

LOWER 5 – UPPER 5

COURSE PROGRAMME

2011–2013



IMAGINE ASPIRE ACHIEVE

COURSE PROGRAMME FOR GIRLS ENTERING LOWER FIFTH (YEAR 10) SEPTEMBER 2011

The Lower 5/Upper 5 Curriculum is designed to give you a GCSE programme characterised by breadth, quality and flexibility. You will study for 11 qualifications: seven core GCSE subjects + three options + OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT.

In line with other leading girls' schools we strongly recommend that this is the optimum number of qualifications to aim for in order to avoid overload (especially of coursework!).

It is also important that you have time to enjoy the subjects you are doing and to be involved in, for example, sport and extra-curricular Drama and Music.

- You may choose whichever three subjects you like from Group 3.
- You will be able to continue to build on your ICT skills by following a one-period- per-week course leading to OCR Level 2 National First Award In ICT (this is a full GCSE level-equivalent qualification).
- Look carefully at Groups 1, 2 and 3 on page 3. Everyone does all the subjects in Groups 1 and 2; and everyone must choose three subjects from Group 3. This gives you 11 qualifications overall: your OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT plus ten at GCSE.
- Remember that if you want to study two Modern Languages (French plus either German or Spanish), then you must choose French as your language from Group 3.
- If you wish to study Classical Greek, German or Spanish remember that you must be studying your chosen language in Upper 4 (Year 9).
- If you want to study any language (Classical or Modern) at AS/A2 level in the Sixth Form it is essential to have studied it to GCSE level.

GROUP 1 Core GCSE subjects	GROUP 2 Core Subjects (non -GCSE)	GROUP 3 Option Choices
These subjects are compulsory:		
English English Literature Mathematics Biology Chemistry Physics A Modern Foreign Language is also compulsory but involves a choice as follows: French or German or Spanish	OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT (full GCSE equivalent) Physical Education Core Religious Education	Art* Classical Greek Drama* Food and Nutrition* French Geography* History* Latin Music* Religious Studies*

Subjects marked * may be taken in the Sixth Form even if they have not been taken at GCSE. Students must realise, however, that without a GCSE background in the subject considerable hard work and strong motivation are required if a reasonable grade is to be obtained, especially if it is intended to take the subject to A-level.

You will have lots of opportunity to discuss your choices with your Year Head, Form Tutors and subject teachers.

You must return your provisional subject selection form by Tuesday 1st February 2011 and you will be asked to place your provisional option choices in order of priority to assist Ms Hughes' arbitration as Headmistress, should any subject be over-subscribed. Our aim is to give you at least two out of your first three choices from Group 3.

After your summer examinations at the end of Lower 5 (Year 10) and during the Autumn Term in Upper 5 (Year 11) your career interests will be assessed. The Maynard School is a member of the Independent Schools' Careers Organisation and this entitles our pupils to many free benefits. At the end of Lower 5 you will take the Morrisby Psychometric Profile, which gives an indication of your personality, your strengths and skills and outlines possible career choices for you.

During Lower 5 and Upper 5 there will be opportunities to listen to speakers from a variety of careers and to have a careers interview. Work experience takes place at the end of the Summer Term of your Upper 5 year. Parents' Evenings are held in the Spring Term of Lower 5 and in the Autumn Term of Upper 5. These are important opportunities for parents to discuss your progress and plans with all your teachers.

At the end of the Autumn and Summer Terms of Lower 5, and in the Spring Term of Upper 5, we will send home written reports on your progress. 'Progress checks' will be made in February in each year, in May for Lower 5 and also in December for Upper 5. If you or your parents wish to discuss these, we will be pleased to arrange an appointment for you.

GROUP 1: CORE GCSE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

English and English Literature are examined as separate subjects with a "Speaking and Listening" component for English, involving individual, pair and group work. The two-year course requires coursework to be produced for both subjects, and preparation for the examinations will focus on Language and Literature work in both the Lower and Upper Fifth. Pupils are encouraged to produce imaginative and accurate written work and to respond to a range of stimulating literature.

60% of the marks, including 20% for "Speaking and Listening", is allocated to English coursework, and 25% of the marks is allocated to English Literature coursework. All coursework is written under controlled conditions.

SCIENCE

The Maynard School offers AQA GCSEs in all three Sciences. These are exciting and challenging courses designed to make Science relevant to everyday life, while offering academic rigour. All students study Biology, Physics and Chemistry leading to three separate GCSE qualifications over a 3 year period (U4/L5/U5). We believe this offers the best support for moving on to 'A' level Science, should students choose to do so.

Each subject is made up of four units each contributing 25% of the final mark. Units one to three for each subject are assessed as written papers. Unit 1 is studied in U4 and L5 and will be assessed as a written exam in L5. Units 2 and 3 are studied in L5 and U5 are assessed by terminal examination at the end of U5. The final unit for each subject is centre-assessed work, composed of assessments of practical and analytical skills. The centre-assessed work is carried out in L5 and U5.

MATHEMATICS

The course aims to develop an understanding and knowledge of mathematical principles and to encourage the use of Mathematics in other subjects and in everyday life. Topics covered include all aspects of numerical calculation, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, data handling and applications of Mathematics.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH)

French, German and Spanish GCSE courses aim to:

- develop your ability to understand and use the language effectively for practical communication in a wide variety of everyday situations. (You will have already studied the language for at least two years.)
- promote skills which have a wider application such as analysis, drawing inferences and memorising
- develop an understanding of grammar
- offer insights into other cultures
- provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- form a sound base of the skills required for further study, work and leisure

The receptive skills of listening and reading are assessed in terminal examinations. The productive skills of speaking and writing are assessed in controlled assessments carried out over the course of the two years.

During the course there is the opportunity to take part in an exchange visit to Hildesheim and study trips to France and Spain.

GROUP 2: CORE GENERAL SUBJECTS

OCR LEVEL 2 NATIONAL FIRST AWARD IN ICT

One lesson per week will allow you to continue improving your ICT skills and gain a full GCSE equivalent in ICT at grades A-C. You can easily proceed onto A-level ICT from this course.

The OCR Level 2 Nationals in ICT have been developed to recognise candidates' skills, knowledge and understanding of Information and Communication Technology functions, environments and operations. They have been designed to accredit candidates' achievements in a modern and practical way that is relevant to the world around them.

The qualification specifically aims to:

- Develop candidates' knowledge and understanding of the Information and Communication Technology.
- Develop candidates' ability to work autonomously and effectively in an Information and Communication Technology context.
- Develop candidates' skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of industry-standard software applications,
- Enable candidates to develop knowledge and understanding in specialist areas of Information and Communication Technology,

- Encourage progression by assisting in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that candidates will need to access sixth form and higher education programmes.

To attain the OCR Level 2 National First Award In ICT you will complete two units of work (this course is 100% coursework).

Unit 1, ICT Skills for Business is the mandatory unit for this qualification and covers the following areas: word processing, desktop publishing, presentations, spreadsheet, databases, and the internet and e-mail. Students then have the opportunity to select one of the following additional units: Unit 20, Creating Animation, Unit 21, Creating Computer Graphics, Unit 22, Creating Sound and Unit 23, Creating Video. Girls will be guided by their ICT Teacher on which unit will be most suitable for them.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Lower 5

Winter programme

The emphasis is on encouraging girls to take more responsibility for their own fitness and hopefully build habits for life. netball and badminton, hockey*, rota of basketball and aerobics.

*The Under 15 squad play hockey for the Autumn term.

In the Spring term girls are introduced to an option system where they opt for hockey, aerobics, on-site activity, fencing or squash.

Summer programme

Rounders, Tennis or Volleyball
Athletics, Rounders or Swimming.

In Upper 5 this becomes one afternoon per week. We offer an option which encourages girls to choose according to their interest thereby encouraging fitness for life.

Winter programme

An option is chosen from: Aerobics, Badminton, Basketball, Fencing, Golf, *Hockey, Netball, Squash, Swimming and Volleyball.

*The Under 16 and Senior squads play Hockey in the Autumn term.

Summer programme

Tennis, Swimming, Softball or Rounders

CORE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This is the statutory general lesson, which fulfils the requirements of the Basic Curriculum Core. Core RE provides an important opportunity for thinking about and discussing many different religious and moral themes. Emphasis is on active learning and debate; there is no formal assessment or homework.

The content of the course is flexible as we aim to respond to contemporary events and issues, as well as to the girls' interests.

Recent areas of study have included:

- Women in Religion
- The body
- Religion and the Arts
- Global responsibility
- Making moral decisions
- Life and death issues
- Philosophical thinking.

N.B. All girls will follow the **Core RE** programme, but many also decide to opt for **Religious Studies GCSE** as well.

GROUP 3: GCSE OPTION CHOICES

ART & DESIGN

This exciting and enjoyable course enables you really to develop your visual thinking and practical skills. It encourages an adventurous, enquiring approach and projects are designed to encourage creativity, self-expression and self-motivation.

It will enable you to develop your creative and imaginative powers and your ability to communicate visually. You will develop your skills in being able to use a variety of media sensitively and to a high technical standard. The course will develop your ability to observe and record from direct observation as well as your ability to research and interpret other Artists' work which links with your own ideas.

The course consists of:

- Unit 1: Art and Design Portfolio (Coursework, 60%)
You will produce a portfolio of work that demonstrates a personal response to the subjects and themes set. A variety of media will be explored and you will be encouraged to use sketchbooks, and to discuss your work with your teacher at all times.
- Unit 2: Art and Design OCR — Set Task (Examination, 40%)
For this unit you will receive an early release question paper from which you will

research, plan and develop your chosen starting point for your own personal response. You will be able to discuss your ideas and approach with your teacher. Up to 10 hours are given for you independently to realise your final piece.

CLASSICAL GREEK

The course gives an enjoyable introduction to Greek life, history and ideas, and enables girls to read selected passages from ancient Greek authors. Although the course is focused on the language and literature, it also enables us to introduce girls to the artistic achievements of the Greeks. We read from a variety of authors e.g. the poetry of Homer and drama of Euripides; selections from Herodotus and Plato.

Four units will be examined for GCSE. These are:

- Two language units consisting of translation and comprehension
- Two units from verse literature, prose literature and sources for Classical Greece.

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

A GCSE qualification in Drama will provide you with the confidence, creativity and analytical techniques which will help in carrying you through to the next stage of your education, and beyond. The skills taught will include improvisation, interpreting and analysing text, vocal techniques and presentation, movement, directing, working with sound, stage management and lighting. It is also an exciting opportunity to explore different ways of visually presenting ideas, while encouraging quick and lateral thinking. Theatre visits are an integral part of the course which not only help to support the skills learned but also enable you to develop a discerning yet exciting appreciation of the Arts.

Assessments will cover the following two papers:

- Unit 1 (30%): exploring the use of drama in response to stimulus material selected from different times and cultures based around a theme. Written coursework, practical internal assessment.
- Unit 2 (30%): exploring a specific play text in depth, including how the playwright's ideas are communicated to an audience. Evaluation of a theatre performance seen as a group. Written course work, practical internal assessment.
- Unit 3 (40%): Drama Performance. In this paper students have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills as performers or designers. External assessment by a visiting examiner.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

This is a new and exciting GCSE course from OCR with a very strong practical element on a weekly basis, enabling students to investigate a wide variety of nutritional and health issues. During the course we build upon the work we have completed in Upper 4 and investigate the relationship between nutrition, food choice, diet and health.

We aim to equip students with a range of life skills including organisation, management and practical skills, problem solving and decision making, all in the context of a relaxed and fun environment. If you enjoy Food and Nutrition this year you'll love this!

During the course you will complete three short tasks (set by the examination board) demonstrating different practical skills and one longer task (based on a theme suggested by the examination board) All the tasks are carried out in school during your Food and Nutrition lessons and make up 60% of the final mark.

The written examination consists of one paper of 1 hour 30 minutes.

During the course, we visit the Good Food Show Exhibition at the NEC, The Taste of the West Show in Exeter and undertake numerous town and local visits.

GEOGRAPHY

The syllabus continues to build on the geographical knowledge, skills and understanding acquired during Key Stages 2 and 3.

It develops:

- an understanding of both physical processes and human actions in relation to the development of landscapes and human environments, e.g. how river features develop and how man's interference can cause floods.
- a wide range of skills in using maps of various kinds and scales, graphs, photographs, diagrams, collection of fieldwork data and making reasoned judgements on geographical issues. ICT skills are also developed including research of case studies using the internet. Coursework can be researched, and must be presented, using ICT skills.

The main areas of study, which are tested in the two written papers, are three from:

- a. tectonic activities (volcanoes and earthquakes), coasts, rocks and landscapes, rivers, and ecosystems.
- b. Global population issues, changing urban and rural environments, tourism and development issues, and globalisation.

Fieldwork skills acquired are then used for the girls' own coursework which makes up 25% of the final examination mark.

HISTORY

This qualification will take you on a journey through some of the most significant events in modern world history, linking these events with the present and basing your understanding on a wide variety of historical evidence. The course will make extensive use of multi-media in its delivery and our students are encouraged to present their work in many different ways including class presentations, written essays, posters, wall displays and ICT.

Our new specification consists of four modules, each worth 25% of your final grade. Three of these will be examined and the fourth is a controlled assessment completed in school.

- Unit 1 is an overview of international relations from 1943 to 1991 focusing on the dramatic events that surrounded the 'Cold War'
- Unit 2 is a modern world depth study in which you will learn about the huge changes that took place with in American society between 1919 and 1941.
- Unit 3 is a modern world source enquiry, focusing on the transformation of British society between 1931 and 1951.
- Unit 4, the controlled assessment, will concentrate on the conflict in Vietnam between 1963 and 1975 and how it has been represented since those tumultuous years.

LATIN

The first two years of Latin, which have now been completed, are the foundation for the GCSE course. We shall continue to develop language skills through translation and comprehension work. Further aims of the course are to read and appreciate some of the literature in the original language and to acquire a wider understanding of the life, history and customs of the Roman people and their contribution to the culture of Europe. We read from a variety of authors, e.g. the poetry of Virgil, Ovid, Catullus, selections from Tacitus' history and Cicero.

Four units will be examined for GCSE. These are:

- Two language units comprising translation and comprehension
- Two units chosen from verse literature, prose literature and sources for Latin.

MUSIC

This course is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles – classical music, popular music and world music.

- Paper 1 – Performing (30%) You will perform one piece as a soloist and one piece as part of an ensemble. Performances may take place at any time during the course.
- Paper 2 – Composing (30%) This is entirely coursework. During the course we look at various composition techniques which are followed up in practice. Two pieces of music are finally selected from these composition projects, lasting at least three minutes in total, which will be assessed.
- Paper 3 – Listening and Appraising (40%) You will listen to a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and performed.

You will encounter music from four different areas of study:

1. Structure in Western Classical Music 1600–1899
2. New directions in Western Classical Music — 1900 to the present day.
3. Popular music in context.
4. Rhythms, scales and modes in music from around the world.

This area of the subject is assessed by a written listening examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes in the Summer of the Upper 5 year.

It is an advantage (but not essential) to have some keyboard skills. To be able to obtain higher grades for the performing paper you will need to perform pieces of approximately Grade 4 standard by the Spring term of the Upper 5.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The GCSE RS course follows the OCR World Religions specification. You will complete four units, covering two main areas of study. These will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of one of the oldest, most influential and fascinating world religions and to explore and evaluate perspectives on some of the major ethical issues facing the modern world.

In Lower Five, you will study the main beliefs and practices of Judaism.

- Unit B579 covers Jewish Beliefs; Special Days and Major Divisions and Interpretations.
- Unit B580 explores Places and Forms of Worship; Religion in the Faith Community and Family; Sacred Writings.

These two units are examined by two one-hour examinations taken at the end of Lower Five.

In Upper Five, you will study Christian perspectives on some key moral issues.

- Unit B589 addresses human Responsibility for the Planet; War, Peace and Human Rights; Prejudice and Equality.
- Unit B580 explores human Relationships; Medical Ethics; Poverty and Wealth.

These two units are assessed by a further two one-hour examinations, taken at the end of Upper Five. There is no coursework for GCSE RS.

MAY YOUR NEXT
TWO YEARS BE HAPPY
AND SUCCESSFUL!

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