

Compulsory Curriculum

In Year 10 and Year 11 (Key Stage 4), you have to study the following courses:

English Language	Physical Education (Core PE) Not examined
English Literature	Trilogy Science (a double award covering all three sciences)
Mathematics	Personal Development (PSHE) Religion, Philosophy and Ethics Not examined

Across your two-week timetable, the allocation of lessons looks like this:

10	English	Maths	Science	PE	PSHCE	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
	8	7	9	3	1	2	5	5	5	5

11	English	Maths	Science	PE	PSHCE	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
	10	7	9	3	1	5	5	5	5

English: You have 9 lessons across the two years in English as they cover two GCSEs: English Language and English Literature.

Science: You also have 9 lessons for Science as this is awarded as two GCSEs as well, although you will learn about all three sciences. You will be taught by 3 teachers: a specialist in each of the separate sciences.

You can also opt for Triple Science as one of your options. This would mean you study all three sciences separately. This would give you 14 lessons of science in your timetable (more than one science lesson per day therefore on four days). You are welcome to choose this option, but Triple Science is not needed for taking any of the Sciences at A level. It would also use up one of your four option choices and give you a narrower range of subjects.

Maths: this is taught in parallel sets which are all on at the same time. Sets 1 and 2 are parallel, as are sets 3 and 4 and sets 5 and 6. Set 7 follows a slightly reduced curriculum and takes Number and Measure Functional Skills exams as well as the GCSE. There are two tiers of entry for GCSE: Foundation and Higher. Which tier you are entered for will be finalised in March of Y11 and based on all your assessment data up to that point.

PE: this follows the same pattern as in Key Stage 3, but you have 3 lessons per fortnight. In addition, you can choose GCSE PE as one of your options.

Therefore, across the 50 lessons of your two-week timetable, you have 30 lessons in the compulsory subjects and 20 lessons on your optional choices. You can choose four optional subjects from a list of twenty.

Personal Development

In Key Stage 4, all students have an entitlement or a statutory obligation to learn about certain wider issues relating to their personal development and well-being. These will be addressed in timetabled lessons across PD and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

- ◆ This is a brand-new course in September 2025 for Y10.
- ◆ This course will be non-examined which means that you will have the space to explore interesting religious, social, political and cultural issues without the pressures that come with GCSEs.
- ◆ The course will be covering a wide range of topics such as human rights, new religious movements and cults, philosophical questions such as 'Does God exist?' and 'How did the universe start?' as well as ethical issues such as war and peace and sexual ethics.

Work Related Learning

- ◆ You will all have the opportunity to undertake a week's work experience in the summer term of Y10. This will be followed by time in PD to reflect on your experience and to analyse and evaluate key aspects of the workplace.
- ◆ You will be offered interviews with our Careers Advisor as and when appropriate to help you to make decisions about what you would like to do after Year 11.
- ◆ You will also have mock interviews in Y10 to develop interview skills and receive feedback on them.

Personal Development

- ◆ You will cover a programme of dedicated lessons that cover aspects of personal wellbeing, financial wellbeing and citizenship.
- ◆ Some topics may also be addressed in half or whole day sessions.
- ◆ Many aspects of wellbeing and citizenship are also addressed across the curriculum and through the variety of extra-curricular activities on offer to students in Key Stage 4.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

- ◆ You have the opportunity in Y10 to undertake the Silver Award in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. This involves volunteering, developing skills, an expedition and a physical section. It is a considerable commitment, but very worthwhile. Mr Jackson leads this programme. ajackson@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk.

Prefects

- ◆ In the Spring of Year 10, you will have the opportunity to apply to be a prefect. It is a formal process with a letter of application and an interview.

Specification: AQA 8700

You will study the courses over two years and will be assessed by examinations at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework or controlled assessment; assessment is by examination only. It is anticipated that *all* students will take both GCSEs: English Language *and* English Literature.

Reading skills: you will study a range of texts including fiction and non-fiction from the C19th, C20th and C21st. You will develop the skills to analyse and compare these texts, building upon the skills you have developed at Key Stage 3.

Writing skills: you will develop your creative writing skills as well as your ability to write for specific audiences and purposes. You will also develop your written accuracy. (Spelling, punctuation and grammar are worth 20% of the marks).

Spoken Language: You will also be required to give a presentation to the class and take questions. This will not count towards your final English Language grade, but you will be given Pass, Merit or Distinction.

<p>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</p> <p>50% 1 hour 45 minutes</p>	<p>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives</p> <p>50% 1 hour 45 minutes</p>
<p><u>Section A:</u></p> <p>Questions on an unseen C20th or C21st fiction text</p> <p><u>Section B:</u></p> <p>Choice of 2 writing tasks -Narrative/Descriptive (thematically linked to Section A)</p>	<p><u>Section A</u></p> <p>Questions on 2 thematically linked C19th & C20th/C21st non-fiction extracts.</p> <p><u>Section B</u></p> <p>Choice of 2 writing tasks for specific purpose/ audience (letter/article etc.)</p> <p>(thematically linked to Section A)</p>

Either English Language or English Literature at Grade 4 or above is required by most colleges and universities, regardless of which subject or vocation you choose. We also offer A Level English Language and Literature in Farmor's Sixth Form.

GCSE English Literature

Subject Head: Sue Simmonds

Contact: ssimmonds@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

Specification: AQA 8702

Course outline

See outline above under 'English Language'.

What should you expect to do during the course?

You will study:

- A play by Shakespeare
- A British play or novel written after 1900
- A C19th British novel
- A selection of poetry written between 1789 and the present day

You will develop your skills, building on the work you have been doing at Key Stage 3. You will read, interpret, analyse, evaluate and compare texts and gain confidence in applying your skills to unseen texts.

Assessment (graded 9- 1)

AQA English Literature GCSE Examinations	
Paper 1 Shakespeare & the C19th novel 40% 1 hour 45 minutes Closed Book	Paper 2 Modern Texts & Poetry 60% 2 hours 15 minutes Closed Book
<u>Section A: Shakespeare</u> 1 question on the studied play. The question is extract based but the extract must be linked to the play as a whole. <u>Section B: The C19th novel</u> 1 essay question which will be extract based. The extract must be linked to the novel as a whole.	<u>Section A: Modern Texts</u> 1 question from a choice of 2 on a modern British novel or play. <u>Section B: Poetry since 1789</u> Q1: Comparing printed poem from their anthology and one other poem from their chosen cluster. <u>Section C: Unseen Poetry</u> Q2: One question on an unseen contemporary poem. Q3: One question comparing the unseen poem with another unseen poem.

Progression into Sixth Form

Either English Language or English Literature at Grade 4 or above is required by most colleges and universities, regardless of which subject or vocation you choose. We also offer A Level English Literature in Farmor's Sixth Form.

GCSE Mathematics

Subject Head: Alison Lines

Contact: alines@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

Head of Key Stage 4 (GCSE): Vicky Tucker

Contact: Italkowski@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

Specification: Edexcel 1MA1

Course outline

The Mathematics GCSE covers a wide range of mathematical knowledge and skills with a strong focus on depth of understanding and problem solving. The knowledge and skills content is grouped into five areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and Proportion
- Geometry
- Probability and Statistics

What should you expect to do during the course?

You will be expected to:

- Recall and use standard mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems.
- Be able to break down more complex problems into small steps in order to solve them.
- Be able to apply mathematical skills to analyse problems in a real life context.
- Be able to use a calculator to solve problems quickly and effectively.

The core textbooks and other resources develop learning through practical activities and traditional exercises. These books are supplemented by other appropriate materials, including computer software.

Homework is set on a regular basis to consolidate work taught in class or to revise topics previously learned. On-line homework is set regularly and if you are without internet access, you should speak to your teacher to agree how you will access and complete the homework.

Assessment (graded 9- 1)

The assessment for the course consists of 3 papers all sat at the end of year 11. Each paper is 1½ hours long and there is one non-calculator and two calculator papers. Each paper is marked out of 80 giving a maximum total of 240 marks.

You will be entered for either the foundation or higher tier exam papers. The higher tier examination is graded from 9 to 4 while the foundation tier is graded from 5 to 1.

Progression into Sixth Form

The GCSE prepares you to take any of the 3 maths options in the sixth form which are A level Mathematics; A level Further Mathematics and Core Mathematics. The course also supports the subjects that require some level of maths which are the sciences, psychology, business & economics and geography.



GCSE Combined Science

Head of Science: Sylvia Bettington

Second in Science: Andrew Rowan

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Specification: AQA Trilogy. The Combined Award GCSE AQA course code is 8464.

Course outline

The compulsory GCSE Science is a Combined Science course which covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Combined Science course counts for 2 GCSEs.

On the Combined Science course, you will have 3 teachers whom you will see for a total of 9 one-hour lessons per fortnight.

What should you expect to cover within the courses?

Alongside the theory for each topic, you will engage in a variety of required “compulsory practical tasks” to support your understanding. To test your understanding of practical work, coursework has been replaced on these new courses with questions in the final exams that focus on the practical aspects of the topics taught.

Assessment (graded 9- 1)

The course has terminal exams in Year 11. As there are no coursework elements, the grades awarded are solely based on the final exams.

Combined Science = 6 exams (2xBio 2xChem 2xPhys) each worth 70 marks. Time – 1 hour 15 min each. This leads to the awarding of 2 x GCSEs in Science on the 9 to 1 scale. Grades are awarded e.g. 9-9, 9-8, 8-8, 8-7, 7-7 etc.

Progression into Sixth Form

This course is an excellent stepping stone if you wish to continue on to study A levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.