

**COMPUTING**

**MEDIA**

**SPORTS STUDIES**

**HISTORY**

**ENTERPRISE & MARKETING**

**LANGUAGES**

**PRODUCT DESIGN**

**Key Stage 4  
Information  
Booklet  
2021-2023**



**St John Fisher**  
Catholic High School



# St John Fisher

Catholic High School



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Dear Student

You have now reached the stage in your education where you are able to make some choices about which subjects you study. We encourage all students to make the best use of their talents and abilities and want you to study subjects that you enjoy and can succeed at.

The National Curriculum requires that you continue to study RE, Maths, English and Science, and that you have lessons in PSHE, Citizenship, and PE. This is the same in all schools but leaves about half of each week available for other courses.

This booklet gives you details of the different courses and explains the process of making your decision. At the Options Afternoon on 26 January we will explain the process in more detail and you will be able to talk to your teachers about the subjects you are interested in. You will then have time to think about your preferences and discuss them at home and in school.

*Kate Pereira*

Kate Pereira  
Headteacher

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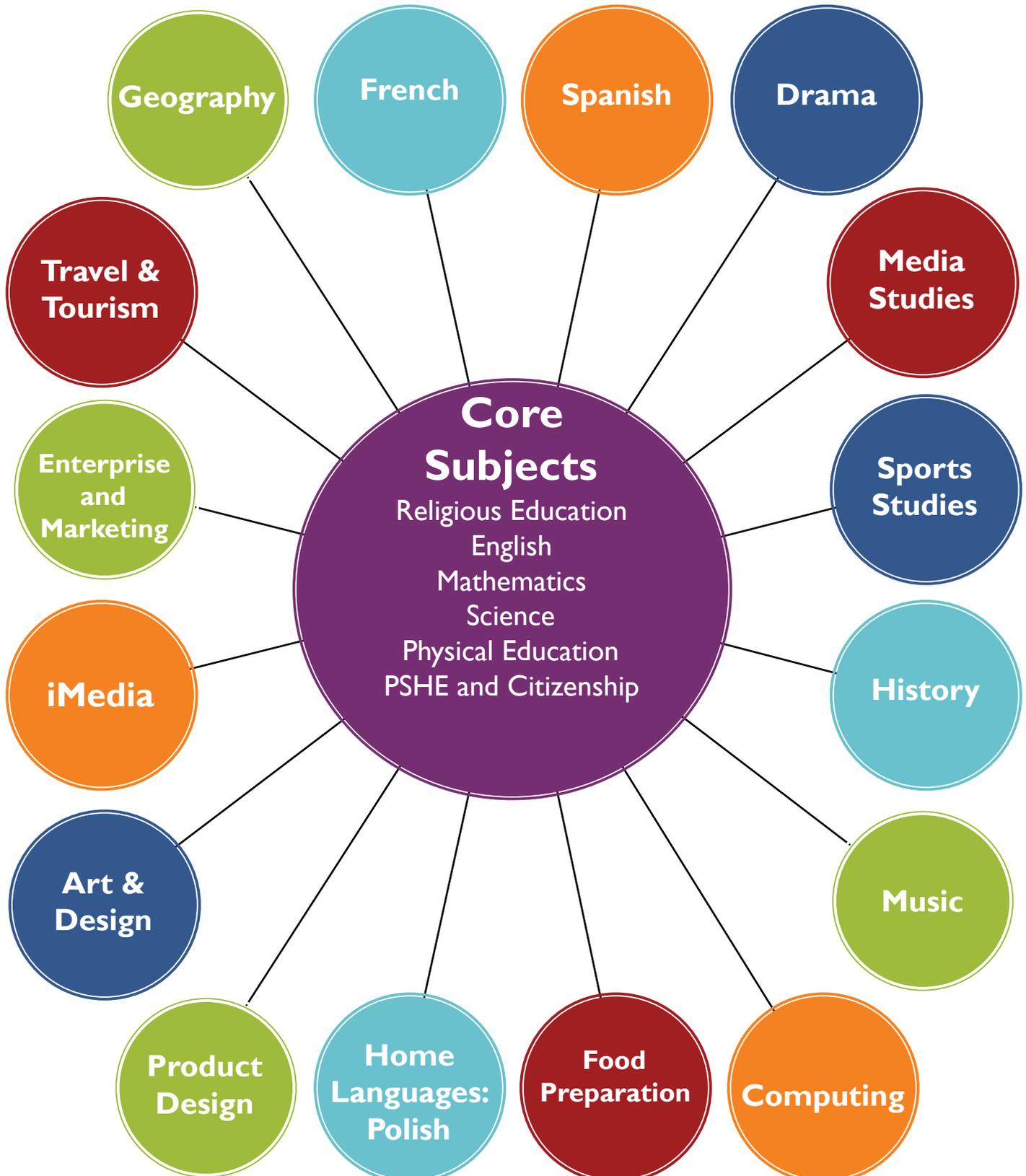
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# The Curriculum

The National Curriculum requires that all pupils study certain core subjects but you do have some choices to make. You should bear in mind the mix of lessons you will be attending. You will be studying these courses for 2 years so you will need to give it careful consideration. In Key Stage 3 we did this for you and ensured that you had a mixture of creative, practical and technological lessons and academic subjects.

The subjects that you **must** study are called **The Core Curriculum** or **Core subjects**.

The subjects that you can choose to study are called **The Optional Curriculum** or **Options**. These subjects cover a wide variety of levels.



# Making Choices

You should discuss your choices with your parents and form tutor. You will also receive information on different courses through your normal subject lessons. Parents will be able to speak to your teachers about the Key Stage 4 courses on 26 January at the Year 9 Options Afternoon.

If, after this meeting, your parents still require a further discussion, they are welcome to telephone the school and discuss any concerns with:

Heads of House

Beverley – Mrs Udejaja

Cambridge – Mrs Helcoop

Rochester – Ms Stevens

Westminster – Mrs Maudsley

When you are making your choices you should be considering subjects because

- You're good at it; you like it or find it interesting.
- You need it or it's useful for your future career.
- Your teachers think it is a suitable choice for you.
- It will combine well with other subjects.
- You like the method of assessment and teaching.

You should not be considering subjects because

- Your friends are doing it.
- You can't think of anything else to choose.
- You think it will be easy.
- It sounds good even though you haven't found out about it.
- You think it will impress people now or later on.

You will be given a booklet which shows you how to log in to SIMs Options online to make your choices. You can do this either at home or at school. Once you have logged in you will see the list of subjects you can choose from. Follow the instructions on the screen.... You must choose one from Choice I list and one reserve. You can then choose two subjects and one reserve from the Open Choice list including the courses listed in Choice I. Once you are happy with your choices you must save and log out.

If you want to change your options you can log in to <https://sims-options.co.uk> and make any changes.

If you are unable to log in to Sims Options you can get an Options Selection Form from Student Services. This should be returned to Student Services by 12 February 2021.

It occasionally happens that more students choose a course than we can accommodate and when this happens we need to know what you would like to do instead. For this reason you must think carefully about what you want to do and make your choices accordingly.

It is important that you complete your choices by 12 February 2021



# Key Stage 4 Pathways

## Orange Pathway

Students identified for the orange pathway must take one of the following subjects:

- History
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science

We strongly recommend that these students consider choosing a language and a humanities (History or Geography) subject at GCSE. These are 'facilitating' subjects for university and provide a level of academic challenge and rigour that will suit their ability and prepare them to undertake academic A Level study. The study of a range of subjects, including English, Maths, Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and History or Geography widens future opportunities and makes it more likely that a student will continue into Higher Education.

## Blue Pathway

Students identified for the blue pathway must take one of the following subjects:

- History
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science

They must then select a further two options. Students are welcome to select more than one 'blue' subject.

## Yellow Pathway

Students identified for the yellow pathway do not need to select a subject from the blue group although if they are interested in these subjects and it is appropriate they are able to do so.

Students will be expected to select Learning Support or English as an Additional Language as one of their options in order to support their academic achievement in other subject areas during Key Stage 4 and develop their functional literacy and numeracy skills.

# Where can my GCSE choices lead me

## Post 16

Option	Examples	Key Points
Level 3 A Levels/BTECs/OCR Nationals	English A Level  Health and Social Care OCR National	Strong route to university or other Higher Education institution.  Keeps your options open - you can apply for many courses in Higher Education
Level 2 Vocational Qualifications.	Plumbing Childcare	Gets you started in a particular sector. Can be a stepping stone to more advanced qualifications.
Apprenticeship (Post 16) Level 2 or Level 3	Logistics (Tesco) Customer Service (Boots)	Lets you work on a placement and learn at the same time. At Post 16 most options are at intermediate level. You will need to apply in a competitive process. Being offered a place is not a guarantee of permanent employment.

## Post 18

Option	Examples	Key Points
Higher Education Courses	Nursing Law Performing Arts	Strong route to professional employment. Study a subject in depth, usually for 3 years.
Apprenticeship (Post 18)	Chartered Surveying (degree app) Chemical Science (higher app)	Lets you work on a placement and learn at the same time. At Post 18 most options are at higher or degree level. You will often need A Levels You will need to apply in a competitive process. Being offered a place is not a guarantee of permanent employment.
Employment	Local employment opportunities	Enter the job market. You will need to apply and your GCSE and other grades will be important.
Gap Year	Opportunities to volunteer, work or build skills	Opportunity to take a year out - normally before progressing to Higher Education.

## How parents can help their children to reach their potential in Key Stage 4

- Show interest in your child's work
- Encourage your child to meet all deadlines and commitments concerning their work. Coursework and homework should be given priority over other out-of-school commitments.
- Don't book holidays during school time as it is very difficult for your child to catch up on the work they will miss.
- Ensure there is an area in your home suitable for study, somewhere that is a quiet area, free from distraction.
- Attend the scheduled parents' evenings or specially arranged appointments concerning the progress of your child.
- Continue to keep the school informed, as early as possible, of all matters likely to affect your child's school work and attendance.
- Check your child's diary to see what homework they have been set and sign it weekly to show that you have checked it.
- Endorse and accept the school's rules and sanctions that exist to ensure that each student achieves their maximum potential.

# GCSE Religious Studies (EDEXCEL)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

GCSE Religious Studies offers you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of the Roman Catholic tradition and explore questions about the meaning and purpose of life. You will also get the opportunity to compare and contrast these beliefs with a second World Faith (Judaism).

## What will I study?

### Specification A (Full Course): Faith and Practice in the 21st Century

Students will undertake an in-depth study of Catholic Christianity and be encouraged in a critical and reflective approach to the study of religion. This course places a greater emphasis on the study of one religion (Christianity) and brings to life the foundations of faith and practice.

## How is the course assessed?

Three exams will be taken in May and June, at the end of Year 11.

### Paper 1 — Catholic Christianity

Content - Beliefs and teachings, Practices, Sources of Wisdom & Authority, and Forms of Expression and Ways of Life.

Assessment 1 hour 45 mins

### Paper 2 — Study of Second Religion

Judaism

Content - Beliefs and teachings, Practices

Assessment 50 mins

### Paper 3 — Philosophy and Ethics within Catholic Christianity

Content – Arguments for the existence of God, Relationships and families in the 21st Century

Assessment 50 mins

## What can I do with this course in the future?

GCSE Religious Studies provides a firm foundation for A Level Religious Studies. The knowledge and understanding of religion and its relevance and application in people's lives and the development of critical skills can lead to a career in any sphere which involves dealing with people, e.g. teaching, social work, pastoral ministry, journalism, the caring professions, business management, law, and politics.

# GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1 each
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

You will study texts which help you to develop your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

## What will I study?

A wide range of high-quality, challenging, classic literature and extended literary non-fiction, such as essays, reviews and journalism, including:

- at least one play by Shakespeare
- works from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries
- an anthology of poetry centred around the themes of power and conflict

You will:

- Re-read literature and other writing as a basis for making comparisons.
- Critically evaluate the language, structure and contexts in which texts were written and evaluate their effects on the contemporary audience and authorial intention.
- Apply critical reading skills to unseen texts – including poetry – and make cohesive links and comparisons between and within literature texts.
- Understand and critically evaluate texts through reading in different ways for different purposes, summarising and synthesising ideas and information, and evaluate their usefulness for particular purposes.
- Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for both pleasure and information.
- Adapt your writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences: to describe, narrate, explain, instruct, give and respond to information, and argue.
- Select and organise ideas, facts and key points, cite evidence, details and quotations effectively and pertinently for support and emphasis.
- Select, and use judiciously, vocabulary, grammar, form, and structural and organisational features, including rhetorical devices, to reflect audience, purpose and context using Standard English where appropriate.
- Make notes, draft and write, including using information provided by others (e.g. writing a letter from key points provided; drawing on and using information from a presentation).
- Restructure writing, and amend the grammar and vocabulary to improve coherence, consistency, clarity and overall effectiveness, paying attention to the accuracy and effectiveness of grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Prepare and perform a spoken assessment in class.

## How is the course assessed?

External examinations. We are currently using AQA as examining body for both English Language and English Literature

## What can I do with this course in the future?

There are a vast range of career opportunities for a students studying either language or literature at Post 16. Language is the basis of all career options so knowledge and an understanding of how language works is imperative. The study of English Language and Literature will open the door to any tertiary institution.

# GCSE Mathematics (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

GCSE Mathematics consolidates and extends many of the skills encountered at Key Stage 3. It encourages you to develop confidence in mathematics, apply the skills gained at Key Stage 3 and recognise the importance of mathematics in your own life and in society. You will develop the ability to:

- acquire and use problem-solving strategies.
- select and apply mathematical techniques to everyday mathematical problems and real-world situations.
- reason mathematically, make deductions and draw conclusions.
- interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context, and use technology effectively.
- work both cooperatively and independently.

## What will I study?

The GCSE syllabus includes: Number; Algebra; Ratio; Proportion and Rates of Change; Geometry and Measures; Probability and Statistics. Elements of functional mathematics are embedded into the curriculum which ensure students have the skills required to use mathematics in real-life contexts. Understanding of the topics will be assessed every 3-4 weeks.

## How is the course assessed?

The assessment of the GCSE course is carried out through examinations at the end of the course. The GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9).

The final examination comprises of three different papers; a non-calculator paper and two sets of calculator papers. Each paper assesses the student's ability to recall, select and apply knowledge of mathematics and to interpret, analyse and solve problems. Students must take three question papers in the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same exam series.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Mathematics pervades so many aspects of everyday life. It is almost impossible to imagine a job that does not require some mathematical understanding. Wherever you plan to work, mathematics will play an important part in your life. Many careers in science, information technology, finance and engineering require mathematical study to a higher level.

# GCSE Science (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	2
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Double

## What does the course involve?

Combined Science is worth 2 GCSEs which means you will be studying 7 lessons of Science per fortnight.

There is no coursework: all exams will be taken at the end of year 11.

## What will I study?

### Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

### Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of materials
- Qualitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- Rate and extent of chemical reactions
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

### Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

## How is the course assessed?

There are six examinations to be taken in the summer of Year 11, two from each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They are all 75 minutes long and equally weighted.

## Is this the right course for me?

This course is flexible enough to suit all students of all ability levels. A few students may start on the Entry Level Certificate route and will then progress to the full double award GCSE when their understanding has developed to an appropriate level. Most students will study the double award as detailed above. This course is ideal for students who wish to acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning in the Sciences at Post 16 level.

# Physical Education

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	N/A
Is it a Single or Double Option:	N/A

## What does the course involve?

At Key Stage 4 our aim is to ensure that each student, whilst continuing to develop games skills, tactical awareness and a greater depth of understanding, also follows a broad selection of activities. We hope that all students gain enjoyment from the programme and continue to develop an active and healthy life-style.

## What will I study?

- Aerobics
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Dance
- Football
- Fitness
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rounders
- Rugby Union
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Trampolining
- Volleyball

Students will also be given the opportunity to achieve the Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership, a nationally recognised qualification that enables students to lead small groups in simple sport and recreational activities whilst under the direct supervision of a tutor. The qualification teaches leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport. It is a fun and practical qualification with no entrance requirements or final examinations to sit.

## How is the course assessed?

There is no formal assessment of Core PE. Is this the right course for me?

# Citizenship & PSHE

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	N/A
Is it a Single or Double Option:	N/A

## What does the course involve?

All students will follow a varied programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education and Citizenship.

## What will I study?

Topics to be studied will be:

Personal wellbeing and living healthy lives, including developing resilience and promoting good physical and mental health

- Positive, healthy relationships
- Financial Capability and money sense
- Identity and diversity
- Decision making and managing risk
- Careers and work related learning
- Global and local communities, including completion of a Social Impact Project
- Study skills and basic techniques
- ICT skills and computer literacy

This curriculum time may also be used for certain students to consolidate their basic skills in literacy and numeracy, or complete additional work on core subjects.

## How is the course assessed?

There are no exams and students will create a file of evidence of their activities. Students will be encouraged to work together in small groups cooperatively and take responsibility for their own learning. Is this the right course for me?

# GCSE Art and Design (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

Starting in Year 10, you will investigate a wide variety of techniques that cover a broad selection of skills including a 3D, textiles and 2D element that run alongside two main themes. You will research, investigate and gather information about the selected theme, using the library and the Internet. These elements will enable you to produce two or more units for your coursework portfolio.

## What will I study?

Painting, drawing, sculpture and mixed media are at the core of this course. You will be encouraged to investigate different sources for inspiration and are encouraged to use photography and digital media as a tool for your investigation.

## How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed on 4 key areas; research, experimenting with materials, drawing ability and producing a final piece. Your first component is a portfolio of coursework made up of at least two units. The second component is the externally set exam, started at the very start of the spring term of Year 11 and leading up to a 10 hour Controlled Test, in the summer term. You will have a short preparation period and you may discuss your ideas with your teacher. The work produced in your 10 hour controlled exam must be your own unaided work.

## Is this the right course for me?

This course would suit you if you are creatively minded, produce your own art work independently at home or have an ability in drawing and painting and are able to experiment with different media. You should have an interest in how artists in the past and today use different styles to make art.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Students may go on to study Art in our Sixth Form. Careers in Art include illustration, photography, fashion, textiles, jewellery and furniture design, and graphic design and teaching. The creative industries in the UK are always expanding. Contrary to popular belief, there are many opportunities and jobs available in this sector.

# OCR Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing (OCR)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

The course involves learning about how businesses market and propose new ideas. There is a whole element of enterprise and understanding customer needs and behaviour.

## What will I study?

While studying the course, you will learn about the main activities that are used when starting a new business. You will progress to learning about designing business proposals, identifying customer profiles and design ideas. There is also an element of finance and marketing. You will end up making a brand identity and getting the opportunity to pitch your new idea.

You will study 3 units:

- Unit R064 – Enterprise and Marketing Concepts
- Unit R065 – Design a Business Proposal
- Unit R066 – Market and Pitch a Business Proposal

## How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed both internally and externally. The 3 units consist of an exam and creating a portfolio based on evidence collected. The units are graded with Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\* grades.

### Unit R064

1 hour exam with multiple choice, some short answer questions and one extended response question.

### Unit R065

60 Mark centre-assessed assignment set by OCR.

### Unit R066

60 Mark centre-assessed assignment set by OCR

## Is this the right course for me?

It is hoped that the type of student who will choose this course will be:

- Interested in developing and implementing new ideas in Business
- Self-motivated and organised
- Capable of learning concepts, and applying knowledge and analysing information

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Cambridge National attracts all sorts of students with a range of abilities; it complements many other courses and develops a wide range of skills. Some students will go on to Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Business and university later on; others will learn essential skills to help them to get straight into the world of work. Learners may progress onto OCR's Level 3 Certificate in Preparing for a Business Venture, OCR's Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in Business, Introductory Certificates in Marketing or A Levels in related subjects.

# GCSE Computing (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

You will need to have a basic understanding and interest in programming and computing. GCSE Computing develops your problem solving skills and teaches you a deeper understanding of how computer systems are developed. The knowledge, skills and understanding you learn on the course will give you skills that can be used in all subjects and in the future.

## What will I study?

The theory of computer science, how computers work and programming skills.

- Fundamentals of algorithms – How computer programs are designed and developed.
- Programming – Different programming techniques to make programs.
- Fundamentals of Data Representation – How computers store images, sound etc. and binary numbers.
- Computer Systems – How computer systems are set up.
- Fundamentals of Computer Networks – How computer networks are set up.
- Fundamentals of Cyber Security – How companies keep their data secure on the Internet.
- Relational Databases and SQL – Looking at how databases store data and how to use code to update, delete and search for relevant information.
- Legal, Ethical and Environmental Issues – Learn how to discuss the issues surrounding the use of Computer Systems.

These topics are taught throughout the two years with time to practice and prepare for the examinations.

## How is the course assessed?

The GCSE is assessed through 2 examinations with a combination of multiple choice, short and longer answer questions.

## Is this the right course for me?

This course is suitable for students who wish to progress to study ICT BTEC Level 3 or Computing at A Level or use ICT/Computing in the world of work. You should also:

- Want to know how systems work, not just use them.
- Be interested in learning challenging new skills in the field of Computer Science.
- Have a logical approach to problems.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

The qualification is designed to allow progress onto further study such as A level Computing or to give good quality ICT skills suitable for work or study in other subject areas.

This course will help for a wide range of further education. It will also give experience of some of the areas of employment in the computer science industry.

# BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts: Drama (EDEXCEL)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

This new and exciting course is practical with portfolio work:

### Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

- Get a taste of what it's like to be a professional actor across different styles.
- Observe and reproduce existing repertoire as well as explore
- Performance styles, creative intentions and purpose
- Performance roles, responsibilities and skills
- Performance techniques, approaches and processes
- How practitioners create and influence what's performed

### Component 2: Develop skills and techniques in acting

- Gain physical, interpretative, vocal and rehearsing skills during workshops and classes
- Apply technical, stylistic and interpretative skills in performance
- Reflect on progress and use of skills in performance, as well as how to improve

### Component 3: Performing to a Brief

- Consider how practitioners adapt their skills for different contexts, and put this into practice in a performance.
- Perform a piece lasting 10-15 mins to a chosen audience

## What will I study?

Through practical work and written working record you will need to be able to:

- Recall, select and communicate your knowledge and understanding of drama to generate, explore and develop ideas.
- Apply practical skills to communicate in performance
- Analyse and evaluate your own work and that of others, using appropriate terminology

## Is this the right course for me?

Yes if you enjoyed Drama at Key Stage 3 and now want to build on your knowledge and/or develop your confidence

Yes if you enjoy performing, devising and/or directing and want to expand on these skills

Yes if you can evaluate your own and others performance in Drama and express this both verbally and through written work.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

BTEC Drama will provide a good basis for further studies at A Level. Drama is regarded as a very useful qualification which develops communication and problem solving skills. This course would prepare a student for any job which involves oral communication and dealing with members of the public. The Drama process develops the skills of negotiation, evaluation, communication and cooperation, which companies recognise as essential if their personnel are to be effective.

# GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

The thing you really need is enthusiasm and passion! You need to be able to feel the ingredients you are working with and enjoy being creative. It is important that you enjoy cooking a variety of products and are willing to try new things. There is an academic side to it too; you will learn about diet and nutrition, the science of food, industrial production and environmental issues concerning food production. You will also investigate how to prepare food safely in both the test kitchen and in industry.

It should be noted that students will have to be organised and provide their own ingredients. Students will also be expected to attempt all practical work, even if it is not a family favourite!

## What will I study?

You will learn many different practical techniques including pastry and cake making methods, bread making, cooking with meat and fish, as well as foods from other cultures, sauce making and techniques to create a range of products. Consideration for the functions of the ingredients, the science and creativity is key. You will be encouraged to try out different techniques and methods and to develop your own individual style. Team work is also encouraged as this is a required skill in industry. Theory work highlights the need for food and kitchen safety, preservation, environmental issues, packaging and labelling, food science, nutrition and catering for special diets.

## How is the course assessed?

Year 10 work is taught in units which each have a different practical and theory focus. In Year 11 students work on their Non-exam Assessment which is 50% of the total mark. This includes two tasks. Task 1 is a science investigation with a 1500-2000 word essay worth 15%. In Task 2 students will be given an exam board set design brief and will work independently to create and develop new food products. This will result in the completion of a portfolio of work and a final 3 hour practical exam. There is then a written exam at the end of Year 11 which is worth the other 50%, this examines students on the whole specification.

## Is this the right course for me?

The course would suit you if you enjoy practical work and like to spend time preparing and cooking food at home. You should have a keen interest to learn more about food and nutrition both theory and application through practical work. Also, if you are considering a career in a food related profession this would be a good choice for you.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Food Technology at KS4 is an exciting, creative and innovative subject. It is academic as well as practical. People who study Food Preparation and Nutrition have a wealth of career opportunities open to them including: Dietician, Hotel/Restaurant Management, Event Management, Careers in the Forces and Food Design or Production within the Food Industry.

# GCSE French (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

GCSE French develops your ability to communicate in speaking and writing, and to understand what you hear or read in French. The course also provides an insight into the culture and civilisation of France and other French-speaking countries and develops the skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure.

## What will I study?

The course consists of three themes divided into four subtopics:

### Identity and culture

- Me, my family and friends
- Technology in everyday life
- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

### Current and future study and employment:

- My studies
- Life at school/college
- Education post-16
- Jobs, careers choices and ambitions

### Local, national, international and global areas of interest:

- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social issues
- Global issues
- Poverty/homelessness

## How is the course assessed?

GCSE French will be assessed at the end of Year 11 by:

- 25% Listening Examination
- 25% Reading Examination
- 25% Speaking Examination
- 25% Writing Examination

## Is this the right course for me?

It is expected that you will be:

- Capable of achieving grades 4-9, having achieved grades 3-4 at Key Stage 3.
- Motivated and passionate about Languages, namely French.
- Interested in communicating in French and keen to learn about another culture.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Many employers expect knowledge of at least one foreign language. It is useful in the following areas: Hospitality and Catering; Telecommunications; Financial and Legal Services; Transport; Retailing, Manufacturing; Building and Construction; Leisure and Recreation; and Education.

# GCSE Geography (EDEXCEL A)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, and environmental damage, Geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geographers are also highly employable. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality - Geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you academically.

## What will I study?

The Edexcel A Geography GCSE is a modular course comprising three components of study:

**Component 1: The Physical Environment**- This unit will examine five topics; The Changing Landscapes of the UK, Coastal Landscapes and Processes, River Landscapes and Processes, Weather Hazards and Climate Change and Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management.

**Component 2: The Human Environment** - This unit will examine four topics; Changing Cities, Global Development, Resource Management and Water Resource Management.

**Component 3: Geographical Investigations** - This unit is fieldwork based and will involve students completing activities around the themes of rivers and inner urban areas.

## How is the course assessed?

Components 1 and 2 combined are worth 75% of the GCSE and Component 3 is worth 25%. All components are assessed by separate 90 minute examinations sat in June of Year 11.

## Is this the right course for me?

Are you:

- Interested in learning about the modern world in which we live?
- Wanting to link science subjects with arts and humanities subjects?
- Willing to act on the advice and guidance of experienced staff?

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Geography is a broad based academic subject which will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see geography as a robust subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with at GCSE.

If you choose to take geography on to A level or university there are literally hundreds of courses to choose from and the range of career areas accessed by graduates of geography will probably surprise you; including surveyors, planning officers, consultants, risk analysts, aid workers and architects as well as teachers, travel and tourism professionals and workers in landscape management and nature conservation.

# GCSE History (EDEXCEL)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

GCSE History provides students with a wide variety of skills and experiences. By studying different periods of time, students are guaranteed a varied content. However, while the course is exciting and successful, students should be aware that hard work is required.

## What will I study?

The course comprises three examinations all sat at the end of Year 11.

### **Paper 1: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: crime, policing and the inner city (30% of mark).**

This unit covers the changing nature of crime and how punishments have changed over time. Students explore how definitions of crime have changed and how laws have adapted to changing methods of crime. This paper also includes a section called the historic environment where students will study the area of Whitechapel and the problems it faced from 1870-1890.

### **Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 and the American West 1835-1895 (40% of mark).**

This unit is divided into two sections. The first section is the British element and explores the nature of Elizabeth I's early years as Queen of England. The second section investigations the origins of the Cold War and the relationship between the Superpowers 1941-1991 .

### **Paper 3: The Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39 (30% of mark)**

This unit examines the 21 years from Germany's defeat in the First World War to the outbreak of the Second World War. Students explore the creation of the Weimar Republic and the rise of and ultimate success of the Nazi Party in 1933. Students explore what it was like to live in Nazi Germany and how different groups of people were treated under their regime.

## How is the course assessed?

All units of study are assessed at the end of Year 11. Is this the right course for me?

## What can I do with this course in the future?

History imparts skills in researching, organisation, using information, evaluating evidence and communicating understanding. The course leads to further historical study at A-Level and University where it is a highly respected qualification. History can lead to careers in Law, Management, Social Work, Teaching, Journalism, Accountancy, Archaeology, Librarianship, Local Government, Administration, the Civil Service, Museums, the Arts and Publishing.

# Home Languages: GCSE Polish (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

GCSE Polish develops your ability to communicate in speaking and writing, and to understand what you hear or read in Polish. You will be expected to understand and provide information and opinions about the themes listed below relating to your own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where Polish is spoken.

## What will I study?

The course consists of three themes divided into four subtopics:

### Identity and culture

- Me, my family and friends
- Technology in everyday life
- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals in Polish-speaking countries/communities

### Current and future study and employment:

- My studies
- Life at school/college
- Education post-16
- Jobs, careers choices and ambitions

### Local, national, international and global areas of interest:

- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social issues
- Global issues
- Travel and Tourism

## How is the course assessed?

GCSE Polish will be assessed at the end of Year 11 by:

- 25% Listening Examination.
- 25% Reading Examination.
- 25% Speaking Test.
- 25% Writing Examination.

## Is this the right course for me?

It is expected that you will be:

- Capable of achieving 4-9 grades, having some knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.
- Motivated and passionate about Languages, namely Polish.
- Interested in conversing in Polish and keen to develop your skills further in your home language.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Many employers expect knowledge of at least one foreign language. It is useful in the following areas: Hospitality and Catering; Telecommunications; Financial and Legal Services; Transport; Retailing, Manufacturing; Building and Construction; Leisure and Recreation; and Education.

# Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia (OCR)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

The Creative iMedia is a more practical course looking at how computers help with creative media. Students will be able to apply their creative skills to a number of different applications and learn skills such as research, planning, review, working with others and communication that can all be used in different areas in the future.

## What will I study?

- Pre-Production skills for design of products for different clients
- Graphics
- Multipage website creation
- Developing computer games

## How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed with one hour and 15 minute exam and three pieces of coursework that are marked by your teacher and moderated by OCR.

## Is this the right course for me?

This course is suitable for students who wish to progress to study Level 3 Cambridge Technicals or any other Computing or ICT A Level. Also good for those who want to use ICT/Computing in the world of work. You should also:

- Want to learn about design for clients
- Be able to work independently and enthusiastically

## What can I do with this course in the future?

The qualification is designed to allow to progress onto further study such as Cambridge Technicals in IT or to give good quality ICT skills suitable for work or study in other subject areas. This leads to various careers and courses in a wide range of topics and industries.

# GCSE Media Studies (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

GCSE Media Studies is a very hands-on option and involves learning how the media industry works, then planning to put your own ideas into practice. If you fancy designing the next Coca-Cola advertising campaign or launching your own rival brand and are able to think of new ideas for magazines, television, radio or vlogging, then GCSE Media Studies is an exciting choice for you.

## What will I study?

During this two year course you will study four Key Concepts which underpin the media industry; Audience; Representation; Media Language and Media Industry. You will work on a range of assignments which explore marketing, advertising, film and television, radio, popular music, video gaming and publishing.

## How is the course assessed?

30% non-exam assessment which students will make a media product for an intended audience.

70% examination. Students will study “close study products” in the following media:

- Advertising
- TV
- Radio
- Music Videos
- Online and Social Media
- Film
- Newspapers
- Magazines

There will be two 90 minute exams (70%) to test your knowledge and understanding of these CSPs at the end of the course.

You will also produce a practical project (NEA 30%), which will show off your skills as a film maker, web designer, poster designer or radio producer.

## Is this the right course for me?

If you have a creative mind and you are interested in film, television, music and video gaming then this course will offer you a chance to explore how these products are made and marketed and will give you a chance to put your own creative ideas into practice.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

This course progresses to A level Media Studies or Level 3 Diploma in Creative and Media. Possible career routes include: public relations, advertising, marketing, market research, radio, internet, publishing, event management, promotions, video, film and television.

# BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

BTEC Music can help you take your first steps towards a career in the music industry. You'll learn essential skills from performing and composing to producing, and creating a music product. The course provides a fantastic opportunity to learn the skills needed to be successful in the music industry.

## What will I study?

The Specification that we follow is the BTEC Tech Award in Music (Level 2). This course is equivalent to a GCSE. The course comprises of three components:

**Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles.** In this component, students will:

- Explore different styles and genres of music.
- Take part in practical workshops to understand stylistic features and characteristics.
- Develop techniques in making music products

**Component 2: Music Skills Development.** In this component, students will:

- Reflect on their progress, and on areas for improvement.
- Choose a job role and explore the skills needed to fulfil it.
- Develop a range of skills.
- Apply skills and techniques in a music performance, creation or production.

**Component 3: Responding to a music brief.** In this component, students will:

- Choose an area of the industry that excites them (composer, performer, or producer).
- Explore the brief and come up with possible responses and ideas.
- Use relevant resources, skills and techniques to develop and refine musical material.
- Present their final response (solo or in a group).
- Review and reflect their approach to the brief and their final outcome.

## How is the course assessed?

- Component 1: Coursework is internally assessed and worth 30% of the course.
- Component 2: Coursework is internally assessed and worth 30% of the course.
- Component 3: is externally assessed and worth 40% of the course. Students will respond to a brief to either perform or compose a piece of music.

Students will be awarded a final grade at the end of the course, which takes into consideration the grades from each component.

## Is this the right course for me?

The BTEC Music course is perfect for students with a passion for music and ideal preparation for students who would like to pursue a career in music.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Students who have enjoyed Music may want to continue with the subject to study Music BTEC Level 3 or A Level at college or sixth form. This could lead to a career in music as a performer, composer, music therapist, events manager, teacher. The course also provides skills in teamwork, organisation, independence, punctuality and problem solving which are desirable to employers in all career paths.

# GCSE Technology: Product Design (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

The GCSE Product Design course is aimed at those who enjoy the challenge of designing innovative and exciting new products. You are encouraged to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. You will produce a coursework folder of work and a working prototype.

## What will I study?

You will learn about designing, modelling and making products and how they influence our daily lives. You will learn how technology uses Computer Aided Design and manufacture to develop and improve new and existing products. You will develop your knowledge of materials and processes together with skills needed to produce an accurate end product. You will be expected to calculate area, scale and mathematical equations to help your design development.

## How is the course assessed?

In Year 10 you will complete a selection of theory based exercises together with mini projects which will help you understand some of the materials, skills and knowledge needed for year 11 coursework.

Year 11 consists of a 30-35 hour controlled coursework assessment which is worth 50% of your final mark.

The final 50% of the marks comes from a 2 hour written paper on the theory taught throughout the two years.

## Is this the right course for me?

You must enjoy designing new ideas, creating models and understand how the product works.

You must have an understanding of mathematics such as area, algebra and scale. You must have the ability to solve modelling and manufacturing problems when making.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Product Design sets you up for careers in:

- Engineering
- Product Design
- Furniture Design
- Interior Design
- Architect

# GCSE Spanish (AQA)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

GCSE Spanish develops your ability to communicate in speaking and writing, and to understand what you hear or read in Spanish. The course also provides an insight into the culture and civilisation of Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries and develops the skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure.

## What will I study?

The course consists of three themes divided into four subtopics:

### Identity and culture

- Me, my family and friends
- Technology in everyday life
- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/communities

### Current and future study and employment:

- My studies
- Life at school/college
- Education post-16
- Jobs, careers choices and ambitions

### Local, national, international and global areas of interest:

- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social issues
- Global issues
- Poverty/homelessness

## How is the course assessed?

GCSE Spanish will be assessed at the end of Year 11 by:

- 25% Listening Examination
- 25% Reading Examination
- 25% Speaking Examination
- 25% Writing Examination

## Is this the right course for me?

It is expected that you will:

- Be capable of achieving grades 4-9, having achieved grades 3-4 at Key Stage 3 in Spanish or have previous experience of learning Spanish.
- Be motivated and passionate about Languages, namely Spanish.
- Be interested in conversing in Spanish and keen to learn about another culture.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Many employers expect knowledge of at least one foreign language. It is useful in the following areas: Hospitality and Catering; Telecommunications; Financial and Legal Services; Transport; Retailing, Manufacturing; Building and Construction; Leisure and Recreation; and Education.

# Level 2 Certificate in Sport Studies (OCR)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	1
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Single

## What does the course involve?

Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. Students will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

## What will I study?

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/Physical Education themes. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance.

### Compulsory Units

R051: Contemporary issues in sport

R052: Developing sports skills

### Optional

R053: Sports leadership

R054: Sport and the media

R055: Working in the sports industry

R056: Developing knowledge and skills in outdoor activities

## How is the course assessed?

Written Examination: 1 hour written exam on Contemporary Issues in sport worth 60 marks.

Coursework: The rest of the assessments will come in the form of Internal Assessments for each unit undertaken. Each unit is assessed internally (10 hours per unit). Each assessment will be moderated to Pass, Merit or Distinction standard.

## Is this the right course for me?

Students will need to have a good knowledge of a range of different sports. Students must understand key techniques involved in sport, have a knowledge of drills and activities to improve their skills as well as a tactical appreciation of the sport. Students need to have a high performance in at least 1 team and 1 individual sport. Students should have a basic knowledge of key issues in sports e.g. sportsmanship, sports values, governing bodies.

## What can I do with this course in the future?

Students who have enjoyed Physical Education may want to continue with the subject to study Level 3 courses in the Sixth Form at St John Fisher School. Employment opportunities where the skills acquired will be particularly valued include: the sport and leisure industry - sports attendants, supervisors/managers, professional sportsmen/women, personal trainers, fitness instructors, roles in the media, coaches in specific areas; travel and tourism – travel representatives, adventure holiday work, teaching, sports injury specialists, sports psychologists.

# BTEC Level 1/2 Travel and Tourism (EDEXCEL)

How many GCSEs or equivalent is it worth?	2
Is it a Single or Double Option:	Double

## What does the course involve?

Travel and Tourism is an exciting course packed with a mixture of concepts and practical applications preparing you for employment particularly in real life businesses such as Easyjet, Thomas Cook and Travelodge Hotels.

You will develop your basic skills in ICT, literacy, numeracy, team work, creative thinking, self management, reflective learning and effective participation. This is a guided course based on students independently completing a variety of short tasks. Close guidance and support is provided in all lessons by the teachers and teaching assistants from both the EAL and SEN departments.

This course is particularly suited to students at an early stage of English language acquisition and literacy development.

## What will I study?

In common with all BTEC qualifications, Travel and Tourism involves work on four units. Three units are coursework based and a fourth unit has an examination:

- The UK Travel and Tourism Sector
- UK Travel and Tourism destinations
- The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience
- Factors affecting Worldwide Travel and Tourism

## How is the course assessed?

BTEC Travel and Tourism is mainly coursework based. After you have been taught how to complete the assignments, you will be guided through the completion of drafts of all of your work. All coursework is assessed by your teachers. Is this the right course for me?

## What can I do with this course in the future?

The BTEC Travel and Tourism attracts all sorts of students.

- Ambitious students, keen to study more GCSEs or A Levels can use this course to improve the basic literacy and language skills that they will need in the future.
- Alternatively, pupils keen to get straight into the world of work after school, for example on a training programme with a large retailer, benefit greatly not only from the employability skills they have learnt, but also the customer service and marketing skills.
- There is also a clear progression from this to other courses, such as BTEC Level 3



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