management and prioritising; note-making; essay writing; comprehension of text and revision techniques. Learning support is also available for Mathematics.

If students do not have a full timetable then lessons are timetabled during their study periods, the number per week depending on individual needs. Special arrangements for public examinations are made by the Department in co-ordination with the Examinations Officer.

Students not attending the Student Support Department are welcome to access the Department for a range of reasons related to their learning and can be seen regularly for assessment and advice at any time during the year. Our services are not limited to only those who have identified needs.

Head of Student Support



“For families seeking a caring environment and offering excellent provision for students with SEND and EAL, Cobham Hall provides the ideal solution.”



Keep in Touch

Admissions Enquiries

Email: admissions@cobhamhall.com

Telephone: + 44 (0)1474 823371

Website: www.cobhamhall.com

Social Media

Instagram: @CobhamHall / @cobhamhallmusic / @cobhamhallsit / cobhamhallboarding

Twitter: @CobhamHall / @DoSCobhamHall

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CobhamHall



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