

LORETO COLLEGE



KEY STAGE 4

2022 - 2024

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Introduction

Our aim at Loreto is to help you achieve your full potential in your studies and in other aspects of school life. You are now approaching a point in your education where you are able to have some choice in the subjects you will study, and we want to help you make confident decision about this.

This booklet provides a brief outline of the subjects we intend to offer in the forthcoming year. Study this information carefully before making any decisions about your future. You might also wish to refer to the subject pages on the school website, which can be accessed via the “curriculum” tab:

<http://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/>

If you have not already done so, start to consider what you hope to achieve in the long-term, and focus on what is right for you personally. It is important that you think about your options seriously and seek out all the helpful advice you can.

The decisions you make about your future must be based on what is right for you personally. Therefore if you are not sure what path you want to take, talk to the adults who know you best, and ask them for advice.

You might also find it helpful to receive some Careers Guidance from Alison Curnow, our Connexions Advisor. If you would like to make an appointment to see her in school, please let your Form Tutor know.

**Mrs M Lynch
Headteacher**

Course Descriptions – Core Subjects

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All pupils take Religious Studies for GCSE. We use the AQA specification. The subject is tested by examination at the end of Year 11, which involves two written papers. Half of the course is a detailed study of Catholic Christianity; the other half is split evenly between Ethics and a study of Judaism. As there are no tiered papers everyone will sit the same exam.

In the Catholic Christianity section, you will study topics such as Creation and the Trinity. You will learn about how Catholicism plays a fundamental role in society, and develop valuable, transferable skills for further study.

You will also learn about the foundations of Judaism, the different festivals and rituals celebrated and the important links with Christianity. You will also learn some important Jewish beliefs and how these are lived out by Jews in Britain today.

For the Themes, you will look at Relationships and Human Rights. Within this you will study Catholic teachings on marriage and issues such as equality. You will also look at the role of charity and the importance of loving your neighbour. All of this will be rooted in Church teaching and linked to views from contemporary British society.

For further information please contact Miss Gilleece.

ENGLISH

All pupils take AQA English Language and AQA English Literature. Both subjects are tested by examination at the end of Year 11. English Language and English Literature each involve two papers. In English Language, the pupils explore different ways to read unseen non-fiction and fiction texts, as well as producing their own creative, descriptive and persuasive writing. There is also a separate Spoken Language element which receives a separate accreditation but does not contribute to the overall English Language grade. Literature includes examination on modern drama, a Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, the AQA Poetry Anthology and unseen poetry response.

For further information please contact Mrs Harris.

Course Descriptions – Core Subjects

MATHEMATICS

All pupils are prepared for the Edexcel GCSE in Mathematics. They are taught in groups according to their ability. Assessment is based on three written examination papers. The written examination papers consist of one non-calculator paper and two in which efficient use of a calculator is expected. The aims of the course are:

- To be able to use and apply mathematics in practical tasks, solving challenging problems and presenting reasoned arguments.
- To feel confident in the use of numbers, using calculators and computer software appropriately, and developing flexibility in mental methods of calculating and estimation.
- To explore relationships through algebra, and to learn how algebra can be used to model real-life situations.
- To explore shape and space through drawing and practical work, and through the use of computer software.
- To formulate questions that can be investigated using statistical methods of analysis, to gain an appreciation of some of the principles which govern random events, and to examine some of the ways in which representations of data can be misleading or inconclusive.

To be successful in Mathematics, pupils' written work needs to be well organised with all calculations clearly set out. They must continue to bring all their mathematical equipment to lessons, and complete all homework on time. Whilst pupils will be taught efficient use of their calculator, they will be encouraged to use mental calculation as much as possible.

For further information please contact Mr Burani.

Course Descriptions – Core Subjects

SCIENCE

In Year 10, students have 5 hours of science teaching each week. Most of our students take GCSE Combined Science which incorporates elements of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, leading to 2 GCSE qualifications. Students who have demonstrated the highest levels of attainment in science to date will take Separate Sciences, attaining 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Further details of all these courses are provided on the school website.

Sets for Year 10 science will be based on each student's performance and attainment scores throughout Year 9 including their end of year assessment. These sets are regularly reviewed throughout the GCSE course. Our decision on setting is focussed on providing each student with a path to attain the highest quality of grades, rather than the most grades.

For further information please contact Mr Carter.

FRENCH

The language taught in Key Stage 4 is French, which builds on the learning which has taken place in Key Stage 3. The Edexcel specification consists of five themes:

- 1: Identity and culture
- 2: Local area, holiday and travel;
- 3: School
- 4: Future aspirations, study and work
- 5: International and global dimension

The four main skills will be examined: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

What are the aims of the course?

To understand, communicate and be able to converse in French, and to learn about the culture of our European neighbours. Having a GCSE in French will be advantageous

Course Descriptions – Core Subjects

on a C.V. It will be of benefit to those interested in careers in travel, management, teaching, law, business, I.T, media and advertising.

What sort of work will you be doing?

A variety: on your own, in pairs and in groups, using ICT, CDs, DVDs and authentic materials to practise the various skills. It is essential to have a dictionary. In order to enhance your skills, it is also essential to read and listen to as much of the language as you can, using online resources as advised. Grammar has become an integral part of the new GCSE curriculum.

Assessment

You will be assessed in all the four skills at the end of Year 11. Each skill will be worth 25% of the total marks available. The new examination has increased emphasis on the culture and identities of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and on an introduction to literary texts. There will also be a requirement to translate from and into the foreign language.

For further information please contact Mrs Fitzsimons.

Enrichment Subjects

As part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum all students will also follow a course in Physical Education and in Careers Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Upper School programme aims to prepare pupils for their future involvement in sport, and to promote the benefits of fitness and a healthy balanced lifestyle. They will follow a health-related exercise programmes as well as continuing with games and athletic activities. Emphasis will be on participation as well as organisational, officiating skills and personal performance. Students will also explore the facilities available to them for sport in their community.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PSHE)

In Key Stage 4 this course includes sessions on study skills, setting goals and careers education. You will also discuss issues such as mental health, stress, well-being and self-esteem. Safe relationships, sexual health, drugs, money management and cyber security are also covered. Students will be helped to assess their personal strengths and to identify interests in relation to their future.

In Year 11 all students have an interview with the school leadership team to help them track their progress and to explore Post-16 options. In Year 11 students will be invited to our Sixth Form Open Evening and will also be given access to impartial advice and guidance about other options open to them

Learning Support

Curriculum Support lessons are offered to students with recognised learning needs. These lessons are undertaken in place of studying French. Students cannot apply for this course - their families will be contacted by the Learning Support Department or Mr Hayes, if we feel that this is the best way forward for them.

In Year 10, students receive one extra Maths and English lesson to help to support their literacy and numeracy skills. In Year 11 students continue with the extra Maths and English lesson and we add an extra Science lesson.

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

(Choose 3)

The majority of students will choose
3* optional subjects.

* A group of students will take 2 optional subjects
and be offered a vocational subject
(this will be discussed with individual students).

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

BUSINESS

Students will study the AQA GCSE Business qualification which is ideal for students who wish to explore real business issues and understand how businesses work. The units provide opportunities to explore theories and concepts in the most relevant way, through the context of events in the business and economic world. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of areas such as internal and external influences on business, business operations, human resources, marketing and finance. The knowledge and skills gained from this qualification will provide a firm foundation for the further study of business.

Assessment will be two written exams sat at the end of Year 11; each is worth 50% and is 1 hour and 45 minutes in length:

- Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity
- Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

For further information please contact Mr Doherty

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Cambridge National in Child Development, Level 1/2
Pupils study three units over two years.

In the first unit pupils will learn about the importance of pre-conception health and how to create a safe environment for children from birth to five years. This will be assessed by an exam.

In the second unit they will investigate and choose equipment that is both suitable and safe for children as well as their nutrition and dietary needs.

In the third unit pupils learn the expected developmental norms for children from one to five years. They will also learn the importance of creating plans and providing different play activities to support children in their development.

Units two and three are assessed by coursework.

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

This course is ideal for pupils who would like to progress to higher level vocational courses.

Please see Mrs Caulfield if you are considering choosing this course as one of your options.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

This subject is available to all students, including those who studied Latin in Years 8 & 9. It focuses on the social history and literature of the Greeks and Romans, but does not involve the study of their languages. As well as featuring the variety of approaches to learning which students will already be familiar with in the Classics department, this course also provides several opportunities to develop confidence in responding to exam-style questions.

You will study these two components and be assessed in both:

- Component 1: Thematic Study
Myth and Religion – 1 hour 30 minutes exam
This includes topics such as the Greek and Roman Gods, Hercules, the foundation of Rome and Athens, death and burial customs and many more.
- Component 2: Literature and Culture
Roman City Life – 1 hour 30 minutes exam
This includes topics such as Roman housing, education, gladiators, chariot racing and literature that comments on society.

Each component counts towards 50% of the final mark. All assessments take place in Year 11.

For further information please contact Miss Vamplew.

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will study OCR GCSE in Computer Science where they will be able to develop a deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions, as well as gain a good grounding in mainstream computing theory and understanding. Computer Science is a very practical subject – students will be able to use the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom on real-world problems. It's also a highly creative subject that calls on learners to be inventive.

Assessment for the qualification includes two written papers. These are sat at the end of Year 11.

Component 1: Computer Systems

This is a written examination which is 1 hour and 30 minutes in length and is worth 50% of the qualification.

Component 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This is a written examination which is 1 hour and 30 minutes in length and is worth 50% of the qualification.

For further information please contact Mr Fryer.

DRAMA

Course Content

Students follow the AQA specification. This includes practical skills in Drama, exploration of social, historical and cultural influences, investigation of plays and other styles of dramatic presentation.

What is Drama G.C.S.E. about?

The course is mainly concerned with the components that go into making Drama. It covers a range of dramatic styles and influences and looks at the ways in which Drama can be used to express and explore ideas.

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

Assessment

The course is comprised of three components:

Component 1 is a written paper, you will sit at the end of Year 11. You will be assessed on your knowledge of theatre roles, subject terminology; your interpretation of the set text and ability to analyse and evaluate live theatre. This constitutes 40% of your GCSE.

Component 2 focuses on your ability to devise and evaluate theatre. You will be assessed on your performance skills, with a maximum of 20 marks awarded. In addition, you will produce a devising log, reflecting on the rehearsal process and evaluating your group's performance and individual contribution.

This is worth 60 marks. Component 2 constitutes 30% of your GCSE.

Component 3 is entirely practical. You perform an extract from a play. You will be assessed on your performance skills and ability to adopt a particular performance style, thus fulfilling playwright's artistic intentions. This will contribute towards 30% of your final GCSE grade.

Do I need experience in Drama to take this option?

There is no need for you to have studied Drama previously. Commitment and enthusiasm are essential and you should be prepared to give up some of your own time for additional group rehearsals. You must also be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities offered to see productions both locally and in London.

For further information please contact Mrs Ireland.

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

FINE ART AND ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

These 2 separate GCSEs are different endorsements from the same Edexcel specification; therefore you must opt for one or the other. Both courses follow exactly the same structure and are designed to encourage self-expression and creativity through a number of individual projects. Students are given the opportunity to work on their own lines of enquiry and to develop strong independent learning skills that are essential for higher education in any subject. Assessment is through coursework (60%) and a final practical exam (40%).

Students will use a wide range of media and processes on both courses; the Fine Art students will focus more on traditional techniques such as drawing, painting and printmaking, whereas Art Craft and Design students will also cover these in the first term, alongside ceramics, a range of stitched textile processes and RM techniques, including computer aided design, pyrography and precious metal clay. All students will partake in a trip to Childwickbury Art Fair at the end of Year 10, giving them the opportunity to talk to professional artists working across a wide range of disciplines and observe the standard and diversity of products on offer.

Students choosing GCSE Fine Art or Art, Craft & Design should be enthusiastic about the subject, keen to explore their own creativity and willing to try new things!

For further information please contact Miss Cooke.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and challenging course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. The course encourages practical cookery skills but also gives students a strong understanding of nutrition and the science behind cooking processes.

It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

The main core topics include food, nutrition and health, science, safety, choice and provenance. Assessment: 50% written paper, 50% practical and investigation. The course qualifies students to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

For further information please contact Miss Cooke.

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography GCSE course is an exciting and relevant course which studies both human and physical themes. It allows students to investigate the link between the two themes, and approach and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds.

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, Higher Income Countries, Newly Emerging Economies and Lower Income Countries. Topics of study are broad, varied and most importantly relevant to the world today and the challenges the future of our planet faces; from climate change to global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Living with the Physical Environment

This unit explores:

- Natural hazards including earthquakes, volcanoes and hurricanes.
- Extreme weather in the UK.
- Climate change.
- Physical landscapes including Rivers and Coasts.
- The living world including Tropical Rainforests and Cold Environments such as The Arctic and Antarctica.

Challenges of the Human Environment

This unit explores:

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

- Urban issues and challenges faced by Rio de Janeiro and London.
- The changing economic world including ways to reduce the development gap and the changing economies of Nigeria and the UK.
- Resource management and the problems of managing food, water or energy, with a particular focus on energy.

Fieldwork

Pupils will undertake 2 pieces of fieldwork during the course, one based on urban areas and one on coastal areas.

For further information please contact Mrs Mason-Clark.

HISTORY

Students will follow the new GCSE History syllabus. This course covers the major world events of the twentieth century and some of the great changes that took place in British society.

Students must study the content of two Papers. Paper 1 and 2 are both assessed in exams at the end of Year 11. There is **no coursework or Controlled Assessment**.

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

This Paper helps students understand key developments and events in modern world history.

- *America 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality*
- *Conflict between East and West, 1945-1972*

Paper 2: Shaping the nation

This Paper enables students to understand key developments and events in the history of Britain.

- *Britain: Health and the people c1000 to the present day*
- *Elizabethan England, c1568-1603 (this includes a Depth Study of an historic site connected to Elizabethan England)*

For further information please contact Mr Hough.

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

LATIN

This subject is only available to pupils who have studied Latin in Year 9. Next year you will continue to use the Cambridge Latin Course, following the fortunes of Quintus and Salvius, and meeting new characters too. These stories are used to introduce new language features, and by the end of Year 10 you will be ready to study genuine Latin passages such as poems, stories and letters, all written around 2,000 years ago by some of the greatest Roman authors; for instance, you will be able to learn about the trials and tribulations of a man called Aeneas, as he seeks a new destiny after the Trojan War.

So that you will fully understand the culture that produced this literature, you will also continue to study some aspects of Roman life, learning about topics such as science and medicine, Roman Britain, the Roman Army, and the city of Rome.

You will sit three exams at the end of Y11:

- Latin Language – 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 50% of the final mark
- Prose Literature – 1 hour, worth 25% of the final mark
- Latin Verse Literature – 1 hour, worth 25% of the final mark

For further information please contact Miss Vamplew.

MUSIC

Course Content

We follow the Edexcel specification. This covers the musical skills of performing, composing and listening.

Assessment

The course is divided into 3 papers, with 60% of the course being teacher assessed and 40% marked externally.

Paper 1 is worth 30% and is based on performing skills.

Paper 2 is worth 30% and is based on composing skills.

Paper 3 is worth 40% and is a Written Listening exam which is taught by exploring various topics ranging from *Wicked's Defying Gravity* to the *Theme from Star Wars* to *Beethoven*.

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

Would I enjoy G.C.S.E. Music?

If you have a genuine interest and passion for music and like to compose and/or perform then this course is right for you. Music GCSE is a varied course and allows everyone to play to their strengths and enjoy being creative in lesson time. However, although music is an enjoyable subject you must work consistently hard to achieve a good result. We also do expect anyone that takes music GCSE to participate in one of our extra-curricular activities.

What could I do next with G.C.S.E. Music?

Having music as a GCSE will naturally be a fantastic preparation for further musical study such as Music a level, however it can just be taken for its own sake as it demonstrates that you have developed good creative thinking skills and performance skills. With music at GCSE you can go into any career, but it does particularly lead into music careers like, Music publishing, Record production, Music management, Sound engineering, Music therapy, teaching and wider media jobs.

For further information please contact Mrs Carter.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We will be following the OCR course which is delivered through both practical and theoretical lessons. GCSE Physical Education can help your learning in other subjects, increase teamwork and leadership skills, keep you active and is desirable in many career options, for example: **Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology, Teaching, Sports Ergonomics, Sports Journalism, Personal Trainer, Sports and Leisure Industry, Tourism Industry, Events Management, National Governing Bodies and Sports Councils e.g. Sport England.**

Do you already take part in competitive sport outside of school or in school?

Do you want to find out more about how the body moves and how it allows you to take part in physical activity or sport?

Are you interested in knowing more about the psychological and sociocultural impacts on sports performance?

Course Descriptions – Optional Subjects

If any of these apply to you or you have a genuine interest in Physical Education and enjoy the subject, then this is the course for you.

How is the examination split into practical and theory?

The practical examination is worth 40% of the G.C.S.E. Students are marked on their performance, knowledge and understanding in 3 chosen activities. There must be one team, one individual and one other activity. We offer netball, trampolining, athletics and tennis but it is also possible to include an activity that is performed outside of school to a high standard e.g. swimming, horse riding, hockey and football etc. They will also be required to write a controlled assessment on analysing performance.

The theory examination is worth 60% of the G.C.S.E. marks and consists of two papers (both 30%) which are taken in the summer of Year 11. This involves anatomy and physiology, physical training, socio-cultural influences, sports psychology and health, fitness and well-being.

It must be stressed that participation in extracurricular activity is an essential part of this course.

For further information please contact Miss Lynch.