

CURRICULUM PATHWAYS 2017-2020



Moir House
Girls School
EASTBOURNE

GCSE CHOICES

Moira House Curriculum Pathways 2017-2020

This booklet is designed to give you all the information you need about the courses you will follow in year 9, 10, and 11. Some of the courses are compulsory, and are known as 'core' subjects; others you can choose to study and these are called 'option' subjects.

Starting GCSEs in year 9 will allow more time to be spent on developing the key skills needed to ensure that every student reaches their full potential.

We provide considerable support to help our students with making their choices. The decision on GCSE subject choices is made at the end of the Spring Term in year 8. Year 8 personal tutors will have discussed potential career paths and option choices well ahead of the final decision. The Head of Seniors and Head of Upper Prep will also work with the girls using an outline carers programme to help with decisions.

Making Your Decision

Choosing subjects you want to study in year 9, 10 and 11 takes time and needs careful thought. Parents, Tutors, Teachers, your friends and careers advisors will all help with the decisions.

It is useful to do some research. A good starting point is to ask yourself some of the following questions:

- Which subjects do you like now?
- Is there a career that attracts you?

When considering your options, choose subjects that:

- You are most likely to work enthusiastically in and succeed at.
- You think you will enjoy and you feel you are good at.
- Provide balance and variety. By keeping balance at this stage, you will not close off future options.
- You may need for your future education and/or career path.

Gather as much information as you can:

- Do talk to parents, subject teachers, your personal tutor, older students
- Do opt for a balanced choice of subjects to keep open future career
- Do choose subjects you enjoy
- Don't choose a subject because you like a particular teacher (or avoid a subject because you dislike a teacher). You may well have a different teacher next year
- Don't choose a subject because your friends are choosing it.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is not another qualification but a mechanism for identifying students who achieve pass grades in a collection of highly valued subjects:

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- English
- Mathematics
- The sciences
- Humanities
- A modern foreign language

This combination of subjects is becoming increasingly important. They are part of the Russell Group 'facilitating subjects' at post-16, and if university is your goal then we would strongly recommend these subjects. However we do not enforce it at Moira House, when it is not in the best interest of the student, noting the Governments advice in, 'The Importance of Teaching,

The English Baccalaureate will only be one measure of performance, and should not be the limit of schools' ambitions for their pupils. Schools will retain the freedom to innovate and offer the GCSEs, IGCSEs and other qualifications that best meet the needs of their pupils

Curriculum Pathways and Supported Pathways

A pathway is the range of subjects that a pupil will follow. Each pathway will be linked to the strengths and interests of each girl whilst maintaining a broad and balanced view. Some pathways will offer additional support, for example an increased focus on English rather than studying a foreign language. Some will follow enrichment routes for example, triple science and the Higher Project Qualification.

Girls who are non-native speakers English follow a pathway of EAL support based on an assessment of skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Core Subject

English – Students will study English Language and English Literature

Mathematics – Students follow routes appropriate to their ability

Science – Triple, Double and single Science awards will be offered. The most appropriate route will be discussed and selected during year 9.

Religious Education & PHSE – A course exploring 'Philosophy and Ethics' together with lessons designed to enhance awareness of personal, social and health related issues. This course is not external examined.

Core PE – An opportunity for students to be active and learn a range of sports and skills.

Moira House has successfully delivered the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) for many years to our sixth form students. It is well received by students and by Universities they apply to. We are now going to offer the Higher Project Qualification from September 2017 to girls who are academically able to take on this rigorous, interesting qualification. The HPQ is a level 2 qualification, equivalent to a GCSE.

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
AQA		

3D Design

All the Art and Design subjects develop creativity, problem solving, independence of thought and critical thinking. We believe that anybody can be taught to draw and paint and the course structure allows for practical skill building as well as fostering intellectual development.

Adrian Cooper, Head of Visual Arts and Technology.

The GCSE course is primarily concerned with learning to think and to create in 3 dimensions, It encourages self-expression and the ability to observe, select and interpret with imagination, feeling and understanding. A wide range of practical skills and techniques are covered (with the relevant theory) such as modelling, working with wood and plastics using traditional and CAD/CAM techniques, metalwork, casting, mechanics/electronics and virtual design. Students are encouraged to adopt a personal and experimental approach to the development of their ideas and meaningful studies of contemporary and historical artistic and craft achievements are central to this process. Students undertake a series of projects that allow them to explore and investigate ideas and processes; we encourage them to set their own themes, as we believe that creative ownership of their work has a profound effect on the quality of their results. We are very proud of our students' achievements.

What topics are covered?

Year 10: Two coursework projects: the first being more skills and observational drawing based, the second focuses more on concepts and personal discovery. Year 11: One coursework project: students have a range of themes to choose from. Externally set assignment: timed exam based on a theme set by AQA.

Which subjects complement the course?

English, Textiles, Photography, Sciences, Mathematics, History, Art.

What could this course lead to?

Study in Art and Design at A level and further education. A career in the creative fields including advertising, fashion, textiles, graphic design, interior design, architecture, product design, making.

How is this course examined?

All portfolio work produced over the course is internally assessed by teachers and externally moderated by an outside examiner. Coursework project is 60% Exam project is 40% of final mark.

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
AQA	Art	tbc

Art

All Art and Design subjects develop creativity, problem solving, independence of thought and critical thinking. We believe that anybody can be taught to draw and paint and the course structure allows for practical skill building as well as fostering intellectual development

Adrian Cooper, Head of Visual Arts and Technology

The GCSE course is primarily concerned with encouraging self-expression and the ability to observe, select and interpret with imagination, feeling and understanding. A wide range of practical skills and techniques are covered (with the relevant theory) such as modelling, textiles, printing, painting and drawing. Students are encouraged to adopt a personal and experimental approach to the development of their ideas and meaningful study of contemporary and historical artistic achievements is central to this process. Students undertake a series of projects that allow them to explore and investigate ideas and processes; we encourage them to set their own themes, as we believe that creative ownership of their work has a profound effect on the quality of their results. We are very proud of our students' achievements.

What topics are covered?

Year 10: Two coursework projects: the first being more skills and observational drawing based, the second focuses more on concepts and personal discovery. Year 11: One coursework project: students have a range of themes to choose from. Externally set assignment: timed exam based on a theme set by AQA.

Which subjects complement the course?

English, Textiles, Photography, Sciences, Mathematics, History, 3D Design.

What could this course lead to?

Study in Art and Design at A level and further education. A career in the creative fields including advertising, fashion, textiles, graphic design, interior design, architecture, events planning.

How is this course examined?

All portfolio work produced over the course is internally assessed by teachers and externally moderated by an outside examiner. Coursework project is 60% Exam project is 40% of final mark.

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
Edexcel	Biology IGCSE	4B10

Biology

It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much that makes life worth living.

David Attenborough

Biology relates to all aspects of living organisms and the natural world in which you live. Why do you get ill and why do you get better? How do plants perform the miracle of making sugars from air and water, but why are some plants carnivorous? Why does my pet rabbit eat its own poo but my pet cat doesn't? Being curious about why things happen in the natural world, not being afraid to ask questions and work hard to discover the answer is an essential part of being a good biologist. As well as learning all the theory to help expand your knowledge and understanding of the natural world, you will learn how to design and perform experiments to answer a few of your own questions and test your own theories.

What topics are covered?

The important processes that keep you, me and all living organisms alive.

How animals (that's you!) digest their food, transport substance, respond to their environment, reproduce and maintain a constant internal environment

Plants, e.g. how do plants make sugar from gas and water? How do they respond to stimuli, and how do they reproduce.

How do ecosystems and habitats remain in balance through the recycling of nutrients and how humans are having an impact on these processes?

Which subjects complement the course?

Due to the diverse nature of the careers available in the biological sciences almost any subject can be paired with biology.

What could this course lead to?

Biology is important in many professions including obvious ones like medicine and veterinary science. However, it is also important if you want to become a forensic scientist, a food scientist or nutritionist, physiotherapist, dentist, nurse, botanist, pest controller, sports scientist. The list is enormous.

How is the course examined?

The course comprises two externally assessed papers which are both taken at the end of year 11. In paper 2 you are examined on the same topics as paper 1, but the questions are slightly harder and more applied. There is no coursework.

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
OCR	Business	J204

Business

GCSE Business is not just about learning how a business works. More importantly, it is about the transferable skills you acquire- communication, team-working, analysis and decision-making.

GCSE Business was introduced at Moira House for the first time in September 2014. However, due to the very long history of successfully delivering A-Level Business Studies, we have a well-resourced department and highly experienced teachers.

There will be a revised specification which should commence in September 2017, with first assessment in 2019. The topic content and examination structure is currently only available in draft form.

What topics are covered?

Business Activity, Marketing, People, Operations, Finance, Influences on business & the Interdependent nature of business.

Which subjects complement the course?

GCSE Business fits with any combination of subjects.

What could this course lead to?

The study of Business can be useful for absolutely every job or for any future training you might be considering. GCSE Business is particularly relevant if you want to work in the Human Resources, Marketing and Finance department of either a small or large business. It is also relevant if you want to be an entrepreneur and set up your own business.

GCSE Business can be an excellent introduction to the further study of the subject at A-Level. In addition, it would provide excellent preparation for many other A-Level courses, including Economics, Geography and Psychology.

How is this course examined?

Two written examinations of 90 minutes each, containing multiple choice questions and structured questions based on real businesses.

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
Edexcel	Chemistry IGCSE	4CHO

Chemistry

Chemistry helps you to understand the world around you. It is involved in everything around us; the food you eat, the clothes you wear, water you drink, medicines, air

Anne Marie Helmenstine, Ph.D.

Chemists as well as working in researching in laboratories, can solve crime, monitor the environment or be engineers.

Our IGCSE Chemistry is delivered by specialist teachers in a well equipped laboratory. The course is theoretical, but there is a substantial practical component. Students have the opportunity to get involved with the Royal Society of Chemistry competitions.

What topics are covered?

Kinetic theory and diffusion, atomic structure and bonding, rates of reactions, the reactivity series, acids and making salts, separating and analysing, electrolysis, energy changes, reversible actions, the organic chemistry of alkanes, alkenes and polymers and chemistry calculations.

Which subjects complement the course?

Biology, Physics, mathematics and geography.

What could the course lead to?

Chemistry is an essential requirement for many medical careers but could also lead to other diverse careers including Chemical Engineering, Pharmacy, Forensic Science and Biochemistry.

How is the course examined?

Two terminal exams. One lasting 2 hours and one lasting 1 hour.

Chemistry is just important, any other science needs chemistry

Chemistry is everything

Everything revolves around Chemistry

Quotes from students.

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Examining Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
OCR	Drama	J316

Drama

Drama is a perfect subject for transferable skills including communication and collaboration. In drama we engage with body, voice and heart, mind and soul.

Miss Rosanna Lowe, Head of Senior Drama

GCSE drama at Moira House is taught by practitioners. In other words, everyone who works in the drama department still works in the industry at some level. All our teachers are also actors or directors and their wealth of experience is reflected in our results and also our drama productions.

What topics are covered?

Working as a group to create a piece of devised drama from a stimulus.

Performing extracts from a play or designing for a performance.

Exploring a play script practically and seeing live theatre – these form the two components of the final written exam.

Which subjects complement the course?

English, History and Music.

What could this course lead to?

Any career in the theatre industry, whether it be directing, designing, performing or working in a technical field. Skills in presentation, communication and collaboration, explored in Drama, are useful in many other professions and aspects of life.

How is this course examined?

Devising drama- performance and written notes assessed by the teacher. (30%)

Performing/designing extracts from a play – assessed by a visiting examiner (30%)

Written examination, covering a set text and evaluation of live theatre (40%)

Drama GCSE helped me grow in confidence and ignite my passion for drama.

Annie Smith

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
CIE	First Language English IGCSE	0500

English Language

English Language develops how you express your ideas, not just comprehending but also responding to others and developing your voice

Ms Linda Rosen

English offers all students the opportunity to apply critical thinking in their studies. Girls study media, non-fiction and creative writing. Collaborative tasks are set creating opportunity for individual learning and group presentations. Course work counts for 50% of the grade so girls can learn to see writing in process.

What topics are covered?

In year 9 and 10 we focus predominately on the English Language skills through a Media analysis units that look at films and advertising. Creative writing is also explored as well as summary writing so that coursework and the skills needed for the exam are covered in the first year.

By the end of year 10, the girls will have written 3 drafts of English Language coursework. It is important to note that these are drafts: one will have to written in the first 2 months of year 10 and will reappear for a final, 'polish' draft at the end of year 11. Most final drafts are done as close to the ending deadline in year 11 as possible to take full advantage of the maturity of the girls' writing.

What could this course lead to?

Fluency in English is needed in almost every field or career. If considering a career in Law, English is an important subject. Journalism, also, requires particular attention to structures and styles of writing.

How is the course examined?

The subject has 50% coursework made up of three essays; all three essays test different aspects of writing and address different audiences and styles. There is one examination of two hours which tests the ability to analyses and summarise factual writing.

Ahhh! I can't watch television now without analysing everything.

Imogen Soper

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
CIE	English Literature IGCSE	0486

English Literature

English Literature teaches us what it means to be human, to feel, to strive, to understand.

Ms Tamara Stevens, Head of English

The English department follows the CIE IGCSE English Literature syllabus which allows the girls to complete coursework – not controlled assessments – so that they can develop their ideas and reflect and redraft their writing.

What topics are covered?

In year 9 and 10 the literature work the girls complete is coursework. The girls will complete two sets of texts – a drama and a further novel. Again, these drafts will be revisited throughout the course to take advantage of increasing maturity and analytical ability. In year 11, the focus is on the exam so that they are examined on texts they have studied that year. The girls study a selection of poetry, a play and a novel. The texts change regularly with CIE, but also the texts will be chosen by the teacher to best suit the class. Currently the students are studying, I'm King of the Castle, The Strange case of Jekyll and Hyde, An Inspector Calls and a selection of poetry.

What subjects complement the course?

Drama, Philosophy & Ethics, History.

What could this course lead to?

A Level English Literature; Law, Journalism, Media, Education

How is this course examined?

Coursework is worth 25%. The exams are split into 2 papers; the first is a 1.5 hour paper on the novel and poetry. This is a closed book exam. The second is 45 minutes on the drama text. This exam is a clean copy text paper.

Diverse and challenging, a great opportunity to study our literacy heritage.

Jasmina Manville

Moira House Curriculum Pathways 2017-2020

Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
AQA	Geography	8035

Geography

Employers want people who can analyse their work, who are numerate and literate, who can ask questions and then find the answers, who are spatially aware and who are environmentally and socially aware. All these skills are used in geography.

Mrs N Lake, Head of Geography.

The GCSE syllabus aims to develop an understanding of both physical and human environment. It covers a variety of topics and issues and enables students to gain a wide range of skills. Geography helps you understand the world around you. Our GCSE Geography is delivered by a specialist teacher. Geographical skills relevant to human and physical Geography will be studied. There is a two day compulsory field trip.

What topics are covered?

The challenge of natural hazards, physical landscapes of the UK, the living world, urban challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management.

Which subjects complement this course?

Geography fits with any combination of subjects.

What could this course lead to?

The close link between this subject and the world around us makes for a long and varied list of related careers, for example, working with development and aid agencies, environmental work, using geographical information systems, working for the census office, tourism and recreation, land management and conservation.

How is this course examined?

Three written examinations:

- Living with the physical environment (35%) 1.5 hours
- Challenges in the human environment (35%) 1.5 hours
- Geographical applications (30%) 1 hour

Geography is a great subject to study because, not only do you gain knowledge about physical geography topics, such as volcanoes, but you also learn about how people are affected.

Jade Biss

Moira House Curriculum Pathways 2017-2020

Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
AQA	History	8145

History

Study of history separates fears and prejudices from fact. Recognise fact from propaganda. Invest energy in fighting for what you believe in. Analyse harder where we are going and what you are going to do about it. What do you really believe in?

Mae Brussell

History encourages you to judge an issue based on evidence and develop critical thinking skills. You will use empathy, tolerance, and organisation to support your literacy. History is taught by a mixture of collaborative tasks including presentations as well as individual learning.

What topics are covered?

You will learn about International relations since the end of World War One. America 1929-1973 including race relations, post war American popular culture and the impact of the feminist movements. British Political history to the present day and the last 35 years of the reign of Elizabeth I.

Which subjects complement the course?

All humanities subjects, especially English and Religion/Philosophy

What could this course lead to?

Progression onto A levels in History, and other humanities subjects. History opens many doors, including careers in Law, Journalism/Media and management positions. History A level is a prestigious qualification, giving access to the prestigious Russell Group universities.

How is the course examined?

The course has two terminal written examinations at the end of year 11. Both papers are worth 50% of the final mark.

It is a fantastic subject to study, because of the way it influences everything in modern life making it fascinating to apply

Caitlin Emerson

Moira House Curriculum Pathways 2017-2020

Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
OCR	Creative IMedia	J817

IMedia

This course teaches professional practice through working to real world briefs, with real world software. Creative IMedia is excellent preparation for the creative workplace and the digital world.

Mr Adrian Cooper, Head of Visual Arts and Technology

This course provides opportunities to develop, in 'real world' context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. The course will challenge learners, including high attaining learners, by introducing them to demanding material and techniques; encouraging independence and creativity. The 'hands on' approach that will be required has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media and it will be taught on industry standard software.

What topics are covered?

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative IMedia course will equip girls with a range of creative media skills, including video, sound and still image editing and design for publication and websites.

Which subjects complement this course?

Any

What could this course lead to?

Careers in publishing, print design, website design and production, animation, video production and editing, games design, sound editing or any career that involves creative problem solving.

How is this course examined?

The course is modular and, depending on how many modules the girls complete, it can be worth the equivalent of 1 or 2 GCSEs.

One module is assessed by a 90 minute written paper and all of the others by centre assessed tasks (coursework).

I think that computing is good for me to think widely about a problem with my mind open.

Patty Chai.

Moira House Curriculum Pathways 2017-2020

Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
OCR	Latin	J282

Latin

By studying Latin there is simply no better way than to make young minds think in a logical and analytical way.

Boris Johnson

Latin has played a definitive role in shaping the languages, literature and thinking of the western world. This course will appeal to anyone who is studying a language and exploring an ancient culture through its language and literature. You will experience elements of culture, language, social and political life of the Roman Empire and civilisation that have inspired later generations. As well as being exciting, this course helps develop analytical skills and intellectual flexibility which will be extremely useful in a wide range of jobs and in further study.

What topics are covered?

Latin language: You will learn to read Latin texts in their original language, translating them into English and answering comprehension questions on the texts studied.

Latin Literature: You read set texts by authors such as Virgil, Cicero, Ovid Pliny, Tacitus and Horace. You will translate these texts into English and write short essays analysing their content and literacy style.

Which subjects complement the course?

Latin is one of the most valued GCSE's and A levels by universities for all subjects. It provides an excellent complement to the study of Modern Foreign Languages and English Literature.

What could this course lead to?

Latin is an ideal accompaniment to degree courses in subjects ranging from languages to Sciences, Law to Medicine, Classics to History.

How is the course examined?

One language paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 50% of the marks

Two literature papers, both 1 hour, each 25% of the marks

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
Edexcel	Mathematics (9-1)	1MA1

Mathematics

Mathematics is the language of the universe

Mrs Jane Lambert, Head of Mathematics

Mathematics is delivered by specialist teachers dedicated to enhancing the mathematical experience of our students. Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities beyond the classroom such as a trip to the Year 10 Enrichment Event at University of Sussex, The UKMT Intermediate maths challenge and can experience university master classes. We aim to give every student a positive experience as it may be the last time they study mathematics in school and we want them to go into the next stage of their learning with good memories as well as the necessary skills.

What topics are covered?

Number, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, probability and statistics are all parts of the specification and application of these topics to real-life situations is an important part of a student's learning.

Which subjects complement the course?

Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Business Studies, Economics, Psychology, ICT and photography.

What could the course lead to?

There is the potential to study mathematics and Further Mathematics at A Level, however, the course will benefit all science-based subjects, Economics and Psychology as well as developing logical reasoning. Mathematics will support careers in areas such as finance, computing, engineering, teaching, statistics, business, management and many others.

How is this course examined?

3 papers all 1 hour 30 minutes, and each worth 33.3% of total marks.

Use of a calculator is not allowed in paper 1.

Our friendly teachers are easy to understand with their unique ways of teaching

Year 11 student

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
AQA	French German Spanish	88658, 8668, 8698

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Learning a language provides you with many of the transferable skills that employers are currently looking for.

Mrs Ruth Harris-Moss, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

A modern foreign language is a core subject and there may be possibilities to study more than one. Language classes are fun and interactive. By studying a language at GCSE, students will learn about people, countries and cultures. Throughout the course, great emphasis is laid on communication- an important skill when you apply to university or a job.

What topics are covered?

Me, my family and friends, technology, free time, customs and festivals

Hometown, neighbourhood and region

Social and global issues, travel and tourism

My studies, life at school, education post 16, jobs, career choices and ambitions

Listening, reading, speaking and writing skills are all practised within the topic areas.

Which subjects complement this course?

Sciences, Business, English and Humanities.

What could this subject lead to?

Learning a language will really widen your knowledge and understanding of the world and everyone's place within it. You could use your language skills in jobs such as teaching, interpreting, translating and banking as well as in the general world of business.

How is this course examined?

Terminal examinations for Foundation and Higher Level.

Listening 35 minutes Foundation/45 minutes Higher, 25% of total marks

Speaking: 7-9 minutes Foundation/10-12 minutes Higher, 25% of total marks

Reading: 45 minutes Foundation/1 Hour Higher, 25% of total marks

Writing: 1 Hour foundation/1 hour 15 minutes Higher, 25% of total marks

Studying a language gives you a wider range of opportunities for the future

Year 13 student

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
OCR	Music GCSE	J536

Music

Studying music enhances creative, logical and academic thinking. The course enables students to develop their composing and performing skills in addition to learning about a varied range of communication and interpersonal skills. Music is a universal language that touches all our lives. Whatever your future holds, musical knowledge can enhance your creative academic and social development.

Robert Cousins, Director of Music and Public Performance

Music at GCSE is designed to give students an insight into each of the three elements that make up musical language and practice: performance, composition and listening. It is therefore an important course of study for those wishing to take music A Level and for those wishing to read music at university, or those attending a practical course at a Music College or conservatoire. It is also a valuable subject for those who are instrumentalists or singers, but who have other career options in mind, as well as those intending to make a career in the field of theatre or dramatic arts.

Music can be enjoyed at any level and those who wish to develop further knowledge of this large and diverse subject will enjoy the varied content of this course and its practical aspects.

What topics are covered?

The course will focus on five areas of study:

My music - The Concerto through Time - Rhythms of the World - Film Music - Conventions of Pop

There are no official course requirements, but a performance level on an instrument or voice, which is approximately Grade III standard is considered useful, if all aspects of the course are to be studied comprehensively and with confidence.

Which subjects complement this course?

Drama, Art, Mathematics, English and Science.

What could this course lead to?

Progression to A Level Music, leading to career in music, performance research and education.

How is this course examined?

The course is assessed through the following three units:

Integrated Component – 30% - Internally marked and externally moderated

Practical Portfolio – 30% - Internally marked and externally moderated

Listening Exam – 40% - Externally assessed

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
Edexcel	Photography-lens and light based media	1PY0

Photography

Through the arts, students learn what they need to succeed in life

Mrs Georgina Ring, Photography Teacher

Learning through the arts leads to creative thinking, confidence and problem solving – all skills which are prized by employers and which young people need.

Students learn to collaborate, persevere, see mistakes as opportunities to learn; they improve by accepting constructive feedback; they learn that communication is more than just words.

In the UK, the digital and creative industries are worth a record £84.1 billion to the UK economy, employ 1.8 million people with 1 in 12 jobs being in the creative economy. It is a natural export strength, providing the UK's third largest export sector.

With this in mind, Moira House now offer a GCSE in photography to complement the many creative subjects available to those students with a creative interest.

Students will need to have their own digital camera and a minimum specification will be given to students before the start of the course.

What topics are covered?

Film based and digital photography skills; darkroom and digital printing and manipulation techniques; self-expression

An introduction to the place photography plays in history and contemporary society; specialist vocabulary allowing interpretation and conveying of ideas and feelings in photographic work

Which subjects complement the course?

Art and design, ICT

What could this course lead to?

Progression to A levels in Photography and Art, Craft and Design leading to careers in such diverse areas as publishing, advertising, illustration, graphic design, digital art, television/film director, creative art/director, cinematography.

How is the course examined?

All portfolio work produced over the course is internally assessed by teachers and externally moderated by an outside examiner. Course work project is 60%, Exam project is 40% of final mark

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
Edexcel	Physical Education	1PE0

Physical Education

GCSE PE offers students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of body systems and how to apply their personal sporting abilities to practical applications.

Mrs Danielle Mackenzie, Head of Faculty

GCSE Physical Education is an ideal course for students who enjoy physical education and are interested in learning more about how our bodies work and the effects that exercise has on the body. Students look at why people participate as well as developing their own skills, knowledge and understanding of rules and tactics.

What topics are covered?

The GCSE Physical Education course is a 3 year course that incorporates both practical and theoretical elements. Students will have 4 lessons per week, of which 2 will be theoretical and 2 practical.

Due to the nature of the course, students are expected to have a sound understanding of and knowledge of the rules and tactics of games/activities. Students should also have some level of involvement in extra-curricular sport within, or outside of school.

Which subjects complement the course?

Biology

What could this course lead to?

GCSE Physical Education is a springboard onto A Level Physical Education, and can be beneficial to those thinking of a career to do with sport.

How is the course examined?

Component 1: Fitness and Body systems. A 1 hour 30 minute written paper (36%)

Component 2: Health and Performance. A 1 hour 15 minute written examination (24%)

Component 3: Practical performance. Internally assessed and externally moderated (30%)

Component 4: PEP, Internally assessed and externally moderated (10%)

Practical work accounts for 40% of the total marks. For the practical element students will be examined in four sports. Students will be expected to undertake a variety of roles including: performer, coach, choreographer and official.

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Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
Edexcel	Physics IGCSE	4PHO

Physics

IGCSE Physics is a great course for students who want to explore the very small to the very large. Do you want to investigate the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between.

Karen Best

How about understanding how technology around you works? Perhaps you want to save the planet or maybe just to help people get better when they are ill? Or perhaps you just want to earn a lot of money? Whatever you do, the knowledge and skills you gain by studying Physics will be useful. Physics is more than just a subject- it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries. Did you know you could make 100,000 slices of toast with the energy from a bolt of lightning?

What topics are covered?

Forces and motion; Electricity; Waves; Energy resources and transfer; Solids, liquids and gases; magnetism and electromagnetism; Radioactivity and particles.

Which subjects complement the course?

Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology. Other subjects that are often studied with Physics include economics, Business and MFL.

What could this course lead to?

There is potential for progression onto university degrees leading to careers such as engineering, medicine, as well as management accountancy and IT.

How is the course examined?

Physics is assessed by two papers. The core paper of 2 hours is 66% of the total marks. the 2nd paper is 1 hour and represents 33% of the marks.

Wow! Who would have thought that you can use jelly babies to explain a physics idea. It make sit so exciting

Year 11 student

Moira House Curriculum Pathways 2017-2020

Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
Edexcel	Religious Studies B	

Religious Studies

All girls in Senior School study core religious studies. This is a non-examined course and is designed to develop religious literacy. It is a compulsory element of the core curriculum.

Many girls choose to take Option Religious Studies. This leads to a GCSE qualification. Girls who choose this option don't study core Religious Studies and so have additional lesson time.

The Religious Studies Option for GCSE at Moira House is a rigorous and demanding academic discipline in its own right. It engenders critical thinking and rigour in the search for truths in uncertain fields. It encourages philosophical thought, decision making skills, collaboration and independent working skills and the search for compromise and conflict resolutions that work. All these are vital skills in a modern workforce where communication, collaboration and cooperation are core skills.

What topics are covered

There are two key sections for Full Course GCSE. These include the study of beliefs and teachings of Judaism and Christianity. The second section is philosophical and ethical studies focussing on religion, peace and conflict. The second paper will focus on religion, social justice and human rights.

What subjects complement the course?

GCSE Religious Studies combines well with other humanities subjects and sciences.

What our current students say:

"I'm glad I decided to take full course RS. It broadens the mind and makes you think more about the world around you."

"Class discussions make the lessons enjoyable and give you the opportunity to see various issues from numerous perspectives."

What could this course lead to?

- Whether you go on to study at university or college, or out into the world of work, you will meet people from all walks of life with different religious and moral opinions. GCSE RS will help you to understand and appreciate them.
- Being able to evaluate differing opinions will help you to develop similar skills in your other subjects.
- Studying the ultimate questions of life may give you a good foundation for dealing with religious and moral issues when you become an adult.

How is this course examined?

The course is 100% examination at the end of Year 11. The course will be examined by two 1 hour 45 minute exams at the end of Year 11.

Moira House Curriculum Pathways 2017-2020

Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Code
AQA	Textile Design	

Textiles

All the Art and Design subjects develop creativity, problem solving, independence of thought and critical thinking. We believe that anybody can be taught to draw and paint and the course structure allows for practical skill building as well as fostering intellectual development.

Adrian Cooper, Head of Visual Arts and Technology.

The GCSE course is primarily concerned with learning to work with fabric. It encourages self-expression and the ability to observe, select and interpret with imagination, feeling and understanding. A wide range of practical skills and techniques are covered (with the relevant theory) such as dress making skills, sewing and fabric construction, hand and machine embroidery, fabric manipulation and dyeing, image transfer, stencilling, printing and fashion illustration. Students are encouraged to adopt a personal and experimental approach to the development of their ideas and meaningful studies of contemporary and historical artistic and craft achievements are central to this process. Students undertake a series of projects that allow them to explore and investigate ideas and processes; we encourage them to set their own themes, as we believe that creative ownership of their work has a profound effect on the quality of their results. We are very proud of our students' achievements.

What topics are covered?

Year 10: Two coursework projects: the first being more skills and observational drawing based, the second focuses more on concepts and personal discovery. Year 11: One coursework project: students have a range of themes to choose from. Externally set assignment: timed exam based on a theme set by AQA.

Which subjects complement the course?

English, 3D Design, Photography, Sciences, Mathematics, History, Art.

What could this course lead to?

Study in Art and Design at A level and further education. A career in the creative fields including advertising, fashion, textiles, graphic design, interior design, architecture, product design, making.

How is this course examined? All portfolio work produced over the course is internally assessed by teachers and externally moderated by an outside examiner. Coursework project is 60% Exam project is 40% of final mark.

Moira House Curriculum Pathways 2017-2020

Examination Board	Specification Title	Specification Title
AQA	Level 2 Higher Project Qualification	7992

Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)

Moira House has successfully delivered the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) for many years to our sixth form students. It is well received by students and by Universities they apply to. We are now going to offer the Higher Project Qualification from September 2017 to girls who are academically able to take on this rigorous, interesting qualification. The HPQ is a level 2 qualification, equivalent to a GCSE.

What topics are covered

The HPQ is a content-free qualification that gives students the chance to study a topic of their choice in depth as they work towards producing a report, an artefact, a design or a performance.

The Level 2 Higher Project will develop and extend from one or more of the student's study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student(s) and agreed as appropriate by the centre.

Year 9 is spent developing research skills, independent study skills and presentation skills. The research of the project takes place in Year 10, with assessment either at the end of Year 10 or in Year 11 depending on the nature of the topic or the student's aspiration.

What could this course lead to?

The HPQ leads onto the EPQ in Year 11/Year 12. This is a qualification that is equivalent to half an A level, and is a course of considerable merit to universities and employers.

How is this course examined?

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

There is no external examination.