



C pathway
GCSE Options Booklet
Fitzharrys School
2024

*You should have been informed by
email if this C pathway applies to you.*

January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The options process marks an important stage in a child's education; a decision that helps to move them further towards a successful and happy future. At Fitzharrys School we aim to support all students to ensure that they study subjects that will provide them with enjoyment, challenge, and success.

This booklet contains information about the **C pathway**. This pathway ensures a broad and balanced curriculum.

We hope that the booklet provides all the information you need but our curriculum and pastoral teams are on hand to provide advice and support throughout the process. There will be opportunities in the next few weeks for students to talk to form tutors and subject teachers – and the parents evening on 25th January will also provide the chance for parents to talk to teachers. Students will also be taking part in the options week taster lessons w/c 15th of January along with a number of activities to support them thinking about their future pathways.

Wishing you good luck with the options process.

Kind regards,

Mrs A Twyford

Assistant Head Attainment & Assessment

The Key Stage 4 options timeline

Now	Parent evening bookings go live on E-Praise. Please try to prioritise your non-core bookings with teachers of subjects that your student is considering for option choices.
W/C 15th of January	Options week Students participate in careers activities and taster lessons
Thurs 25th of January	Year 9 Parents' Evening at Fitzharrys Options application forms distributed
Weds 7th February	Deadline for completed option application forms

Core subjects: C pathway

This pathway will normally lead to the award of 9 GCSE or equivalent.

All students will take the following core subjects:

- **English Literature and Language**
- **Maths**
- **Combined Science** (equivalent of **two** GCSE)
- Core Physical Education (non-examined)
- FitzFocus+ - including PSHCE and Religious Studies (non-examined)

In addition to the core subjects C pathway students must study

A modern foreign language or a humanity

A choice of language: French or Spanish or Either (for those who would like to study one language but do not have a strong preference for either)

or

A choice of humanity (either Geography or History)

Three subjects from the full range of open **options** available

Students will be asked to select 5 subjects in preference order from all those available but will actually study three of them. Some combinations of subjects will not be available when the option blocks are constructed from the database of all the applications made. Some subjects may not run if there is insufficient demand. Students may select a second language or humanity here.

Art, craft and design	Music practice (BTEC)
Business studies	Performing arts (BTEC)
Computer science	Physical education
Design and technology	Religious studies
French	Sociology
Food preparation and nutrition	Spanish
Geography	Statistics
History	

C pathway summary

Core	Language or Humanity	Open options (3)
English Language English Literature Maths Combined science (2 GCSE)	French or Spanish or Either (no preference) or Geography or History	Choose five in preference order. Study three. (list of subjects in table above)

Please note that some students may be offered an alternative pathway involving a reduced number of GCSE.

Core Subjects Information

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Combined science

**For details of the option subjects please see the Option Subjects
Information Booklet**

English Language

What will I learn in this subject?

In this compulsory subject, you will learn how writers craft their texts – both fiction and non-fiction – to influence their readers. You will do this through the reading of, and exploration of, a wide range of texts from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and through creative and non-fiction writing of your own. Throughout the course, which is integrated with the teaching of English Literature, you will develop your knowledge and skills in critical thinking, analytical writing, evaluation, debate, comparison, creative writing, opinion writing, vocabulary, grammatical and linguistic convention. Above all, you will think deeply about communication: how to do it effectively, and how the texts you read and watch have been crafted to influence you.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (50%):

- Reading analysis of one fiction text
- Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2 (50%):

- Reading analysis of two non-fiction texts
- Writing to present a viewpoint

In both papers, you will receive marks for:

- your ability to interpret information and ideas from texts
- your ability to analyse the language, structure and form used by a writer to create effects
- your ability to compare writers' ideas and perspectives, across texts
- your ability to communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively
- the accuracy and effectiveness of your written communication

There is also a separate certificate for Spoken Language, which is assessed through a short speaking exam.

Where could this subject take me?

Success in English Language, as in English Literature, is an advantage when you apply for any future course or employment opportunity. Specialist careers include those in the fields of journalism, law, media, publishing, recruitment and HR and marketing and advertising.

What equipment would I need?

To participate fully in English Language lessons, you will need:

- a pen
- several highlighters of different colours

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Miss C Hartley

GCSE specification: [AQA \(8700\)](#)

English Literature

What will I learn in this subject?

In this subject, which is taught concurrently with English Language, you will experience a range of literary texts – novels, drama and poetry – and will know them in depth. Your lessons will focus on your development as a critical reader and writer, and you will acquire cultural, contextual and technical knowledge alongside the skill of responding analytically to literature. This course will equip you to read widely and with pleasure, and is a fantastic gateway to English Literature at A Level.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (40%):

- *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- Nineteenth century novel

Paper 2 (60%):

- *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding
- Anthology Poetry
- Unseen Poetry

In both papers, you will receive marks for:

- your ability to articulate, and provide evidence for, interpretations of texts
- your ability to analyse the language, structure and form used by a writer to create effects
- your understanding of the relationship between a text and its context
- your written communication.

Where could this subject take me?

Success in English Literature, as in English Language, is an advantage when you apply for any future course or employment opportunity. Specialist careers include those in the fields of journalism, law, media, publishing, recruitment and HR and marketing and advertising.

What equipment would I need?

To participate fully in English Language lessons, you will need:

- a pen
- several highlighters of different colours
- copies of your set texts

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Miss C Hartley

GCSE specification: [AQA \(8702\)](#)

Mathematics

What will I learn in this subject?

The course is designed to develop the skills you learnt in Key Stage 3 alongside learning new skills that will enable you to become successful not only in Mathematics but also in your other subjects.

Throughout your 3 years of Maths at Fitzharrys you will study a range of Maths that will help you develop a firm foundation for appropriate further study. The content of your Maths GCSE is detailed in your Blue Book – the revision guide that you have been creating each lesson since the beginning of year 9.

Mathematics at GCSE looks at 3 main skills:

- Mathematical fluency - can you recall knowledge?
- Mathematical reasoning - can you say why something mathematical has happened?
- Problem solving - break a problem down into bits to find a solution.

You will become confident in your use of mathematics and develop the confidence to use mathematics to tackle problems in the workplace and everyday life.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam counts for one third of your overall mark. The first paper is done without a calculator.

During the course you and your teacher will decide which tier of examination is best for you. There are 2 tiers: Foundation and Higher. Higher Tier covers grades 9,8,7,6,5,4,3, whilst Foundation tier covers grades 5,4,3,2,1.

Where could this subject take me?

A grade 4 or 5 in maths will be seen by many employers and course providers as a minimum requirement and numerous careers such as science and engineering need specific advanced mathematical skills. In addition, there are many more jobs where you will need to be numerate to quite a high standard. Success in maths GCSE will help you progress with your future career regardless of the area of work or study.

What equipment would I need?

We recommend CASIO scientific calculators. These are available in most supermarkets to purchase or online here:

- [CASIO GCSE calculator](#)
- [If you are considering A-Level Maths this calculator is preferable as it has some extra statistical functions](#)

You will also need a Protractor and a Pair of Compasses alongside your standard school equipment. These can be hired from student services for 50p each.



Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mr T Smytherman
GCSE specification: [AQA 8300](#)

Combined Science

What will I learn in this subject?

Science is a core subject, so all students take Science GCSE. Combined Science leads to a qualification that is worth two GCSEs. Students learn about all three of the traditional science subjects - Biology, Chemistry and Physics – hence the name “Combined Science: Trilogy”.

Biology Topics:

1. Cell Biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation, and evolution 7. Ecology

Chemistry Topics:

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure and properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using Earth's resources

Physics Topics:

1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure 5. Forces
6. Magnetism and electromagnetism.

In addition to investigative work that your teacher chooses to give you as part of your learning there are required practicals in each subject throughout the courses that you must complete.

How will I be assessed?

There will be two exams for each of the GCSE subjects studied and these are each 1 hour and 15 minutes long. There is no controlled assessment or coursework, but the required practicals will help you build up your skills and are tested extensively within the exams. The results of the six exams will be added together to provide your overall two GCSE grades.

Where could this subject take me?

Science qualifications are vital for many careers. All medically based careers require Science. Other careers vary from engineering through to hairdressing. There are many opportunities in the local area to work in scientific industries and businesses. This course provides an excellent foundation for both further study and training.

What equipment would I need?

Normal stationary (pens, pencil, ruler, rubber) and a calculator.

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact the Subject Lead teacher: Mr A Easton

GCSE specification: [AQA Combined Science: Trilogy](#)