

**SUBJECT: English Language**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE Single Award**

### **What will I Learn?**

At the core of English Language GCSE lies the essential development of your reading, writing and communication skills. You will be encouraged to read and analyse high quality, challenging literature and non-fiction from a range of genres across the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. A focus on language analysis will embed the qualities of 'academic writing' and stimulate your own creative writing pieces.

### **How will I learn?**

You will learn through a combination of the core English skills: reading, writing, discussing, debating and reasoning. You will also be supported to develop memory and recall through frequent revision activities.

### **How will I be assessed?**

There are two exam papers in Year 11 which will be extract-based. You will be assessed on your ability to accurately and effectively read, write and communicate in Standard English. Reading assessments focus on a sophisticated set of skills to analyse texts with specialist language terminology and relevant links to contexts.

In addition, you will also develop a range of speaking and listening skills with emphasis being placed upon you becoming more confident in formal speaking.

### **Did you know?**

A new word is added to the dictionary every two hours.

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## **SUBJECT: English Literature**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE Single Award**

### **What will I Learn?**

English Literature GCSE encourages you to read a wide range of challenging classic literature. You will study texts from different historical periods which will enable you to experience life in 1960s Liverpool, the dark streets of Victorian London and to explore the complexity of human relationships across time in poetry. You will be assessed on your skills in analysing, interpreting and critically evaluating a range of literary texts including a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, a Shakespeare play, a selection of poetry since 1789 and British fiction or drama from 1914 onwards.

### **How will I learn?**

You will use independent research and study skills to discover what life was like such as social pressures, traditions and personal experiences. You will also approach texts from different perspectives, seeking to develop multiple interpretations of language, form and structure as well as character and theme.

### **How will I be assessed?**

There are two exam papers in Year 11 which focus on your ability to answer essay questions coherently and with appropriate textual detail (from memory). The poetry section of your exam will ask you to compare two 'unseen' poems.

### **Did you know?**

Shakespeare has been credited by the Oxford English Dictionary with introducing almost 3,000 words to the English language.

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# **SUBJECT: Mathematics**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

## **Course Level: GCSE**

Mathematics is offered at foundation or higher tier level. The final tier of entry for each student will not be decided until after mock examinations in Year 11.

### **What will I Learn?**

You will learn maths through a range of learning experiences including problem solving in a wide variety of contexts, investigations, data analysis and mathematical reasoning. You will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of number, ratio and proportion, geometry, algebra, statistics and probability.

### **How will I learn?**

You will participate in a variety of learning approaches including problem solving, research and responding to individual assessment feedback and target setting. You will also learn through whole-class discussion, paired and group investigations and individual practise.

### **How will I be assessed?**

There are 3 examination papers at the end of Year 11, each 1.5 hours long. One paper is non-calculator. All papers are equally weighted. Each paper can cover any of the GCSE topics.

### **Did you know?**

From number 0 to 1000, the letter 'A' only appears in 1000 – 'one thousand'

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# **SUBJECT: Biology**

# **Awarding Body: Edexcel**

**Course Level: GCSE**

## **What will I Learn?**

Biology GCSE is an exciting and engaging subject which covers elements of both human and plant biology. You will learn how the human body works and how both plants and animals adapt to survive in their environments. There are also opportunities to discuss the ethical implications of new biological applications in modern science such as genetic engineering.

## **How will I learn?**

Together with whole-class learning you will use independent research and study skills to extend your knowledge of the living world.

The course includes many hands-on science experiments through which you will learn key practical skills. There will also be opportunities for field-work and outside, studying the distribution of organisms in our environment.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Combined Science – Two 1hr 10 min Biology examinations at the end of Year 11

Separate Science – Two 1hr 45 min Biology examinations at the end of Year 11

## **Did you know?**

Human bone is as strong as granite in supporting weight. A block of bone the size of a matchbox can support 9 tonnes – that is four times as much as concrete can support.

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**SUBJECT: Chemistry**

**Awarding Body: Edexcel**

**Course Level: GCSE**

**What will I Learn?**

You will learn about the structure of the atom, this will give you a foundation for studying chemistry. In addition you will also learn the elements of the modern periodic table, different types of chemical bonds, states of matter and how matter can change state. Finally you will understand the reactions of matter and the chemistry of acids; you will also write chemical symbols, formulae and equations.

**How will I learn?**

This GCSE has a strong focus on your ability to conduct practicals and maths calculations. Whilst there is no coursework you will complete practical- based questions in your examinations. To enhance learning experiences a combination of assessments and books, videos and research-based challenges are used.

**How will I be assessed?**

2 x 1 hour 45 minute examinations at the end of Year 11

**Did you know?**

Hot peppers get their heat from a molecule called capsaicin. While the molecule acts as an irritant to mammals, including humans, birds lack the receptor responsible for the effect and are immune to the burning sensation from exposure.

**Contact: Miss Starkey**

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**SUBJECT: Physics**

**Awarding Body: Edexcel**

**Course Level: GCSE**

**What will I Learn?**

Physics is an exciting subject in which you will learn about everything from the smallest sub-atomic particles inside atoms up to the huge galaxies that populate our universe. How fast can a cheetah run? How does a rocket work? What is lightening? These are just some of the questions that will be answered in GCSE Physics.

**How will I learn?**

You will use a range of skills as you progress through learning physics including research, investigation and experimentation to explore the subject.

The course now includes even more practical challenges than in previous years with plenty of opportunity to explore equipment such as lasers, radioactive materials, rockets and much more.

**How will I be assessed?**

2 x 1 hour 45 minute examinations at the end of Year 11

**Did you know?**

The universe contains billions of galaxies, each one holds billions of stars. Despite this, the universe is so vast that travelling to the next closest star to us would take over 100,000 years on the rockets we currently use.

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# **SUBJECT: Art and Design (Fine Art)      Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

## **What will I learn?**

You will develop your skills of creativity, imagination, research, investigation and experimentation through different media such as drawing, painting and mixed media. The development of ideas from first-hand experience and, where appropriate, secondary source material will also be studied. You will also learn how artists and crafts people produce their work.

## **How will I learn?**

You will learn from practical experiment and analysis

## **How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1- portfolio of work- must include more than 1 project, 96 marks, worth 60%

Unit 2- externally set assignment - response to a chosen starting point, 96 marks, worth 40%

## **Did you know?**

Art offers student's opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental.

*Due to examination code restrictions you will ONLY be able to study either art, photography or art textiles*

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# **SUBJECT: Art and Design- Textile Design (Art Textiles)**

## **Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

### **What will I Learn?**

You will experience a variety of techniques and processes such as weaving, felting, stitching, appliqué, construction methods, printing, inks, yarns, threads, fibres, fabrics, textile materials and digital imagery to create pieces of art using textile materials.

You will use this to develop your own portfolio of pieces and study the work of textile artists.

### **How will I learn?**

You will learn from practical exploration and analysis in a journal as well as textile art pieces

### **How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1- portfolio of work- must include more than one project, 96 marks worth 60%

Unit 2- externally set assignment- response to a chosen starting point, 96 marks worth 40%

**Please note this course is only available as a two-year option to those students taking the separate sciences.**

*Due to examination code restrictions you will ONLY be able to study either art, photography or art textiles*

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**SUBJECT: Business**

**Awarding Body: OCR**

**Course Level: GCSE**

### **What will I Learn?**

This subject offers you a detailed look into how a business works. In Year 9 you develop an overall understanding of businesses and the role of the entrepreneur. In Year 10 you will focus your learning on small businesses and looking at these specific areas: enterprise and entrepreneurship; spotting a business opportunity; putting a business idea into practice; making the business effective; and understanding external influences on business.

In Year 11 the focus is on larger businesses. You will look in more depth at areas such as growing the business; making marketing, operational, financial and human resource decisions.

### **How will I learn?**

You will study case studies based on particular businesses. You will also be involved in collaborative exercises where you will to deliver presentations. You will complete a wide range of examination questions which will focus on knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation.

### **How will I be assessed?**

You will sit two external examinations in Year 11, each worth 50%, which reflect the content that you were taught in Year 10 and Year 11.

**Please note this course is ALSO available as a two year option for those students taking the separate sciences.**

**Did you know?** The red and white Coca Cola logo is recognised by 94% of the world's population.

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**SUBJECT: Computer Science**

**Awarding Body: OCR**

**Course Level: GCSE**

**What will I Learn?**

In GCSE Computer Science you will learn how computers work and communicate with different devices and the hardware needed to make all of this happen. You will also learn how to design and create programs in text-based programming languages and develop them for a specific purpose. We will look into how a computer ‘thinks’ in order to solve different problems.

**How will I learn?**

You will design, write and correct programs that will overcome a range of problems. You will also learn about different pieces of hardware and how they fit into a computer.

**How will I be assessed?**

Two written examination papers – Each paper is 90 minutes and each are worth 50% of the final grade.

**Did you know?**

A computer as powerful as the human brain would be able to perform about 38 thousand trillion operations per second and hold about 3,584 terabytes of memory.

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**SUBJECT: Dance**

**Awarding Body: AQA/RSL**

**Course Level: CaPA Level 2 (GSCE Equivalent)**

**What will I Learn?**

You will develop different styles of dance, enhance and develop techniques and expressive qualities as a performer.

**How will I learn?**

Practical lessons and workshops will focus on techniques and choreography supported with theory. Topics include developing techniques, choreography and dance appreciation. You will also study the works of professional choreographers and dance companies to increase your own knowledge base and enhance your technical, expressive and choreographic skills as a performer.

**How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed through choreography, performance and theory

The examination element is worth 40% of the final assessment.

Please ask for advice if you are considering both Drama and Dance

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**SUBJECT: Drama**

**Awarding Body: OCR**

**Course Level: GCSE**

### **What will I learn?**

You will learn about how to devise drama by exploring a variety of stimuli to create your own piece. You will learn the skills of drama performance, then analyse that performance in a written portfolio. 'Presenting and Performing Texts' is where we show our understanding of different texts by performing them to an examiner alongside a written evaluation.

### **How will I learn?**

70% of the Drama GCSE will be assessed on written work. To be successful in drama you will need to develop through as much practical work as possible. You will also learn about drama through questions based on a play through the analysis and evaluation of live performances.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Performance (20 marks) and a written examination (40 marks)

Performance (40 marks) and a written examination (20 marks)

1hr 30 written examination at the end of the course

Section A - 50 marks and Section B – 30 marks

Please ask for advice if you are considering both Drama and Dance.

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# **SUBJECT: AQA Design & Technology    Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

This is a design-based course where you will experience all material areas including woods, metals, polymers, fabrics, electronic systems, papers and boards.

## **What will I Learn?**

You will be using hand tools, machine tools, 2D and 3D CAD for designing and manufacture. This will include CNC tools such as the laser cutter, CNC router and 3D printer to work with various materials. In Year 9, you will learn the same core skills and knowledge, and then in Year 10 specialise by studying in your chosen material areas in more depth.

## **How will I learn?**

You will have exciting lessons with a combination of practical and theory activities. You will also make products and create samples to help you learn new techniques and processes.

## **How will I be assessed?**

50% of your GCSE grade will come from an 'Iterative Design Contextual Challenge' (NEA) and 50% will be assessed by a written exam at the end of Year 11.

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## **SUBJECT: Engineering**

**Awarding Body: OCR**

**Course Level:** Cambridge National Certificate in Engineering Design (GCSE Equivalent)

### **What will I Learn?**

You will develop your knowledge and understanding in relation to the fundamental principles and processes of engineering design. Through practical activities you will develop skills in computer-modelling and model-making and then how to communicate design ideas effectively.

### **How will I learn?**

You will learn a range of theories and through practical exploration. You will explore about the development of new products and about consumer requirements and market opportunities. You will also have an opportunity to develop your knowledge and skill in communicating 2D and 3D design ideas, including effective annotation and labelling. You will use detailed hand rendering as well as computer-based presentation techniques and computer-aided design (CAD) software.

### **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed through both an external examination and through a written assessment. The latter will include using design briefs, design specifications and user requirements

### **Did you know?**

The top 10% of engineers can earn up to £110,000 per year.

**Please note this course is ONLY available as a two year option to those students taking the separate sciences.**

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# **SUBJECT: Food Preparation and Nutrition**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

## **What will I learn?**

You will study connections between theory and practice enabling you to apply your understanding of food and nutrition to practical cooking. Topics covered include nutrition, food provenance, food science and choice, cooking, food preparation and techniques.

## **How will I learn?**

You will demonstrate your knowledge of food science, cooking and nutrition by planning and cooking a range of dishes combining appropriate techniques. You will also analyse and evaluate different aspects of nutrition, food, cooking and preparation, including food that you have made and food made by others as well as conducting scientific experiments that explore the effect of different ingredients.

## **How will I be assessed?**

50% written examination and 50% controlled assessment in two assignments. The unit on Food Science Investigation is worth 15% and Food Preparation is worth 35%.

## **Did you know?**

Gordon Ramsey is now worth 72 million pounds and owns 34 restaurants..... not bad for a boy who loved to cook!!!

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# **SUBJECT: Geography**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

## **What will I Learn?**

Geography helps you consider the different influences which affect our world and encourages you to understand the social, economic and environmental factors which shape and change it. This will be done through physical geography in the study of natural hazards, ecosystems, and river and coasts, and through human geography in the study of urban environments, world development and resource management.

## **How will I learn?**

Learning is based around a series of skills including independent enquiry, resource interpretation, problem solving, map skills, team-work, fieldwork and data analysis. There is also an emphasis on numeracy and statistical skills when you collect, present, and interpret different sets of data. Examination technique will be addressed in every unit of work to help prepare you for the regular assessments.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment – written examination (1 hr 30)

Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment – written examination (1hr 30)

Paper 3 – Geographical Applications – written examination (1hr 15)

GCSE weighting: Paper 1 and 2 is worth 35% and Paper 3 is worth 30%

## **Did you know?**

The largest recorded earthquake was in Chile in 1960, reaching 9.5 on the Richter scale.

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**SUBJECT: Health and Social Care**

**Awarding Body: OCR**

**Course Level: Cambridge National (GCSE Equivalent)**

### **What will I Learn?**

This is a vocational qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. A qualification in Health and Social Care will equip you with specialist knowledge and skills. The hands-on approach would be beneficial to you if you are considering a career that involves working with people.

### **How will I learn?**

You will construct presentations, undertake research and conduct practical investigations. You will apply your learning to the assignments that make up the course.

### **How will I be assessed?**

There are 6 units, each equally weighted. The first 5 units are all coursework and assignment-based. The last unit which we will study in Year 11 will be tested as an external examination at the end of the course.

### **Did you know?**

Projections in 2018 show that in 50 years time there is likely to be an additional 8.6 million people aged 65 and over, which is 26% of the population and roughly size of London.

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**SUBJECT: History**

**Awarding Body: Edexcel**

**Course Level: GCSE**

**What will I Learn?**

The four topics you will cover are American West, Medicine through Time (with a depth study of surgery during WWI), Weimar and Nazi Germany and Elizabeth I. You will learn the skills of structuring lines of argument, evaluating the usefulness of information, questioning different viewpoints as well as learning about the context and impact of key historical events within these topics.

**How will I learn?**

Regular use of interactive practice will help you secure your knowledge and focus on key topic words; skills will be reinforced through periodic assessments.

**How will I be assessed?**

There are 3 examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 is on *Medicine through Time*, is 75 minutes, and has essays as well as source based questions

Paper 2 is on *American West and Elizabeth I*, is 105 minutes, and has a mix of essay and short answer questions.

Paper 3 is *Weimar and Nazi Germany*, is 75 minutes, and is a mixture of essay and short answer questions, some of which evaluate historians' interpretations of the period.

**Did you know?**

There were more than 20 failed assassination attempts on Hitler.

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**SUBJECT: Media Studies**

**Awarding Body: EDUQAS**

**Course level: Single Award GCSE**

**What will I Learn?**

This course involves the close analysis of the images, sounds and text that we experience through the media. It is the study of individual media texts such as television, film, radio, newspapers, magazines and music.

**How will I Learn?**

Throughout the course you will examine the audience that each media targets and explore how different media use different methods to appeal to audiences. You will investigate the ways the media seeks to change and influence our point of view or the way we see things. To enable us to do this we use media equipment to make your own magazines and DVD covers. You will analyse films, adverts, music videos, images and write essays and evaluations on the media that you have studied. The course aims to enhance your creative skills through research and planning while developing skills that will be useful for careers in journalism, communication, and advertising or marketing.

**How will I be assessed?**

A 70% examined unit and a 30% 'non-examined assessment' unit.

**Did you know?**

The average UK adult spends 8hrs 41mins each day using media and communication devices. More time than they spend asleep!

**Please note this course is ALSO available as a two year option for those students taking the separate sciences.**

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# **SUBJECT: MFL (French/German/Spanish) Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

**Tiers of entry: Foundation or Higher**

## **What will I Learn?**

You will learn about the identity, culture and language of your chosen subject, for example how to converse and study a range of topics using the target language in writing and in speaking. Topics that will be covered will include customs and practices and the social and global issues associated with the country of your chosen foreign language study.

## **How will I learn?**

Throughout the GCSE course you will use skills designed to improve the four main linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each skill has a weighting of 25% at GCSE level.

## **How will I be assessed?**

- Paper 1 (Listening) will assess your understanding and response to different types of spoken language. Response to questions can be in Target Language, English or non-verbal.
- Paper 2 (Speaking) will assess your ability to communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. The examination includes a role play, a photo card and general conversation.
- Paper 3 (Reading) will assess your understanding and response to different types of written language. Response to questions can be in Target Language, English or non-verbal. You will translate a passage of between 35-50 words from Target Language into English.
- Paper 4 (Writing) will assess your ability to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. At Foundation level it includes sentences in response to a photo, a short written passage, translation from English to Target Language and a structured-writing task. At Higher level it includes a structured writing task, an open-ended writing task and translation from English to Target Language.

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**SUBJECT: Music**

**Awarding Body: Edexcel**

**Course level: Single Award GCSE**

### **What will I Learn?**

Studying GCSE Music will help you to develop a specialist knowledge and understanding in music, as well as a full range of skills such as listening critically to a variety of music, playing music and creating your own music. You will learn to read music notation, compose pieces for small ensembles and perform music on your chosen instrument or as a vocalist.

### **How will I Learn?**

As a practical subject you will learn through performance, practise, workshops and master-classes. The academic aspect of music will be studied through exploration, research, analysis and score-work.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Performing – 30% - You will record one solo and one ensemble piece.

Composing – 30% - You will use your knowledge of the four Areas of Study to inform two compositions.

Listening and Appraising – 40% - You will answer questions on 8 set pieces and some unheard music in a formal examination at the end of Year 11.

### **Did you know?**

The piano that Freddie Mercury plays in his famous pop hit Bohemian Rhapsody is the same piano that Paul McCartney played in his hit Hey Jude.

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## **SUBJECT: Photography:**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

### **What will I Learn?**

You will experience a variety of lens-based and light based media, techniques and processes. You will use this to develop your own portfolio of pieces and study the work of photographers.

### **How will I learn?**

You will learn from practical exploration and analysis.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1- portfolio of work- must include more than one project, 96 marks worth 60%

Unit 2- externally set assignment- response to a chosen starting point 96, marks worth 40%

### **Did you know?**

Photography offers you an opportunity to capture visual qualities that memorialise a moment in time.

**Please note this course is ONLY available as a two-year option to those students taking the separate sciences.**

**Due to examination code restrictions you will ONLY be able to study either art, photography or art textiles**

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**SUBJECT: Physical Education**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

### **What will I Learn?**

You will learn, participate and develop your skills, game play and tactics in a range of different team and individual sports. You will complete an analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one sport. You will also learn about the theoretical aspects of physical education and cover seven topics: 1. Applied anatomy and physiology; 2. Movement analysis; 3. Physical training; 4. Use of data; 5. Sports psychology; 6. Socio-cultural influences; 7. Health, fitness and well-being.

### **How will I learn?**

You will learn through a combination of classroom-based theory lessons and practical performance lessons in both team sports and individual sports. You will also be expected to be training and competing on a regular basis in at least one sport outside of school.

### **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed through a series of externally moderated practical examinations worth 30% of the overall GCSE. There will be an externally moderated analysis and evaluation of a practical performance worth 10% of the overall GCSE. External assessment will take place through two written examination papers taken at the end of the course, each being 1 hour and 15 minutes in duration and each being worth 30% of the overall GCSE.

### **Did you know?**

Did you know that the muscular system is responsible for the movement of the human body? Attached to the bones of the skeleton are over 700 different muscles that make up roughly half of a person's body weight!

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# **SUBJECT: Psychology**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

**Course Level: GCSE**

## **What will I Learn?**

Studying psychology will introduce you to ideas and methods used to explain human behaviour. In particular you will look at human behaviour through different perspectives and models which will explore social, cognitive, developmental, biological and individual differences. You will also learn about the science behind topics such as criminality, memory, sleep and dreaming, as well as the key research methods psychologists employ to study human behaviour. Psychology helps you to understand what is going on around you and how you can put some of the knowledge gained into practice such as memory techniques to improve study skills.

## **How will I learn?**

Lessons are a mixture of experimental learning challenges and learning key content including key words, theories and evaluation. You will also learn through practising extended written responses.

## **How will I be assessed?**

100% examination consisting of long and shorter answers to questions

## **Did you know?**

Your mind re-writes unfamiliar or monotonous speech to make it more relevant and interesting.

**Please note this course is ALSO available as a two year option to those students taking the separate sciences.**

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