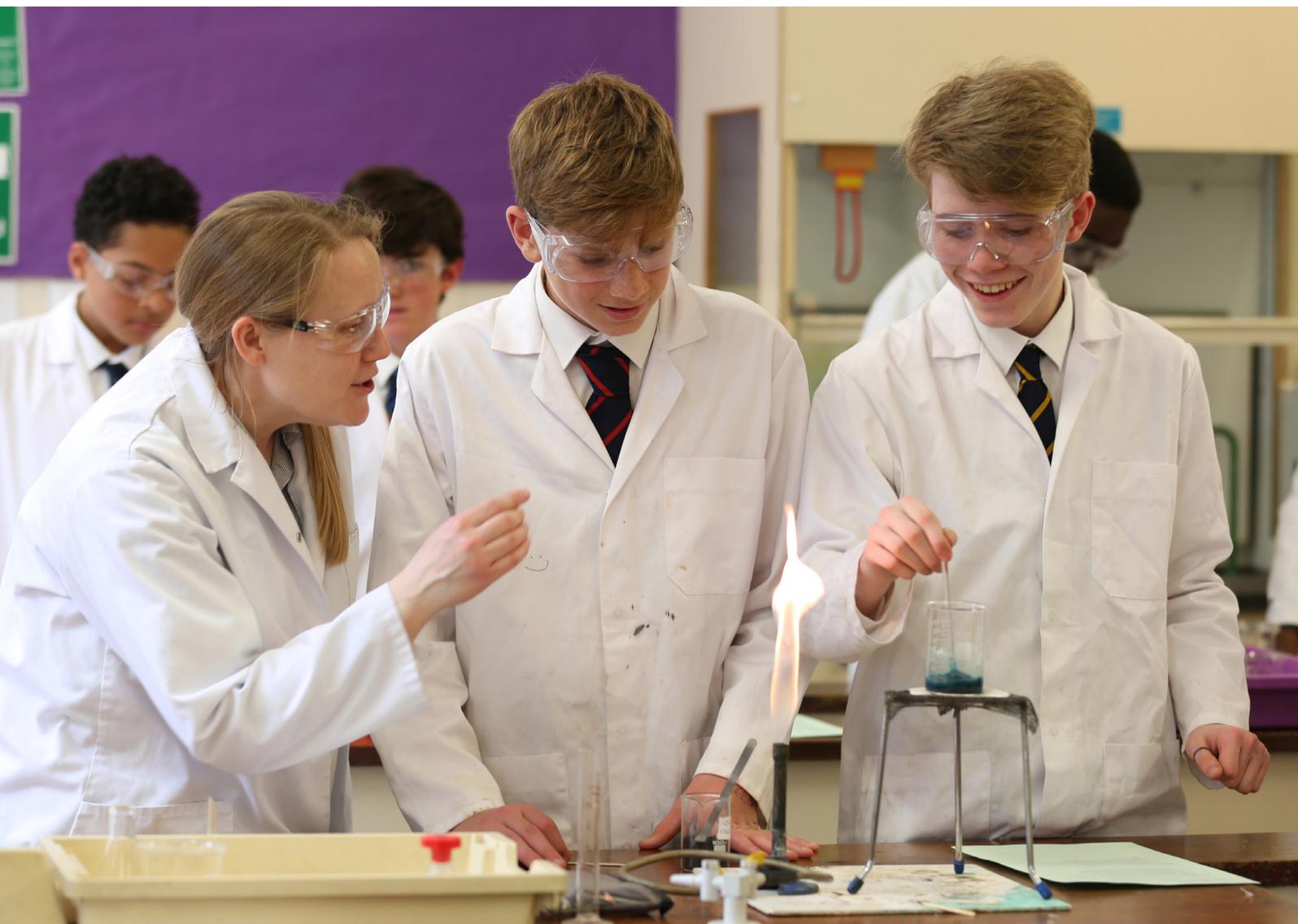


# GCSE OPTIONS

Each day, discovery.



ELTHAM COLLEGE





# Choosing your options for GCSE

Each day, discovery.



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## INTRODUCTION

When you begin your GCSE studies the time needed to pursue subjects to sufficient depth makes it impossible to continue with all subjects, however much you would like to do so. At Eltham College we hope to allow you to learn a broad range of subjects, whilst recognising that the real time for specialising will be in two years' time, when A level choices are made.

For Years 10 and 11 most of you will need to strike a balance between specialising and keeping your options open. The advice contained in this booklet, and the constraints we place on your choices, are intended to help you make these decisions.

We hope our students will achieve:

- Enthusiastic, enquiring and informed minds.
- Excellent communication in written and spoken English as well as at least one foreign language and thorough mathematical and scientific expression.
- Confidence in self-expression and aesthetic appreciation.
- Individual excellence through the pursuit of sporting, recreational and cultural activities.
- Moral and spiritual values within a Christian environment, and tolerance of others' views.
- A balance between the various areas of learning, to inform choices about further study.
- A continuous and progressive acquisition of knowledge and concepts, and a development of skills and attitudes.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Provide a rich educational environment which encourages everyone to excel.
- Create carefully defined schemes of work which allow for differentiation of teaching matched to the abilities of the students.
- Enable students to develop their special interests up to and beyond GCSE with a view to A level courses.

## FORTHCOMING DEADLINES

This booklet is issued now to provide you with the information you need to enable you to select your GCSE options, after careful consideration and discussion.

On **Thursday 10 January 2019**, there is a Parents' Evening at the College. The aim of this Parents' Evening is to answer any questions you may have about the subjects on offer and your suitability to take them. Teachers, Form Tutors and the Middle School pastoral team will be available to help with any issues you may have at this stage and in the following weeks.

After the Parents' Evening we will ask you to make your choice of the option subjects using the GCSE Options Form. This form will be sent out prior to the Parents' Evening and must be completed and submitted no later than **Thursday 17 January 2019**. The timetable for next year will be put together based on the choice you provide at this stage. Later changes are possible only if they can be accommodated within the sets allocated, after the initial choices are made.

## CURRICULUM OPTIONS

We aim to offer a broad curriculum and encourage students to choose subjects in addition to the core subjects of Biology, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Physics according to their aptitude and interests. In order to encourage this we ask that students choose four optional subjects, including at least one Language, one Humanity and two additional subjects.

### Humanities

One from: Geography, History or Religious Studies

### Languages

One from: French, German, Latin, Mandarin or Spanish

### Additional Subjects

Two further choices from: Art, Computing, Drama, DT, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Mandarin, Music, Religious Studies and Spanish\*

\*A maximum of two Modern Languages may be chosen, Latin does not count as a Modern Language.

In addition, students will continue to be given study skills advice, follow a supra-curriculum programme with an emphasis on wellbeing and life skills, and have PE and Games lessons, none of which are examined.



# Reports, grades and feedback

## REPORTING PROGRESS

The progress of all students is formally assessed around five times a year, consisting of a mixture of grades, reports and Parents' Evenings. At the start of Year 10 each student is given a Challenge Grade for each subject they are studying. The Challenge Grade is the grade that a student could realistically be expected to aspire to, with consistently strong application. We then report progress against this target throughout the GCSE course with On Track to Achieve grades.

The On Track to Achieve background is coloured to indicate progress, as follows:

Blue	The On Track to Achieve grade is above the Challenge Grade.
Green	The On Track to Achieve grade is the same as the Challenge Grade.
Red	The On Track to Achieve grade is below the Challenge Grade.

In the case of a red grade, a short formative comment is provided to advise how progress can be improved.

Every time we communicate progress home we take time and care to discuss this with students. We set aside a full week of pastoral time every half term for the Form Tutor to discuss progress and targets with each student individually. This allows us to help the student act on the information provided by teachers, in order to make as much individual progress as possible.

Full written reports with longer comments are sent home once a year and there is one Parents' Evening in Year 10, followed by two Parents' Evenings in Year 11. The first Year 11 Parents' Evening concentrates on mock results and subject choices for the Sixth Form, whilst the second concentrates on final preparations approaching Easter.

## NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE

You may be aware that the Government has undertaken the process of reforming GCSE specifications and that this has included changing the grade structure from A\* to G, to 9 to 1. The examination boards have also decided to extend these changes to IGCSE qualifications. The whole process has been phased in over a period of three years and, as a consequence, students will now receive a number grade for their (I)GCSE results.

Entry to the Sixth Form at Eltham College requires a minimum of 6 GCSE grades at Grade 7 or equivalent, with a minimum of a 7 grade in the subject your son might wish to study for A level, where applicable.

New Grading Structure	Previous Grading Structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C

# GCSE Results Summary

## RECENT GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT

Some students have asked for recent subject grades, which are given below. Students should, nonetheless, choose subjects that they enjoy and are good at, and not be overly guided by previous results.

Subject	2018 Percentages			3 Year Rolling Average Percentages 16/17/18		
	A*	A*-A	A*-B	A*	A*-A	A*-B
Art	47.4	57.9	100.0	37.2	62.8	93.0
Biology	53.3	86.7	96.7	66.8	89.7	98.1
Chemistry	60.3	87.9	98.3	49.5	85.2	97.6
Computing	30.4	91.3	95.7	36.1	81.9	97.2
DT	20.0	80.0	100.0	30.0	82.5	97.5
Drama	36.4	77.3	100.0	25.9	67.2	93.1
English Language	80.3	91.5	100.0	56.1	91.2	100.0
English Literature	56.3	85.9	95.8	45.2	84.5	98.3
French	44.0	92.0	100.0	55.8	86.3	95.8
Geography	78.4	88.2	94.1	60.4	90.7	96.7
German	16.7	58.3	79.2	33.8	68.9	91.9
History	60.0	74.0	90.0	41.9	78.4	94.6
Latin	50.0	87.5	100.0	70.7	80.5	100.0
Mandarin	85.7	100.0	100.0	87.5	100.0	100.0
Mathematics	81.7	90.1	95.8	74.6	92.5	98.3
Music	75.0	91.7	100.0	52.4	92.9	100.0
Physics	57.4	93.4	96.7	63.1	88.8	97.2
RS	44.8	83.6	94.0	52.3	87.5	95.5
Science	40.0	60.0	90.0	16.0	56.0	88.0
Additional Science	30.0	40.0	80.0	16.0	40.0	88.0
Spanish	62.5	87.5	100.0	38.8	75.5	91.8
Turkish	0.0	100.0	100.0			
<b>GCSE Totals</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>94.8</b>

# Core subjects

## BIOLOGY

The IGCSE Biology course gives students an excellent understanding of biological facts, concepts and principles. We aim to sustain and develop an enjoyment of, and interest in, the study of living organisms. In addition, the processes involved in the scientific method are taught and assessed. Both components give students an excellent foundation for A level Biology. We are keen to stretch and challenge our students during their time studying Biology. We aim to foster their ability for students to think for themselves so that they are more able to tackle the applied nature of the examination questions and become good scientists. The teaching of theory is frequently complemented with carrying out practical experiments. Here students can hone their practical skills and gain practice in considering how experiments need to be conducted. The course also enables students to evaluate and the benefits and drawbacks of modern scientific developments in Biology.

In IGCSE Biology topics studied include the Nature and Variety of Living Organisms, Structures and Functions in Living Organisms, Reproduction and Inheritance, Ecology and the Environment, and the Use of Biological Resources.

We believe that this framework provides our students with a challenging and inspiring course which will provide them with an informed interest in matters of biological importance and also act as a springboard should they wish to continue with their studies to A level.

Website Link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Biology](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Biology)

## CHEMISTRY

Through the study of Chemistry students develop a greater understanding of how many of the phenomena in the world around us can be explained through a few key chemical concepts. It is vitally important to adopt a course which challenges students to improve their ability to think and work scientifically and to develop an appreciation of Chemistry; in the modern world, in industry and within the school laboratory.

We follow the AQA Chemistry specification (8462), which has a strong emphasis on both practical and mathematical skills. These skills are essential to being able to work scientifically and will be developed throughout the course of the GCSE. The course approaches the subject in a similar way to the new Chemistry A level, thereby allowing a smooth transition for students wishing to take the subject in the Sixth Form and providing an informative and stimulating 'end course' for those who do not wish to pursue the subject further.

The following areas of Chemistry are studied; atomic structure and the Periodic table, structure and bonding and the properties of materials, chemical changes, energy changes in chemistry, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, analysis, chemical and allied industries, earth and atmospheric chemistry.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Chemistry](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Chemistry)

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

English Language and English Literature equips students with skills necessary for future success in school, university and life. The two GCSEs explore reading strategies and writing skills, through creative exploration of a number of text types.

Students from Year 9 onwards begin to hone the skills which will ultimately be examined at the end of Year 11. The students study the Literature and Language courses concurrently and will gain two discrete GCSE results, graded from 9-1.

The exam courses test a variety of imaginative and transactional writing skills as well as close reading skills. Across the examined paper and coursework for English Language, the students will learn to read and interpret non-fiction texts such as extracts from newspaper articles and autobiographical essays and will write their own letters and stories. Here they have the chance to show off their impressive vocabularies and ability to manipulate ideas to suit a variety of audiences and purposes. The Literature paper and coursework celebrate prose, poetry and drama and range from the classical to the contemporary.

With a rich array of text choice and task variety students enjoy their English lessons, learn vital skills in communication and develop a life-long appreciation of language and literature.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/English](http://www.elthamcollege.london/English)

## MATHEMATICS

Students follow the Edexcel IGCSE in Mathematics at Higher Tier. This course provides a solid basis for students wishing to progress to Edexcel Advanced GCE level, or equivalent qualifications, whilst remaining accessible to those who do not wish to pursue Mathematics at a higher level. Much of the work is an extension and elaboration of topics already encountered in Years 7 to 9; arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and statistics.

The course will enable students to:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques.
- Acquire a foundation of mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas.
- Enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident in using mathematics to solve problems.
- Appreciate the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

All students take the examination at the end of Year 11. The terminal examination consists of two two-hour papers of equal weight. There is no coursework requirement and calculators can be used in both papers. All students will be targeting a minimum of Grade 7 level performance in this examination.

Website Link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Mathematics](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Mathematics)

## ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

Students who are in Set 1 in Year 9 will commence study of the IGCSE course in Year 9. This will enable them to prepare for the OCR Additional Mathematics course in Year 11, taking the examination for this alongside the IGCSE examination.

The OCR Additional Mathematics syllabus, is examined in a single two-hour paper and leads to the award of a Free Standing Mathematics Qualification. There is no coursework requirement. The work is at a higher level than IGCSE and acts as a suitable, though not essential, bridge to A level study in Mathematics. The examination has pass grades of A–E. A student achieving Grade 9 at IGCSE and grade A in Additional Mathematics will have demonstrated considerable mathematical talent. This course has four principal components; algebra, co-ordinate geometry, trigonometry and calculus. Within this framework topics of Applied Mathematics are developed; probability, linear programming and kinematics.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Mathematics](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Mathematics)

## PHYSICS

From Year 9 to Year 11 the students follow the rigorous Edexcel IGCSE specification in Physics. This qualification is designed to stretch students while developing their interest and giving them a firm foundation in the subject should they choose to continue it to A level. It also links very closely with the skills that they will develop in Mathematics.

The course is strongly practical in emphasis, providing an excellent opportunity to hone investigative and practical skills in order to develop confident experimental Physicists as well as developing general practical skills useful outside of Physics.

The most recent specification is tailored to ensure that it is more compatible than ever with the recently overhauled A levels course, and enables students to evaluate, in terms of their knowledge and understanding, the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments. It also addresses 'How Science Works' which is a feature of the A level. It contains both traditional and thoroughly modern and relevant physics.

The areas of physics studied include: Forces & Motion, Astrophysics & Cosmology, Electricity, Waves, Energy, States of Matter, Electromagnetism, Radioactivity and Particles.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Physics](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Physics)

# Optional subjects

We aim to offer a broad curriculum and encourage students to choose subjects in addition to the core subjects of Biology, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Physics according to their aptitude and interests. In order to encourage this we ask that students choose four optional subject, including at least one Language, one Humanity and two additional subjects.

## Humanities

One from: Geography, History or Religious Studies

## Languages

One from: French, German, Latin, Mandarin or Spanish

## Additional Subjects

Two further choices from: Art, Computing, Drama, DT, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Mandarin, Music, Religious Studies and Spanish\*

\*A maximum of two Modern Languages may be chosen, Latin does not count as a Modern Language.

## HUMANITIES

### GEOGRAPHY

*'Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future'* – Michael Palin

Climate change, migration, environmental degradation, inequality, energy security and flooding are just some of the challenges facing the next generation, which geographers must help address. Geography is a highly valued subject in schools, in Higher Education and in the workplace.

At Eltham College, Year 10 and 11 Geographers follow the Edexcel IGCSE Geography course. There are two papers to the two-year course which are all assessed at the end of the course in June of Year 11. The Human Geography paper has a larger weighting and covers rural environments, urban environments and global issues. The Physical Geography paper covers rivers and coastal environments. Both sections will be assessed through a variety of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions which helps to develop many skills.

Although there is no controlled assessment, we use the four-day residential fieldtrip Dorset to develop investigative skills throughout a number of interesting rural and urban locations. During this trip we look at factors that help shape the 'Jurassic Coastline', features of a sand dune ecosystem on Studland Bay, changing nature of rural settlements and characteristics and changing nature of Bournemouth CBD. Fieldwork is integral to the enquiry process that underpins the qualification – and there is no doubt that good and regular fieldwork motivates learners and enhances their understanding of geography. Fieldwork and enquiry skills will be developed including designing a fieldwork investigation, undertaking a field investigation, the need for sampling, data collection and recording techniques. This will enable students to build on their

presentation, analysis, conclusions and evaluation skills when reporting outcomes.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Geography](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Geography)

### HISTORY

Studying modern history is vital to understanding the shape and complexity of the contemporary world. The History course in Year 10 and Year 11 tackles some of the major historical questions and controversies of the twentieth century, allowing students the chance to immerse themselves in the fascination patchwork of events, individuals and wars that transformed the globe after 1919.

From 2019, GCSE students at Eltham will follow the Cambridge IGCSE syllabus, concentrating on International Relations (1919-1989) in Year 10, and Germany (1918-1945) in Year 11. We consider the impact of the peace treaties following the Great War, how these contributed to another conflict just a generation later, and how this in turn led to the emergence and development of the Cold War. A visit to Berlin in the Summer term of Year 10 broadens students' understanding of these aspects. In the 'depth' study the following year, students investigate the complexities of Weimar and Nazi Germany, considering how the horrors of 1930s Europe came into being. Students also undertake an extended coursework essay in Year 11, engaging with a major historical question that has provoked debate amongst historians. Discussion and debate, source analysis, and independent reading all lie at the heart of our exploration of the GCSE topics throughout the two-year course.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/History](http://www.elthamcollege.london/History)

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Students follow the WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies specification. This course consists of three components of assessment; religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world, study of Christianity and study of a world faith – Islam. The course encourages students to become religiously literate and understand the role, place and function of religion in the world today. It develops a sense of understanding to include empathetic understanding of the multi-faceted phenomena that religion is. The course is also designed to build upon the natural curiosity of students about ultimate questions and to help them be able to think constructively about such questions. This is good preparation for the A level Religious Studies course which explores such philosophical and ethical questions.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Religious-Studies](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Religious-Studies)

## LANGUAGES

### FRENCH

Students will have studied French since Year 7 at least and perhaps before. They may also have taken part in the French exchange visit to Laval-Paris. Therefore, they may well feel most familiar with French and quite possibly it has helped lay the foundations rather quickly, of the other languages that they have started to study. Over the next two years, students will learn to express themselves with increased confidence, fluency and creativity, as they broaden vocabulary and grammatical understanding. This gives more independence than before, using French to really express what you want to say. French remains the second most taught foreign language worldwide and with over 300,000 francophones living in London, proficiency in French is a distinct advantage particularly for anyone planning on a career in finance or an international organisation.

Visiting France is an excellent way to practise what you have learnt, improve and discover the country for yourself; we therefore usually offer a study trip for Year 11. This trip may just be for Year 11 or sometimes it involves Sixth Form students too.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/French](http://www.elthamcollege.london/French)

### GERMAN

Some people are suited to German because of its phonetic spelling. In fact, it is far more similar to English than many people may realise and its pronunciation makes it a surprisingly straightforward language to master for the English native speaker. Germany remains our closest and most important European trading partner, as well as the country which holds the power within the European Union. During the IGCSE course, students are encouraged to travel to Germany to spend time learning the language and the department usually organises a Year 11 study trip to a language school in Berlin.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/German](http://www.elthamcollege.london/German)

### LATIN

Students who choose to student Latin for GCSE will be following the OCR board through Years 10 and 11. The syllabus aims to consolidate and build upon the vocabulary and grammar studied in Years 7-9, as well as introducing new grammatical constructions and syntax. Towards the end of Year 10 and into Year 11, the focus will be on Latin literature within its historical context.

The course follows the Latin to GCSE books by John Taylor, which students will be familiar with from Year 9. These introduce new constructions and vocabulary at a gentle pace, along with relevant cultural aspects and historical detail. This lays the foundation for the literature texts which form a significant part of the GCSE. Students will study a combination of verse and prose authors, exploring stories in the original Latin text. Popular authors include Virgil, Ovid and Propertius. We will read these texts together, exploring the

historical and cultural background of the authors, and discussing key literary styles and rhetorical techniques. Students will then learn to develop their own personal responses to these ancient works.

The Latin GCSE offers a broad and exciting exploration into the history, culture and literature of Ancient Rome. By reading poetry written over 2,000 years ago, and learning about the lives of these great ancient authors, students are given the opportunity to understand the importance of language and literature in a historical context and to observe the development of literary styles and genres over time. Beyond the course, there will also be educational trips to local museums and exhibitions, as well as a residential trip to Italy or Greece.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Classics](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Classics)

### MANDARIN

Mandarin Chinese is recommended for confident students who have studied Mandarin continuously in the Senior School. In Year 10 and onwards we will focus on a wider context with more elaborate language elements, as well as preparing for the Edexcel GCSE examination with the new specification which is taken in Year 11.

It is a valuable and important skill to be able to read and write Chinese characters from memory as well as to communicate fluently in Mandarin Chinese. This is what we aim for students to achieve at the end of the course. All exam questions, across all four language skills, are set in common context addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes; identity and culture; local area, holiday and travel; school; future aspirations, study and work; international and global dimension.

China has become one of the strongest economies in the world and in recent years there has been an increased demand for bilingual Mandarin Chinese speakers in the workplace.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Mandarin-Chinese](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Mandarin-Chinese)

### SPANISH

Spanish is a romance language, which means that it is a direct descendant of Latin. Therefore, the early stages of Spanish will come more easily to students who have had some years of studying Latin and French (another romance language). The GCSE course moves at a quick pace and assumes language-learning techniques from studies in other languages has been grasped. Spanish, together with English, is the most spoken language internationally. Spoken widely across the globe, especially in the USA and in Central and South America, there are over 450 million speakers. It is a language of business, politics, adventure and revolution. During the three year course of study, there is opportunity to take part in a number of visits to Spanish speaking countries, as well as experience the significant Spanish culture on our doorstep in London.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Spanish](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Spanish)



# Optional subjects

## ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

### ART

Students study a two year AQA Fine Art GCSE course, which allows them to experiment with a variety media, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies. There is the option to work in a few areas of Fine Art such as painting and drawing, mixed media, sculpture, land art, installation, printmaking and lens-based media. The course allows the students to extend their skills and understanding in the subject through experimentation and exploring the work of other artists.

The Art department is well-resourced with materials, equipment and a substantial art library supporting students to pursue their own interests as artists. All the teachers in the department are practising artists and they encourage students to be creative and to become confident to work independently. There is a strong emphasis on being experimental and learning how to refine and sustain skills and creative ideas as well as being able to problem-solve and to draw ideas and skills to a conclusion.

The course is split with the majority of time spent on the coursework component which is worth 60% of the overall grade and which is made up of project work developed over the two years. The coursework supports the students to prepare for the externally set task which is a project set in early January of Year 11.

Website Link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Art](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Art)

### COMPUTING

This course will prepare students for the AQA GCSE in Computer Science, a syllabus chosen because of its contemporary content, its practical approach to mastering programming and the excellent grounding it provides for the further study of this exciting subject.

Through regular “hands-on” sessions in our well-equipped computer suites those following the course will discover how to develop and test code that is both readily maintained and fault tolerant. The theory that underpins the operation of hardware and software and the all-important ethical and security implications of emerging technologies will also be explored.

The qualification is assessed through a combination of two written examinations and a practical programming task completed, during lesson time, in Year 11.

While the course has an obvious attraction for anyone considering a career in the Software Industry, the Sciences or Engineering, the nature of the intellectual demands it imposes on the learner will be beneficial in all areas of further study. Failure to equip oneself with the knowledge and understanding revealed through a course such as this would leave a student with a significant handicap when entering university or employment in a world where mastery, rather than mere familiarity, of a computer is increasingly the norm.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Computing-and-ICT](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Computing-and-ICT)

### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Students choosing Design and Technology will follow the newly introduced AQA Design and Technology (8552) specification. Year 10 and Year 11 students will cover a range of industrially relevant and enhanced content in this qualification, which is intended to steer them into fields such as design, engineering and architecture.

They will broaden their subject knowledge gained during Year 7 to 9 and the greater emphasis this specification brings to the iterative design process. Students will use their creativity and imagination to apply their learning to solve real and relevant problems, which allows them to carefully consider their own and others’ needs and values.

The course utilises the department’s impressive facilities, with sector leading Computer Aided Design (CAD), Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) and rapid prototyping functionality. All students undertaking the course are taken through the evolution of modern design and manufacturing and how products are realised. They gain a thorough understanding of the design process and use the materials available to them to fabricate production ready prototypes, in their second year of the course.

The new specification has been designed to steer the students effectively into the new A level Product Design course, where they are able to build their understanding of the subject further in readiness for higher education.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Design-and-Technology](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Design-and-Technology)

### DRAMA

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Through following this specification, students will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others’ drama.

Students will investigate different theatrical practitioners and genres of drama, work collaboratively to develop ideas to communicate meaning and experiment with dramatic conventions, forms and techniques. During the course they will produce and realise a piece of original theatre as well as participating in the performance of two extracts from a play text. Students will also demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama, including their ability to interpret texts for performance, in a written examination. However, in preparation for this assessment, they will study their chosen text practically as a performer, designer and director.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Drama](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Drama)

### MUSIC

From Year 10 to 11 students who choose to study Music follow the Edexcel GCSE specification. This course encourages students to form personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of their musical knowledge, understanding and skills.

Students have to perform at least two pieces, one of which must be part of an ensemble, therefore students who choose GCSE Music must be confident instrumentalists or singers. The entry requirement for the course is Grade 3 standard and students are expected to be at least Grade 4 standard by the end of the course. Students learn about compositional techniques and write music in a variety of styles, related to the main areas of study, before submitting two compositions. While the set works allow students to learn in-depth appraising skills and incorporate features they have identified in their own compositions, wider listening materials build transferrable appraising skills ensuring that students are able to apply the skills developed to pieces they have not studied. Throughout the GCSE Music course students are encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, develop an understanding of the role of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities. Our ambition is to support and encourage students continuing Music from the Lower School to excel at GCSE and beyond.

Website link: [www.elthamcollege.london/Music](http://www.elthamcollege.london/Music)

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