



AVANTI GRANGE
SECONDARY SCHOOL



THE
GCSE Curriculum





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The GCSE curriculum



In years 7, 8 and 9 at Avanti Grange, your child has studied a broad and rich curriculum which has immersed them in the powerful knowledge and intellectual conversations of a broad range of subject disciplines, equipping them to make sense of the world around them and to excel in a range of fields.

As students move into Year 10, they continue to study a broad curriculum, working towards public examinations at the end of Year 11 for GCSE qualifications. Students study English, Maths and Science, together with Humanities subject and Language. They also have the opportunity to choose from a range of other subjects which they would like to pursue to examination level. The externally-examined curriculum is complemented by our Avanti Grange Ethos Programme, linked to the Avanti Way: PE, Yoga and Meditation, PSHE and PRE.

Common questions and answers

Should I choose the subjects I enjoy or find interesting?

Options choices give you the opportunity to pursue your passions and interests. Enjoyment usually stems from success, which is the result of the effort you put in. If you maintain that effort in Years 10 and 11, you are likely to achieve the best grades you are capable of. You do not need to be achieving the highest grades in a subject to choose it. Check the course information and talk to your teachers to help you decide whether you will enjoy the GCSE course.

Should I choose the subjects I am good at?

Considering your strengths when making choices is a sensible thing to do. Where you feel successful, you are likely to enjoy a subject more and you may be more successful in managing your motivation and workload. It is important, however, to question your assumptions about your own strengths. Finding a subject challenging does not mean you will not succeed; and if you enjoy a subject, you may wish to continue even if it is not, on paper, your strongest subject. Talk to your teachers to help you evaluate your strengths and weaknesses.

Should I choose a subject because I get on well with the teacher?

This is a tricky decision because a particular teacher may have sparked your interest and passion in the subject. This shouldn't be the main factor in your decision because you may not have that teacher in Years 10 and 11. Also don't be influenced by what your friends are choosing. You need to choose the right subjects for you, as they will be your qualifications.

How are GCSEs graded?

GCSEs are graded on a scale from 9 to 1. Grade 9 is the highest and Grade 1 is the lowest. Grade 4 is considered equivalent to the old grade C.

What is NEA?

NEA is non-examined assessment, which is an alternative way of assessing your work in certain subjects. NEA tasks are set by the exam board and conducted in school. You must fulfil criteria and conditions set by the exam board, who will either mark or moderate your work.

Do universities, colleges and employers care about my GCSE results?

GCSEs show universities and employers what you learned at secondary school. Universities and many employers require a minimum of Grade 4 in English and Maths. They also consider the full range of qualifications you obtain as an indication of what you know, and how hard-working you were at school. Some post-16 courses require particular subjects at GCSE, where prior knowledge is required. Many post-16 courses are flexible.

What is the EBacc?

At Avanti Grange, students study the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects of English, Maths, Science, French and Geography or History (or both). This ensures that students study and obtain qualifications in a broad academic curriculum which prepares and equips them for further study and training, and for life as compassionate changemakers. Students further broaden and personalise their curriculum through their additional free choices.

The options process



In the spring term you will be asked to confirm which GCSE subjects your child would definitely like to study in Years 10 and 11. Details of all subjects, including the core curriculum and optional subjects are included in this booklet.

All students will study the core curriculum, as follows:

Core curriculum

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Science (combined or separate)

Avanti Grange Ethos Programme (non-examined): PE, Yoga and Meditation, PSHE, PRE

In addition to the above curriculum, your child should choose four options, including French, and at least one Humanities subject (Geography or History). They may choose both of these subjects.

In order to structure the options blocks so that as many students as possible are able to study their first choice of subjects, we are asking you to indicate your child's likely preferences at this stage, following the GCSE Options Evening on 20 November 2024. Students should specify their choices in order of preference, including a reserve choice. The link to the electronic form will be available following the Options Evening.

The deadline for all options indications is Friday 6 December.

Once all these option indications have been received, the subjects will be allocated to four option blocks for timetabling purposes. Your child will receive these blocks on 24 January 2025, and will be asked to **confirm their choices by Friday 7 February.**

One or more of the options subjects may not be available in the blocks if insufficient demand exists for the subject. There is also a class size limit in some subjects.

Making choices

Our two-stage GCSE option process involves indicating preferences to structure option blocks, allowing flexibility. Final choices may differ, and some subjects might be unavailable due to demand or class size. You must complete the electronic option form to select your choices.

Core curriculum

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Science (combined or separate)
Avanti Grange Ethos Programme (non-examined): PE, Yoga and Meditation, PSHE, PRE



Language

GCSE French



Humanities subject

One of:
GCSE Geography
GCSE History



Option subjects

Two of:
GCSE Art and Design – Fine Art
GCSE Computer Science
GCSE Design and Technology
GCSE Drama
GCSE Geography
GCSE History
GCSE Music
GCSE Physical Education
GCSE Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

GCSE English

The English GCSE course at Avanti Grange fosters a love for language and literature through the exploration of diverse texts and perspectives. It nurtures students' intellectual, emotional, and spiritual potential, aligned with the Avanti Way, by helping students to develop empathy, self-discipline, and critical thinking. The curriculum emphasises narrative exploration, literary analysis, and cultural understanding, which supports character formation, intellectual growth, and a deep connection with the world.

Specification	Assessment	Contact
AQA GCSE English Language 8700 AQA GCSE English Literature 8702	100% Exam Speaking and Listening Assessment	Mr Nichols and Ms Oakley

What is this course about?

In English Literature, students explore various literary works, including Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. They study poetry from the *Love and Relationships* anthology, as well as a wide range of non-fiction texts. Themes addressed by different texts include human connections, societal critiques, and personal growth.

What skills will this course help me develop?

This course helps students build empathy, critical thinking, academic writing and analytical skills, as well as the virtues of integrity, respect, and self-discipline. It encourages thoughtful communication, the ability to form nuanced interpretations, and a deep appreciation for literature's power to reveal truths about human nature and society.

Studying English at GCSE provides a strong foundation for further study in English Literature, English Language, and other subjects such as History and Politics. The critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills developed in English will be essential for success at A-level, supporting students on their intellectual journey and deepening their engagement with literary traditions.

How is this course assessed?

A speaking and listening element will be completed in year 10. Final assessment is through examinations: two for English Language and two for English Literature. Examination questions focus on critical analysis, interpretation, and comparison of texts.

GCSE Mathematics

The GCSE Maths qualification equips students with a solid foundation for both future study, whether academic or vocational, and for future employment. It develops the necessary mathematical skills, knowledge, and understanding to support progression to a wide variety of courses in further and higher education.

Specification

Edexcel

Assessment

100% Exam

Contact

Miss Goldman

What is this course about?

The course material is organised into the following topics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio
- Proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Statistics and probability

What skills will this course help me develop?

The GCSE Maths course will help students develop a range of essential skills, including:

- **Problem-solving:** Analysing and solving mathematical problems using logical approaches.
- **Critical thinking:** Applying reasoning and analytical skills to evaluate and interpret information.
- **Numeracy:** Mastering core mathematical concepts and techniques for accurate calculations.
- **Data interpretation:** Understanding and working with graphs, charts, and statistics.
- **Algebraic reasoning:** Manipulating and solving equations and expressions.
- **Geometry and spatial awareness:** Understanding shapes, space, and measurement.

How is this course assessed?

The GCSE qualification is assessed through three equally-weighted written examinations: one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. The Foundation tier covers grades 1 to 5, while the Higher tier allows access to grades 4 to 9. Tier entry decisions will be finalised in Year 11.

Some students may be offered the opportunity to pursue further study of Maths, acquiring an additional GCSE qualification in Algebra 3 or Further Mathematics.

GCSE Science (combined)

Combined science covers elements of the three core sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course allows students to gain a thorough knowledge and understanding of the three sciences, leading to the award of two GCSEs. The content builds on prior learning and ensures that students gain a sufficient level of scientific understanding to engage with diverse scientific ideas, to appreciate how all life is interconnected, and to respect multiple perspectives on today's global challenges.

Specification	Assessment	Contact
AQA Trilogy 8464	100% Exam	Dr Millard

What is this course about?

The GCSE Combined Science course provides a broad understanding of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, which are essential for grasping how the natural and physical world operates.

In **Biology**, you will study cell biology, infection and response, bioenergetics, and homeostasis, learning how living organisms function and interact with their environments. Topics such as genetics, evolution, and ecology emphasise the importance of biological diversity and adaptation.

In **Chemistry**, you will explore atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical reactions, energy changes, and the chemistry of the atmosphere. These topics will help you to understand the composition of matter, how substances interact, and the impact of chemistry on daily life, from material use to environmental challenges.

Physics covers energy, electricity, forces, waves, and atomic structure, and electromagnetism. These topics provide insights into the fundamental principles governing physical phenomena, from the smallest particles to large-scale systems.

What skills will this course help me develop?

Throughout the course, you will engage in working scientifically through practical experiments, data analysis, and critical thinking. You will apply mathematical skills to solve scientific problems and make informed decisions. The course encourages you to realise your potential by nurturing your intellectual curiosity, explore science's role in society, and strengthen your interconnections between scientific disciplines.

How is this course assessed?

You will sit 6 examinations, two in each science. These are equally weighted. There are foundation and higher tier papers available. Foundation tier papers allow access to grades up to grade 5. We will decide in Year 11, based on your performance so far, whether you will sit the foundation or higher papers.

GCSE Science (separate sciences)

The GCSE Separate Sciences courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics offer a deeper exploration of scientific concepts. This is ideal for students who have a strong interest in science or are considering a career in fields such as medicine, engineering, environmental science or forensic science. This course is delivered in the same amount of time as the Combined Science award, so the material is covered at a faster pace. Students for whom this course is suitable will be identified at the end of Year 0.

Specification	Assessment	Contact
Biology AQA 8461 Chemistry AQA 8462 Physics AQA 8463	100% Exam	Dr Millard

What is this course about?

In Biology, you will study topics such as cell biology, genetics, ecology, and homeostasis. This course enables you to realise your potential by engaging with life sciences and understanding the complex systems that sustain life. It highlights the importance of biological diversity and equips you with the knowledge to address real-world challenges like disease control and environmental conservation.

Chemistry covers atomic structure, chemical reactions, energy changes, and organic chemistry. This course helps you find purpose by understanding the molecular foundations of matter and how chemical processes are integral to industry, the environment, and daily life. Through this, you will see the interconnectedness between human activity and the natural world.

In Physics, you will explore energy, forces, electromagnetism, and space. Physics strengthens your understanding of the interconnections in the universe, from the tiniest particles to the vastness of space. The course nurtures analytical skills, preparing you to tackle global issues such as energy consumption and technological innovation.

What skills will this course help me develop?

Studying Science will develop critical thinking, scientific literacy, and analytical skills. Students learn to evaluate vast amounts of data, assess its reliability, and make informed decisions. Through practical experiments, they enhance their problem-solving abilities, while also learning to interpret scientific concepts across biology, chemistry, and physics.

How is this course assessed?

Students will sit two examinations for each of the three Science subjects.



Avanti Grange



Ethos Programme



Complementing students' academic study and pursuit of educational excellence, the Ethos Programme represents our commitment to young people's holistic development, including character formation and spiritual insight. It is designed to further students' understanding of themselves and of the society in which they live, through several interconnected strands:

- Physical Education (PE)
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)
- Yoga and Meditation

Students will continue to participate in Avanti Way Extended Learning Days during Years 10 and 11, and in the co-curricular programme.

This curriculum is not externally examined. The work students complete will be internally accredited, and they will log their experiences and insights on the Unifrog platform. They will then draw on this, alongside their academic qualifications, in applications and interviews for further study and employment. This programme provides a unique opportunity for students to focus on their emotional, physical and spiritual development as well as their intellectual progress, and to reflect on and secure recognition of their progress in these areas.

Language option

At Avanti Grange, we are committed to the importance and value of learning languages and the entitlement of every young person to learn and achieve fluency in speaking, listening to, reading and writing another language. Learning a language not only unlocks doors in students' futures, it also strengthens their understanding of their own language, and their confidence as communicators.



GCSE French

The GCSE French course promotes culture, communication and connection. The qualification offers students an engaging study of the French language and Francophone culture. It focuses on developing practical communication skills across all core skillsets: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course emphasises real-world language use, incorporating authentic materials to prepare students for further study and future careers. With a balance of grammar, vocabulary, and cultural knowledge, this GCSE equips learners with the tools to express themselves confidently in French, as well as broadening their knowledge of the people, places and perspectives which bring the language to life.

Specification	Assessment	Contact
Edexcel 1FR1	100% Exam (25% Speaking, 25% Writing, 25% Reading, 25% Listening)	Madame Roy

What is this course about?

There are six broad thematic contexts in the GCSE French course. By studying these thematic contexts, students develop their ability to listen to, read, speak and write about a variety of subjects.

- My personal world
- My neighbourhood
- Studying and my future
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- Media and technology
- Travel and tourism

What skills will this course help me develop?

The GCSE French course builds on the linguistic and cultural knowledge developed at KS3, including:

- Developing confidence in spoken French (pronunciation, intonation and fluency).
- Understanding spoken and written French on a variety of topics.
- Expressing ideas and opinions in written and spoken French.
- Problem-solving when decoding unfamiliar language.
- Developing an empathetic view of customs, traditions and contemporary issues in Francophone countries.

How is this course assessed?

All papers draw from a set list of vocabulary and grammatical structures.

- Three externally-examined papers, assessing separately listening, reading and writing.
- One speaking assessment conducted by a teacher and marked externally.

Students are entered either for Foundation or Higher tier. Foundation tier allows access to grades up to grade 5. Decisions on tier of entry will be made in Year 11.

Humanities options

The Humanities subjects unlock students' understanding of the world around them and develop their analytical and critical thinking skills and their ability to engage with differing perspectives. Geography and History are complementary subjects which together give students a rich understanding of the world they live in, and their own place in it.



GCSE Geography

Geography is the study of the world we live in today, the processes that shape it, and the interactions between human life and societies and the physical environment. Geographers take a critical approach to data and information, and take account of diverse perspectives. Studying Geography is fundamental to understanding the world around you, your place as a global citizen and how you can make a meaningful contribution to a sustainable future for the planet. The world needs more geographers.

Specification

AQA 8035

Assessment

100% Exam

Contact

Mrs Carr

What is this course about?

Living with the physical environment

- Natural hazards: tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change
- The living world: ecosystems, tropical rainforests and deserts
- Physical landscapes in the UK: upland and lowland areas, river systems, river and coastal processes and management

Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges, including case studies of urban growth in a LIC or NEE and in the UK, urban sustainability
- The changing economic world: development and population, including case studies, and the UK economy
- The challenges of resource management, including case studies from the UK; depth study of energy resource management.

Geographical applications

- A case study evaluation using secondary sources provided to reach an evaluative judgement about an issue.
- Fieldwork: two contrasting fieldwork studies conducted during the course, investigating human and physical geography. You will answer questions about your own fieldwork investigations and apply your knowledge of fieldwork techniques to unfamiliar scenarios.

What skills will this course help me develop?

You will build on and deepen your knowledge of physical and human geography from Years 7-9 and your geographical skills, including map skills and data presentation and analysis. You will gain greater confidence in explaining geographical processes and patterns, analysing and interpreting data, and making and supporting evaluative judgements.

The knowledge and skills developed in studying for Geography GCSE are excellent preparation for A-level courses in a wide range of subjects, including Social Sciences such as History, PRE,

GCSE Geography

Sociology and Psychology, Languages and Science. They are essential skills in the workplace, making Geography highly valued by employers.

How is this course assessed?

There are three examinations. On each exam paper you will answer a mixture of short answer questions and questions requiring an extended written response.

Some questions will require you to draw diagrams, graphs and field sketches. Some questions will require you to use maps and map skills. Some questions will require you to interpret and use data including photographs and different types of graphical data presentation.

Participation in practical fieldwork in both physical and human geography is a requirement to pass the course. Fieldwork is carried out during the course and assessed through the examinations.



GCSE History

Knowledge and understanding of the world as it was enables us to understand the world as it is. Studying the diverse human experiences of people in past times and cultures develops your own identity and your sense of purpose and interconnection. Historians examine evidence critically before forming an interpretation. They engage with issues from different perspectives, becoming compassionate changemakers. History is invaluable across the full range of future careers and life experiences: with history, you can do anything.

Specification

OCR B J411

Assessment

100% Exam

Contact

Mrs Carr

What is this course about?

British History

- **Thematic study: Migration to Britain, 1250-present**
Through stories of individuals and groups who have migrated to Britain since the medieval period, the course explores the reasons for migration, migrants' experiences, and how migration created the society in which we live today.
- **British depth study: The Elizabethans**
Tudor England in the reign of Elizabeth I – was it a golden age? We will study Elizabeth's exercise of female power, plots to overthrow her involving Mary Queen of Scots and invasion by Spain, and the development of culture from Shakespeare and witchcraft to trade and empire.

World History

- **Period study: The Making of America**
Follow the story of the USA from the American Revolution to superpower status in the twentieth century. Learn about the experiences of and conflict between indigenous Americans, African Americans and European settlers as the USA expanded westwards.
- **World depth study: Life under the Nazis**
Explore in depth the power of Hitler and the Nazi party, their machinery of terror, and the impact of their rule on the people of Germany, including young people and persecuted minorities. We will learn about the impact of the Second World War and how this facilitated the Holocaust.

History Around Us: local site study

A study of how a local site has changed over time. You will become an expert in your site and its stories over time, including its role in the Second World War and as a heritage site today.

GCSE History

What skills will this course help me develop?

You will use and build on your knowledge and skills from History in Years 7-9. You will become even more confident in using your knowledge to write about the past, to explain the evidence available to historians, and to support or challenge the interpretations and arguments put forward by others.

The knowledge and skills developed in studying for History GCSE are excellent preparation for A-level courses in a wide range of subjects, from English and Humanities subjects to Social Sciences such as Geography, PRE, Sociology and Psychology, Languages and Science. They are essential skills in the workplace, making History highly valued by employers.

How is this course assessed?

On each exam paper you will answer a mixture of short answer questions and questions requiring an extended written response.

Some questions will ask you to read and respond to a short visual or written source or extract of text.



Free options



Students have the opportunity to select two free options, to personalise their own curriculum. These allow students to pursue areas of particular interest, and to complement their other subjects, encouraging creativity and interdisciplinary links. Students may be guided by an interest in a particular future career area, or purely by an interest in or enjoyment of a subject. The range of subjects studied across a student's full curricular programme will ensure a wide range of opportunities are open to them post-16.

One of the free options may be the second Humanities subject.

GCSE PE and PRE are offered as options subjects, leading to GCSE qualifications, allowing for the study in greater depth than in the Avanti Grange Ethos Programme.

Art and Design – Fine Art

Art and Design GCSE allows students to discover their artistic identity by exploring new materials and creating extended pieces of independently initiated artwork. Students learn how to respond to themes and stimuli in a unique and creative way harnessing the practical and analytical skills they have developed in KS3. Students are responsible for creating and collecting primary source material through gallery visits, observational drawing and photography and produce self-directed inventive explorations of source material to produce a curated portfolio of final outcomes. Art and Design students are adept at being proactive, adaptable, thinkers ready to investigate and challenge the world around them and discover creative solutions.

Specification	Assessment	Contact
AQA 8201	Component 1 – portfolio 60% Component 2 – externally set assignment 40%, including preparation work and final exam	Mrs Higley

What is this course about?

In Year 10 students will further develop their skills of observation and recording using a variety of source material. Students will learn advanced printing skills and have a choice of media to make their individual creative responses. The second part of the course is focused on exam preparation. Exam titles are released approximately four months before the exam period and students are guided to explore several potential pathways for responding to their chosen title before developing their final exam piece in Year 11.

What skills will this course help me develop?

Art and Design – Fine Art will allow students to further develop the practical skills in drawing, painting, print making and sculpture that have been studied in KS3. It will introduce them to new techniques and media such as digital drawing and photo manipulation. In addition to practical skills, Art develops critical thinking and analytical skills through an understanding of art history. Students learn how to work independently to initiate, realise and manage their own projects. Art teaches students how to communicate effectively in a variety of formats to express complex ideas and concepts.

How is this course assessed?

Students develop a portfolio of artwork throughout the two-year course. The portfolio will include one extended project that demonstrates the development and realisation of artistic ideas, together with other smaller projects showing the acquisition of skills and experimentation with a variety of media. Work on the portfolio will start from September of Year 10, and

cumulatively this will be worth 60% of the final grade.

The externally-set assignment involves a preparation period between January and April in Year 11, followed by 10 hours of supervised examination time. Students' work is marked by Avanti Grange staff against four equally-weighted objectives, which include the development of ideas, their exploration in different media, recording of ideas and the presentation of a personal response. Work is then externally moderated. The externally-set assignment carries 40% of the marks awarded for the final grade.



Computer Science

The study of Computer Science provides students with the skills and knowledge to succeed in a rapidly evolving digital world. The curriculum develops strong computational thinking, teaching students to analyse problems, design algorithms, and apply core principles of programming, algorithms, networks, and cybersecurity. Emphasising the ethical and societal impacts of technology, the course fosters an analytical and empathetic mindset, encouraging students to reflect on how computing shapes lives and the environment. Through practical experience and critical reflection, students will gain confidence in solving real-world challenges, navigating the digital landscape with creativity, responsibility, and ethical awareness, ready to make a positive impact on society.

Specification

OCR J277

Assessment

100% Exam

Contact

Mrs Armitage

What is this course about?

Paper 1: Computer Systems

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections, and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural, and environmental impacts of digital technology

Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms, and Programming

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

What skills will this course help me develop?

Building on your understanding of computing and problem-solving from earlier years, this course will enhance your ability to think logically and creatively. You will gain confidence in breaking down complex problems into manageable steps, designing algorithms, and writing efficient code. You will also develop your ability to analyse data, identify patterns, and solve real-world problems using computational thinking.

The skills learned in GCSE Computer Science, including Python programming, critical thinking, and understanding the ethical implications of technology, provide excellent preparation

not only for A-level Computer Science, but also for courses in other STEM subjects, such as Mathematics, Physics, and Engineering, as well as for fields like Business, Economics, and Design. These are highly valued skills in the workplace, opening doors to a wide range of career paths in technology, innovation, and beyond.

How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed through two written examinations, each lasting 90 minutes and accounting for 50% of the final grade. Both papers consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-response questions.

Paper 2 will assess your ability to write, modify, complete and correct algorithms in either pseudocode or a high-level programming language such as Python.



Design and Technology

Studying Design and Technology allows students to develop a passion for creating, designing and problem-solving. The course challenges students to be creative and think outside the box, applying a range of taught concepts into real world scenarios. Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors, making links to other subjects. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Specification

AQA 8552

Assessment

100% Exam

Contact

Mr Savill

What is this course about?

The specialist technical principles focus for the GCSE course will be natural and manufactured boards and timbers. In their NEA project students will design and manufacture a prototype product in response to the requirements of a given context. Students use analytical skills to explore the designs and design styles of others, to help inform and shape their own iterative design of a fully functioning prototype product. Students will manufacture a prototype product using a range of traditional and modern technologies and further test the prototype in situation to review overall success of the design outcome.

In addition, students will study core and technical principles of Design and Technology in preparation for a written examination. Students will further study a range of designing and making principles within the material area of manufactured boards and timbers, as well as studying the influence of modern technologies in a rapidly developing society. Mathematical and scientific skills will also be taught, used and tested throughout the NEA and in the written examination.

What skills will this course help me develop?

GCSE Design and Technology will enable students to think creatively and to develop their understanding of the design process. They will develop skills in the use of CAD and CAM technologies such as laser cutting, 3D printing and CNC routing and turning. They will develop their understanding of the impact of Design and Technology in the modern world, including past and existing design styles and designers and traditional and modern design techniques including the use of AI. Students will review and challenge concept design ideas, deploying critical thinking skills and making links to other subjects.

Young people with STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) qualifications are in high demand within a rapidly developing society and have excellent long-term career prospects. STEM skills are relevant to a wide variety of career fields.

How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed in two parts: the NEA (50%) and the examination (50%).

The NEA consists of 6 sections which are assessed by teaching staff and moderated for consistency by AQA moderators externally. The two-hour written examination is split into 3 sections and is examined externally.



Drama

The Drama curriculum at Avanti Grange is crafted to cultivate a learning environment that is vibrant and exciting, which allows every student to immerse themselves in a love of theatrical learning. We are passionate about inspiring curiosity, ambition, and a broad and diverse curriculum that not only develops themselves as individuals but as members of society and compassionate changemakers. Our curriculum fosters independence and a growth mindset to empower our young people to become collaborative, respectful, empathetic and resilient. The curriculum is structured to ensure that students not only learn about the art of theatre but also embrace the joy, confidence, and resilience that come from performance.

Specification

Eduqas C690QS

Assessment

60% NEA 40% Exam

Contact

Mr Nichols

What is this course about?

Component 1 Devising Theatre: Students devise their own production from a stimulus of their choice and in relation to a chosen practitioner or genre. Students begin to produce their coursework portfolio which analyses and evaluates their progress throughout rehearsals.

Component 2: Students are examined on two performances from one text. An external examiner visits in Year 11 to assess them on this. Most students will approach this assessment as a performer but there is the opportunity to approach it as a designer if they have a particular passion for lighting, sound effects, set and props, or costume and makeup.

Component 3 Interpreting Theatre: Students will sit a written examination that assesses their knowledge and understanding of a whole text which they will initially explore through practical drama workshops. The exam also requires the students to evaluate a piece of live theatre they have seen for which they will see a variety of live productions both live and pre-recorded throughout the course.

What skills will this course help me develop?

GCSE Drama offers a broad and coherent course of study which enables learners to make, perform and respond to drama, explore performance text including their social, cultural and historical context, and develop and apply theatrical skills to create performances. They will work collaboratively and develop as creative and reflective learners, evaluating their own work and that of others. They will understand the roles and processes involved in contemporary theatre practice, contribute to performances and adopt safe working practices.

Additionally, the Drama course provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

How is this course assessed?

Component 1 Devising Theatre 40%

NEA: internally assessed, externally moderated

Component 2 Performing from a Text 20%

NEA: externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Component 3 Interpreting Theatre 40%

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Students are assessed on their ability to:

- create and develop ideas to communicate meaning in theatrical performance,
- apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance,
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed
- analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others



Music

GCSE Music offers the opportunity to explore a passion for music while developing valuable skills to use beyond the classroom. Whether you love performing, composing, or discovering different musical styles, this course allows you to express yourself creatively and deepen your understanding of the music you enjoy. You'll work with others, build confidence, and gain skills in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving – all while studying something you love. GCSE Music opens doors to exciting future opportunities, from performing to working in the music industry or further study in music. If you're ready to take your love for music to the next level, this is the course for you!

Specification	Assessment	Contact
Eduqas C660QS	40% Exam 60% NEA	Mr Day

What is this course about?

There are four areas of study:

1. Musical Forms and Devices (Including a study piece)
2. Music for Ensemble
3. Film Music
4. Popular Music (including a study piece)

Within each area of study, you will listen to and learn about different pieces of music, the musical devices that characterise each type of music, then experiment with performing and composing in these styles.

You will receive one-to-one tuition on your instrument through 20-minute lessons with Hertfordshire Music Service. These will be supplemented with a dedicated performance lesson within school where workshops and performance exercises will take place.

Composition will be taught initially using small, bitesize tasks. As your skills develop, these compositional techniques can be combined to create longer pieces of music.

An interest in listening to, performing, and creating music is essential. A determination and patience to practice and improve on your instrument of choice is important, as well as a commitment to being open to learning new ways to create and understand music

What skills will this course help me develop?

Your practical skills of composing music and performing will be refined and you will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and presentation skills. Studying music will engage and develop you intellectually, as you consider ideas which go beyond language. You will develop analytical and problem-solving skills, and practise applying these to new situations.

How is this course assessed?

Component 1 – Performing Music 30% (NEA – solo and ensemble performance)

Component 2 – Composing Music 30% (NEA – free composition, and composition to a brief set by the exam board)

Component 3 – Listening and Appraising Music 40% (examination).



Physical Education

Physical Education GCSE will develop your understanding of the importance of physical activity in maintaining overall health and well-being, including the benefits of regular exercise on physical and mental health. It will foster a mindset of lifelong learning and curiosity about new physical activity, encouraging students to engage in various forms of exercise throughout their life. Students will explore in greater depth the science behind exercise, through the study of anatomy and physiology. Students will learn about commercial and ethical considerations in sport, as well as studying sports psychology and how it affects performance.

Specification

OCR - J587

Assessment

60% Exam 40% NEA

Contact

Mr Wilson

What is this course about?

- The structure and function of the skeletal system
- The structure and function of the muscular system
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- The cardiovascular system
- The respiratory system
- Physical activity and sport in the UK
- The commercialisation of physical activity and sport
- Ethics in sport
- Drugs in sport
- Sports Psychology

What skills will this course help me develop?

You will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport, and use this knowledge to improve performance. You will understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport.

You will learn to perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. You will develop your ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.

You will understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being, and key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed through two, one-hour examinations, with each examination making up 30% of the total marks.

Practical assessment is worth 30%, broken down into three sports worth 10% each.

The final 10% is assessed through a written NEA focusing on the evaluation of your performance in a particular sport.



Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

The study of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics involves the study of religious and non-religious worldviews, philosophical and ethical positions and cultural traditions. It engages students with fundamental questions about human existence and interactions and equips students to live full and successful lives in a multi-religious, multi-secular world. It develops their intellectual framework of knowledge and understanding of the diversity, complexity and fluidity of traditions, beliefs and practices, both in theory and reality. Students of PRE learn to think critically and to evaluate ideas and arguments. They develop a greater awareness of their own worldview and the influences on it.

Specification	Assessment	Contact
AQA 8062	100% Exam	Mrs Carr

What is this course about?

Component 1: theology and social science

You will study the beliefs and practices of two religions, including diversity within those religious traditions.

- Christianity: key beliefs, Jesus Christ and salvation, worship and festivals, and the role of the church in the community
- Hinduism: ideas about the nature of God and existence, beliefs about the nature of human life, worship and festivals, and lifestyle.

Component 2: philosophical and ethical themes

You will engage with and debate big questions and ideas relating to four of the following themes, including the perspectives of different religious and non-religious worldviews.

- Relationships and families
- Life and death
- The existence of God and revelation
- Peace and conflict
- Human rights and social justice

The Avanti Grange Ethos Programme PRE course will complement the GCSE PRE course, so that students of the GCSE course will deepen and broaden their knowledge, supporting their success in the GCSE examinations.

What skills will this course help me develop?

You will use and build on your knowledge and skills from PRE in Years 7-9, to approach the GCSE course topics through the three disciplines of philosophy, theology and social sciences.

You will engage with questions about belief, value, meaning and truth, and reflect on your own responses. You will become even more confident in using your knowledge to write about ideas and beliefs, to analyse and evaluate source texts, data, evidence and arguments, and to support your conclusions.

Studying for a GCSE qualification in PRE enables students to build on the foundations laid in Years 7-9 and to achieve external accreditation for their knowledge and understanding. The knowledge and skills developed in PRE are excellent preparation for A-level courses in a wide range of subjects, from English and Humanities subjects to Social Sciences such as PRE, Sociology and Psychology, Languages and Science.

How is this course assessed?

There are two externally-assessed examinations. On each exam paper you will answer a mixture of short answer questions and questions requiring an extended written response.





Reimagining the purpose of education



To inspire spiritually
compassionate changemakers

A Journey of Self-Discovery



AVANTI SCHOOLS TRUST

The Trust website is a good starting point to learn about the Avanti vision at play in our schools. Short videos are also online.



www.avanti.org.uk

SCHOOL LIFE IN DETAIL

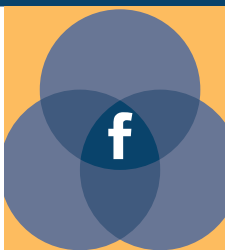
The school website offers up-to-date information on key aspects of school life, from ethos to admissions; school lunches to job opportunities.



www.avanti.org.uk/avantigrange

SOCIALISING

We use Facebook as a shared community page where many school and Trust highlights are broadcast – a great way to stay informed and in touch.



www.facebook.com/avantigrangeschool

INSTAGRAM

Beyond the classroom walls, Instagram is a window into the incredible community of Avanti Grange; where education, discovery and growth thrive.



[@avantigrange](https://www.instagram.com/avantigrange)

X

At Avanti Grange Secondary School we use X to keep everyone updated about the amazing work our teachers and students are doing.



[@AvantiGrange](https://www.x.com/AvantiGrange)

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AVANTI GRANGE

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