



BRIGHTON
GIRLS

GDST

Curriculum Overview

Years 10 and 11



CONTENTS

Introduction from the Head	3
Art	4
Classics	6
Dance	8
Design Innovation	10
Drama	12
English	14
Food & Nutrition	16
Geography	18
History	20
Maths	22
Modern Foreign Languages	24
Music	28
Politics, Religion & Ethics	30
Science	34
Sport	36
Wellbeing	38
Sixth Form and beyond	40



Introduction from the Head of Brighton Girls

Welcome to the Key Stage 4 curriculum at Brighton Girls. Within the pages of this booklet, you'll discover comprehensive insights into the taught curriculum in Years 10 and 11. The journey begins in Year 10 with the start of GCSE courses, where our innovative teaching methods and thoughtfully structured subject content captivate students in their chosen fields. As students approach Year 11, they move into wider content within a subject and develop their examination skills.

While our curriculum develops students' ability to tackle assessments, preparing them for GCSE success, it transcends traditional exams, recognising that lifelong learning extends far beyond the examination room. Increasingly employers are looking beyond paper qualifications - they want to see evidence of empathy, emotional intelligence, resilience, creativity and confidence alongside academic achievements. At Brighton Girls, we prioritise the integration of these essential attributes into our curriculum. This is supported by a unique, community-based co-curriculum, our hope is that our students will emerge better equipped, and even more determined, to go out and make a positive difference in the world.



Rosie McColl
Head



Art

YEAR 10

In Year 10 Art, students dive into an immersive artistic experience, focusing on skill development and creative exploration. The curriculum includes hands-on workshops where students experiment with various forms and techniques, such as drawing, collage, painting, textiles, printmaking, sculpture, photography, and relief. They work on building a comprehensive portfolio that showcases their proficiency across these mediums. Emphasising observation, students analyse objects from the natural and made world, honing skills in scale, proportion, form, and texture. They also study a wide range of artists and designers, drawing inspiration to enrich their own creative practice. Leveraging ICT for art-related research, students enhance their independent research skills. The creation of a mock sketchbook is a key aspect of the curriculum, allowing students to consolidate their learned skills and techniques while practising presentation and research within a sketchbook context. This year in art provides a foundation for students to develop a robust understanding of artistic concepts and techniques, fostering their growth as young artists.

practice. Building on their observational skills, students work from first-hand observation, with experiences like a study day at the Tate Modern enriching their understanding. The programme emphasises experimentation with various materials and techniques, including drawing, collage, painting, textiles, printmaking, sculpture, photography, and relief. Students also leverage ICT for independent research, further informing and enriching their artistic choices. This year in art is dedicated to refining skills, expanding artistic understanding, and preparing students for their future endeavours in the creative arts.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 Art, students deepen their artistic development, focusing on creating a personal portfolio and preparing for the ESA. The curriculum encourages an immersive exploration of diverse artists, enabling students to draw inspiration from various backgrounds and integrate this knowledge into their own creative





Classics

YEAR 10

In Year 10 Classics, students explore the fascinating roles and impacts of legendary women in ancient Greece and Rome, examining their societal roles and influence. The curriculum begins with the roles of women in domestic settings in Athens, Sparta, and Rome, exploring concepts like *kyrios/kyria* and domestic slavery. Students then delve into the education and marriage rituals of young women, revealing differences in societal practices. A bold exploration into the lives of 'improper' women follows, including studies of prostitution laws and notable figures like Neaira and Aspasia, offering insights into unconventional lifestyles and societal perceptions. The course also covers women in religious practices, such as priestesses and the Vestal Virgins, and examines women's influence in political spheres, discussing Athenian democracy, the Roman Senate, and figures like Sempronia. The narrative extends to warrior women like the Amazons and Cleopatra, highlighting their strength and courage. Year 10 Classics at Brighton Girls presents a comprehensive study of women's diverse roles in ancient societies, enriching students' understanding of classical history and its influential figures.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 Classics, students delve into the captivating world of the Mycenaean Age, exploring the intricacies of this ancient civilization. The curriculum begins with an in-depth study of Mycenaean palaces, analysing their architectural features and governance, and uses Linear B tablets to gain insights into trade, daily life, and economic aspects. Students explore Mycenaean burial customs, tomb types, and Grave Circles A & B, shedding light on beliefs about the afterlife. Artistic expressions of the Mycenaeans are examined through frescoes, jewellery, and metalwork, reflecting their aesthetic sensibilities. The course includes a literary journey into Homer's *Odyssey*, where students explore epic storytelling, narrative techniques, and dissect themes like *Xenia*, *nostos*, *kleos*, and *metis*. They analyse the multifaceted character of Odysseus and delve into the portrayal of gods, women, and other characters in the narrative. Year 11 Classics provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the Mycenaean civilization, its cultural richness, and its lasting influence on classical literature and history.



Dance

YEAR 10

In Year 10, students dive into "Choreography and Performance 101," learning to apply various choreographic processes and content in response to different stimuli. They focus on identifying and defining physical, technical, expressive, and mental skills in performance, coupled with evaluation and enhancement techniques. The curriculum emphasises safe working practices and articulating dance knowledge in written form, as per the format of the AQA written paper. Students critically appreciate professional works like Kenrick 'H20' Sandy's "Emancipation of Expressionism," Itzik Galili's "A Linha Curva," Christopher Bruce's "Shadows," and James Cousins' "Within Her Eyes." They explore the defining characteristics of these works, including choreography, performance, production features, and the impact of different performance environments. The course involves embodying repertory from these works and creating dance pieces that reflect their choreographic themes. Additionally, students learn Dance for Camera, focusing on camera angles and movements. The year also includes learning AQA's Set Performance Solos "Breathe" and "Shift," with an emphasis on demonstrating safe and effective performance skills. Year 10 Dance offers an enriching and comprehensive experience, preparing students for advanced understanding and application of dance concepts.



YEAR 11

In Year 11 Dance, students engage deeply with the art of choreography for their NEA, learning to create solo or group dances in response to AQA-provided stimuli. They study the qualities of effective choreographers and maximise their extra-curricular rehearsal time. Students also learn to write program notes for their choreographies. A significant part of the curriculum involves developing "Flux" and "Scoop" into a Performance Trio, focusing on key motifs from these AQA Set Solos and demonstrating each dancer's performance skills. The course includes critical appreciation of Wayne McGregor's "Infra," analysing its choreography, performance, and production features, and understanding

the impact of performance environments. Students embody repertory from "Infra" and create dances reflecting its themes. Similarly, they critically appreciate Lucy Bennett's "Artificial Things," exploring its defining characteristics and drawing parallels and contrasts with other works. Students accurately embody repertory from "Artificial Things" and create dance pieces that resonate with its choreographic themes. Year 11 Dance offers an intensive and comprehensive exploration of dance, preparing students with advanced choreographic skills and a deep understanding of professional works.





Design Innovation

YEAR 10

In Year 10 Design Innovation, students deepen their understanding of design's role in solving complex problems, blending advanced problem-solving with environmental and safety considerations. The curriculum includes a practical project on creating a device to mitigate bird strikes in aircraft, challenging students to consider functionality and engineering constraints. Core topics from the GCSE syllabus, such as materials, processes, and design theories, are explored and applied in class projects. Students enhance their practical skills with advanced woodworking techniques, focusing on wood jointing, and delve into Bauhaus design principles by constructing functional lights. They also emulate Bowers & Wilkins' sleek design aesthetics, using advanced CAD applications and digital prototype manufacturing techniques like 3D printing and laser cutting. The curriculum prepares students for higher-level GCSE questions and complex problem-solving scenarios, including design history mini-projects and material studies. An introduction to the GCSE Non-Exam Assessment sets the stage for comprehensive exploration, with students beginning research and outlining tasks for summer projects. Year 10 Design Innovation at Brighton Girls offers a rich, hands-on learning experience, equipping students with a profound understanding of design innovation and its practical applications.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 Design & Innovation, students undertake a coursework-centric journey, applying their accumulated skills to exhibit a comprehensive design process. The curriculum dives into an array of materials, technologies, and design principles, enabling the development of unique and real-world applicable projects. The focus of the NEA coursework is on tangible innovation, challenging students to devise solutions with a positive global impact. Key areas of emphasis include proficiency in CAD/CAM, exploration of emerging technologies, and the use of sustainable materials, cultivating a mindset geared towards inventive and practical problem-solving.



Drama

YEAR 10

In Year 10 Drama, students engage with the AQA GCSE Drama curriculum, focusing on key components throughout the year. The autumn term is dedicated to exploring the text "Blood Brothers," combining practical and theoretical learning, and includes an introduction to theatre roles and terminology, along with guidance on writing effective theatre reviews. In the spring, attention shifts to Component 2, where students devise a performance based on a given stimulus and begin a working portfolio to document their project's development. They also refine their writing techniques for the written exam and attend a live theatre performance to enhance their understanding of dramatic elements. The year culminates in the summer term with students presenting their devised pieces live for Component 2 assessment and revisiting Component 1 with a mock exam, consolidating their learning from "Blood Brothers." Year 10 Drama at Brighton Girls provides a comprehensive and immersive experience in dramatic arts, developing students' creativity, critical analysis, and performance skills, laying a solid foundation for their GCSE Drama studies.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 Drama, students immerse themselves in the AQA GCSE Drama curriculum, focusing on its key components throughout the year. The first term centres on Component 2 – Devising Drama, where students create and perform devised drama, assessed in front of a live audience, while also starting Component 1 – Understanding Drama, analysing their work and progressing through the Devising Working Notebook. The second term shifts to Component 3 – Texts in Practice, involving the selection and performance of a play text and monologue/duologue. Later in the year, the focus returns to Component 1, refining live theatre review writing skills and completing the working notebook, highlighted by attending a live theatre performance for in-depth analysis. Students consistently work on their Devising Drama Working Notebook, crucial for their overall grade, and prepare for mock exams on "Blood Brothers." The year culminates with a thorough review of the written exam sections, enhancing writing techniques, and a continued study of "Blood Brothers." This comprehensive approach in Year 11 Drama equips students with a deep understanding of drama concepts, preparing them for success in their GCSE Drama examinations.





English

YEAR 10

In Year 10, students engage with a diverse range of literary and language studies, beginning with Literature Paper 1A on Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." They examine its characters, plot, themes, and dramatic devices, learning to write analytically about language, structure, and context. For Language Paper 1B, students focus on Creative Fiction Writing, using various prompts and the technique of 'recreating' a text, enhancing their storytelling with a range of literary devices. The Spoken Language Component involves crafting persuasive speeches, developing powerful non-fiction prose skills for Language Paper 2A. In Literature Paper 1B, students delve into "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," analysing its characters, plot, themes, and literary devices, and writing with a focus on language, structure, and context. The curriculum also includes Language Paper 1A, where students learn to analyse and evaluate language and structure in short stories. Year 10 English provides a comprehensive literary and linguistic experience, preparing students for in-depth analysis and creative expression in both written and spoken formats.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 English, students intensively prepare for their Literature and Language papers, starting with Literature Paper 2A. They study either "Lord of the Flies" or "An Inspector Calls," analysing characters, plot, themes, and dramatic devices, and learning to write critically about language, structure, and context. For Language Paper 2A, the focus is on Non-fiction Reading, where students develop skills to

understand and analyse writers' methods in conveying viewpoints and perspectives. In Literature Paper 2C, they delve into Power and Conflict Poetry, reading and analysing an anthology to understand the effects of language and structure. Additionally, Literature Paper 2C includes studying Unseen Poetry, where students learn to interpret, analyse, and compare language and structure in unseen poems.





Year 11 English equips students with the analytical skills and critical understanding necessary to excel in their literature and language examinations, focusing on in-depth analysis, comparative skills, and contextual understanding.



Food & Nutrition

YEAR 10

In Year 10 Food & Nutrition, students immerse themselves in an extensive exploration of culinary arts and food science. The curriculum is designed to master intricate cooking techniques, spanning pastry making to preparing diverse dishes such as lemon meringue pie and risotto. Students gain a deep understanding of various food commodities, delving into their production, nutritional profiles, and safe handling practices. A significant emphasis is placed on Nutrition and Health, where students learn about macronutrients and dietary guidelines, understanding how to craft balanced diets tailored for different age groups and the implications of poor dietary choices. The Science of Cooking Food is a pivotal aspect of the course, covering the principles of cooking, the scientific rationale behind various cooking methods, and the transformative effects of heat on food. Essential knowledge in food safety, hygiene, and spoilage is imparted, ensuring students are adept at preventing food poisoning and employing effective food preservation techniques. The programme also navigates through food provenance and waste management, imparting valuable insights into environmental sustainability and food security. Covering food packaging and labelling, students critically assess the environmental impact and regulatory compliance of these practices. Furthermore, the course provides a global culinary perspective, exploring a range of international cuisines and their hallmark ingredients and dishes. Technological advancements in food technology are scrutinised, evaluating their health implications and influence on modern food production. This comprehensive Year 10 curriculum equips students with a holistic

blend of practical cooking skills, nutritional wisdom, and food science acumen, setting a robust foundation for informed and health-conscious culinary endeavours.

YEAR 11

Year 11 Food & Nutrition is a culmination of culinary expertise and scientific inquiry. This year, students embark on two significant coursework projects, constituting a substantial portion of their final assessment. The first project, accounting for 15% of the grade, is a science experiment that allows students to apply their understanding of food science in a practical context. This hands-on experiment challenges students to explore and analyse the scientific principles underpinning food and nutrition. The second, more extensive project, worth 35%, involves an in-depth individual study. This comprehensive study encompasses a detailed 30-page written analysis coupled with a 3-hour practical assessment. Through this rigorous project, students demonstrate their mastery of culinary skills, their ability to conduct thorough research, and their proficiency in translating theoretical knowledge into practical application. These coursework components are designed to challenge and hone the students' skills in research, critical thinking, problem-solving, and culinary execution. This year's focus on individualised study and practical experimentation ensures that students leave with a profound understanding of food science, nutrition, and culinary arts. The comprehensive and hands-on approach of Year 11 Food & Nutrition prepares students not only for academic success but also equips them with lifelong skills essential for navigating the world of food and nutrition with confidence and creativity.



Geography

YEAR 10

In Year 10 Geography, students embark on a comprehensive study of the UK's physical landscape, focusing on rivers and coasts. They explore the water cycle, river and coastal erosion processes, landforms, and specific case studies on flooding in the River Severn and coastal erosion in Holderness. The curriculum includes Development Dynamics, examining development indicators and theories, with a focus on emerging countries like India and urban issues in Mumbai. Students investigate the Challenges of an Urbanizing World, analysing city structures, megacities, global inequality, the role of FDI and TNCs, and specific studies on Mumbai. Hazardous Climate is another key theme, where students learn about climate change, atmospheric circulation, hurricanes, and cyclones, with case studies on Hurricane Katrina and Cyclone Nargis. Additionally, the UK Evolving Human Landscape module covers city structure, development models, and patterns of migration and rural diversification in regions like Birmingham and Worcestershire. This rich curriculum in Year 10 Geography provides students with an in-depth understanding of both physical and human geography, preparing them for further geographical studies and real-world applications.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 Geography, students engage with the UK's Evolving Human Landscape, studying city structures, development models, Central Business Districts (CBDs), and the development of areas like Birmingham and Worcestershire. They also examine UK migration patterns and rural diversification. The curriculum includes the

People and the Biosphere theme, where students explore biomes, ecosystems, and human reliance on the biosphere, including the goods and services it provides. The "Forests Under Threat" module focuses on Taiga and Tropical Rainforest biomes, their climate, flora and fauna, and conservation measures. A





significant part of the course is dedicated to developing essay-writing skills, focusing on opinion-making and justification, complemented by practical fieldwork exploring various sampling methods and their applications. Year 11 also includes targeted revision sessions, recapping essential concepts from Year 9 such as

energy resources and hazardous earth, ensuring students are thoroughly prepared for their examinations. This comprehensive curriculum equips students with a deep understanding of both physical and human geography, honing their analytical and practical skills for future academic endeavours.

History

YEAR 10

In Year 10 History, students delve into two pivotal historical periods. In "Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship", they study the evolution of German democracy, the impact of the Depression, and the rise of the Nazis, gaining a deep understanding of life under Nazi rule. The second period is "Conflict and Tension Between East and West, 1945-1972," exploring the origins and developments of the Cold War and the geopolitical dynamics of this era. This Year 10 History curriculum provides students with an in-depth understanding of significant historical events and their impact on the present, preparing them for advanced historical studies and fostering a broader perspective on the past.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 History, students study a social and economic history module on "Britain: Health and the People, c1000 to the Present Day," tracing the evolution of medicine from the Middle Ages to modern times, including revolutions in 19th-century medicine and advancements in the 20th century. Additionally, the study of "Restoration England, 1660-1685" offers insights into the relationship between the Crown and Parliament, plots, court life, and daily experiences during the Restoration, complemented by the study of a specific historical environment from that period. The Year 11 History programme at Brighton Girls delivers a thorough exploration of pivotal historical moments, connecting their influence to contemporary times. This curriculum is carefully designed to prepare students for higher-level historical studies and to cultivate an expansive view of history's enduring impact.







Maths

YEAR 10

In Year 10 Mathematics, students explore a diverse range of mathematical topics, building a strong foundation for advanced concepts. The curriculum includes "Area and Volume," focusing on geometric shapes, "Units and Compound Measures" for understanding density, pressure, and speed conversions, and "Bounds" for calculating upper and lower numerical limits. Students delve into "Probability" with conditional calculations and "Statistics" covering cumulative frequency and box plots. "Similar Shapes" and "Trigonometry" enhance understanding of geometric principles, while "Fractional Indices" and "Surds" introduce complex calculations. "Quadratics" and "Graphs" explore advanced algebraic and graphical concepts, and "Proportion" and "Angles and Geometric Proof" provide insights into direct and indirect proportions and angle relationships. The study of "Circle Theorems" and "Congruence" deepens understanding of circle properties and triangle congruence. This comprehensive approach in Year 10 Mathematics not only reinforces key mathematical skills but also prepares students for higher-level studies and real-world applications.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 Mathematics, students tackle advanced mathematical concepts, enhancing their understanding and problem-solving abilities. The curriculum includes "Trigonometry," with the application of sine and cosine rules and area formulas for triangles, and extends to "3D Pythagoras and Trigonometry" for solving complex 3D problems. Students explore "Graphs of Trigonometric Functions," learning to recognize and interpret these graphs, and study "Functions," focusing on composite and inverse functions. "Transformations of Functions" teaches how to apply reflections, stretches, and translations. "Algebraic Fractions" covers simplifying, factoring, and solving equations derived from algebraic fractions, while "Equations of Circles and Tangents" includes finding equations of lines and tangents to circles. The curriculum also delves into "Simultaneous Equations" with linear and non-linear equations, "Vectors" for understanding vector notation and operations, and "Proof" for constructing mathematical arguments and algebraic proofs. This intensive Year 11 Mathematics program is designed to deepen students' mathematical knowledge and prepare them for more advanced studies and mathematical applications.

Modern Foreign Languages

YEAR 10

French

In Year 10 French, students engage in a comprehensive curriculum that covers a range of relevant and contemporary topics. The course begins with "Home, town, neighbourhood, and region," where students describe their homes, ideal homes, the characteristics of towns, and the features of various regions. The unit on "Charity and voluntary work" emphasises the significance of volunteering, understanding the role of charities, and discussing the impact of their work. Students also explore "Healthy and unhealthy living," comparing old and new habits and discussing potential future changes in lifestyle and diet. In the section on "Environment and global issues," the focus is on environmental protection, discussing problems and solutions, and addressing social issues such as homelessness, inequality, and poverty. The "Holidays and Travel" unit enables students to express their holiday preferences, recount past holiday experiences in detail, and talk about visiting different regions of France. The year wraps up with a focus on "Revision," where students refine their exam techniques and prepare for Year 11. This preparation includes receiving feedback on their progress, which helps them transition smoothly into the final year of their French studies. Year 10 French not only enhances students' language skills but also broadens their cultural understanding and prepares them for future academic challenges.



Spanish

In Year 10 Spanish, students explore a wide range of topics that connect language learning with real-world issues and cultural insights. The course begins with "Home, town, neighbourhood, and region," where students learn to describe their current homes, articulate what their ideal homes would be like, detail the characteristics of towns and what activities they offer, and describe various regions. The unit on "Charity and voluntary work" covers discussions about the role of volunteering, the importance of charity work, and comparing past and



present habits, including future lifestyle and dietary changes. In the section on “Healthy and unhealthy living,” students compare old and new habits, discussing future lifestyle and diet changes. “Environment and global issues” brings attention to environmental protection efforts, discussing problems and potential solutions, and addressing broader social and global issues like homelessness, inequality, and poverty. The “Holidays and Travel” segment allows students to express their holiday preferences, recount past holiday experiences in detail, and talk about visiting different regions of Spain. The year concludes with a focus on

“Revision,” sharpening exam techniques and preparing for Year 11, which includes receiving feedback to help students transition smoothly into their final year of Spanish studies. Year 10 Spanish not only advances students’ language skills but also deepens their cultural understanding and prepares them for future academic challenges in Spanish.

YEAR 11

French

In Year 11 French, students consolidate their language skills with a focus on practical and academic aspects. The “My studies” unit covers describing a typical school day, contrasting school life in different countries, and discussing school rules and uniforms. The section on “Education post-16” explores future academic and career options, including debates on university versus apprenticeships, job hunting, and weighing the pros and cons of various professions. Students undergo extensive revision sessions, starting with “Theme 1 revision,” where they revisit all topics from Year 9, followed by “Theme 2 revision,” which focuses on topics from Year 10. The curriculum culminates in “Theme 3 revision,” which is dedicated to preparing students for their speaking exams. This comprehensive approach in Year 11 French not only reinforces students’ linguistic abilities but also equips them with the knowledge and confidence needed for their final assessments, ensuring a well-rounded mastery of the French language and its practical applications in real-world contexts.

Spanish

In Year 11 Spanish, students engage in an in-depth review and application of their language skills, focusing on educational and career-oriented topics. The curriculum starts with “My studies,” where students describe a typical day at school, compare school life in different countries, and discuss school rules and uniforms. The unit on “Education post-16” delves into future academic and career paths, encouraging debates on university versus apprenticeships, discussions on job acquisition, and exploring the pros and cons of various professions. The course includes thorough revision sessions: “Theme 1 revision” revisits all topics from Year 9, while “Theme 2 revision” focuses on Year 10 topics. The year culminates with “Theme 3 revision,” intensively preparing students for their speaking exams. This comprehensive approach in Year 11 Spanish not only solidifies students’ command of the language but also prepares them for future academic and professional opportunities, ensuring a deep understanding of Spanish and its practical use in diverse contexts.





Music

YEAR 10

Year 10 Music delves into the dynamic world of Popular Music, where students study pop music chord symbols, common chord sequences, and the integration of technology in pop instrumentation. They examine diverse forms such as verse/chorus, 32-bar song form, strophic, and 12-bar blues form, with a detailed analysis of 'Africa' by Toto, enhancing their understanding of musical features and chord sequence recognition. The curriculum then transitions to Blues and Jazz, exploring their key features, including blues and jazz harmony, typical ensembles, and standard big band configurations, complemented by focused listening practices. In Music Theatre, students navigate the genre's history and styles, understanding typical musical theatre bands/orchestras, and honing skills in exam-style lyric questions. The study then extends to the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic Periods, covering typical forms and the evolution of the orchestra, alongside dictation-focused listening practices. Composition becomes a significant component, with students engaging in exercises using flat.io/[sibelius](https://sibelius.com) and [edu.bandlab](https://edu.bandlab.com)/logic, and developing their own compositions based on past briefs, guided by individual tutorial sessions. Performance lessons round out the curriculum, providing opportunities for students to showcase their talents and receive feedback. This comprehensive programme in Year 10 Music fosters students' musical creativity, analytical skills, and performance expertise, preparing them for advanced studies and a deeper appreciation of diverse musical genres.



YEAR 11

In Year 11 Music students refine their musical expertise through an in-depth study of various genres and composition techniques. The year begins with a revision of Baroque features through JS Bach's 'Badinerie', focusing on tonality, key features, and listening practices, including the use of 'Alto clef'. The curriculum then explores Chamber Music, spanning from the Baroque to the Romantic period, with a special emphasis on texture and period-specific characteristics. Film Music takes centre stage as students examine its evolution from Romantic émigré composers, understanding the



use of 'leitmotif' and the role of music in storytelling and mood creation. This includes focused analysis and preparation for complex exam questions. Composition becomes a central part of the curriculum, where students choose and develop a brief set by the exam board, supported by regular tutorials and weekly progress reviews. Performance skills are honed through class performances and assessments, culminating in the GCSE concert in February, where students present both solo and ensemble pieces. This practical experience aids in selecting effective repertoire for their final assessments. The year rounds off with comprehensive exam revision, employing

extensive past paper resources to ensure students are well-prepared for their examinations. Through this diverse and rigorous programme, Year 11 students are equipped with a deepened understanding of music theory and practice, preparing them for successful performances and examinations.

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

YEAR 10

In Year 10 Philosophy, Religion & Ethics, students engage deeply with two major themes: 'Relationships and Family' and 'Religion and Life.' Theme A explores religious teachings and ethical arguments related to human sexuality, marriage, divorce, family structures, and gender equality. Students learn about diverse viewpoints on heterosexual and homosexual relationships, sexual relationships before and outside of marriage, contraception, family planning, and the roles and purposes of families, including same-sex parenting and polygamy. Gender roles, equality, and issues of prejudice and discrimination are examined critically. In Theme B, 'Religion and Life,' the curriculum delves into the origins and value of the universe and human life. It covers religious and scientific perspectives on the creation of the universe, like the Big Bang theory, and the relationship between these views. Students explore environmental stewardship, the use of natural resources, pollution, and the ethical treatment of animals. The origins of human life, concepts like the sanctity and quality of life, abortion, euthanasia, and beliefs about death and an afterlife are studied, considering their impact on ethical decision-making. This comprehensive programme equips students with a nuanced understanding of philosophical, religious, and ethical viewpoints, fostering critical thinking and informed perspectives on contemporary moral issues.



YEAR 11

In Year 11 Philosophy, Religion & Ethics, students tackle two profound themes: 'The Existence of God and Revelation' and 'Religion, Crime & Punishment.' Theme C delves into philosophical debates about the existence of God, examining the Design and First Cause arguments, the role of miracles, and the challenge posed by evil and suffering. Students analyse the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments and the scientific perspectives challenging the existence of God. They explore the nature of the divine and different types of revelation – special, general, and enlightenment – considering their



value and the various conceptualizations of the divine, such as omnipotence, omniscience, and transcendence. Theme E addresses the complex interplay between religion, crime, and punishment. Students discuss good and evil intentions, causes of crime including poverty, mental illness, and greed, and societal perspectives on different types of crime. The curriculum then shifts to the aims and methods of punishment, such as retribution, deterrence, and reformation, including the ethics of prison, corporal punishment, and the death penalty. Emphasis is placed on forgiveness and ethical arguments surrounding capital punishment, considering principles like utility and the sanctity of life. This

comprehensive programme equips students with a nuanced understanding of the philosophical, religious, and ethical aspects of these pivotal issues, fostering critical thinking and informed perspectives on complex societal challenges.

Science

YEAR 10

Biology

In Year 10 Biology, students dive into the complexities of living organisms, covering a range of fascinating themes. The journey begins with "Organisation and Digestion," where students explore the digestive system, biological molecules, and enzymes, understanding the nuances of digestion. They then examine "Communicable Diseases," studying bacteria, viruses, fungi, protists, human and plant defence mechanisms, and methods for growing bacteria. "Preventing Disease" delves into vaccinations, antibiotics, painkillers, and drug development processes. The course also addresses "Non-communicable Diseases," exploring the impact of lifestyle choices on health, including diet, exercise, smoking, and alcohol. Students explore the essential processes of "Photosynthesis" and "Respiration," learning how energy is generated and utilised in plants and animals. "Organising an Ecosystem" introduces ecological concepts such as food chains, material cycling, and decomposition. Finally, "Biodiversity and Ecosystems" tackles global challenges like deforestation and global warming, emphasising the importance of biodiversity and sustainable practices. Year 10 Biology at Brighton Girls offers a comprehensive understanding of biology, engaging students with the interconnected web of life and its processes.

Chemistry

In Year 10 Chemistry, students embark on an in-depth study of the principles governing matter and reactions, enhancing their understanding of chemistry's role in the world. The curriculum starts with "Rate of Reaction," where students examine

how concentration, temperature, surface area, and catalysts affect reaction speeds, using graphs and tangent analysis for deeper insights. "Reversible Reactions & Equilibria" introduces the principles of reversible reactions and Le Chatelier's law, exploring the dynamic nature of equilibria and energy changes. In "Structure & Bonding," students learn about the states of matter, ionic and metallic bonding, covalent molecules, and unique structures like diamond and graphite, including bond energy calculations. The course progresses to "Organic Chemistry & Earth's Resources," covering crude oil formation, distillation, alkanes, cracking processes, and the importance of recycling and reusing plastics. Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) add an environmental perspective to the curriculum. Year 10 Chemistry at Brighton Girls provides students with a thorough understanding of chemical





reactions, equilibrium, bonding, and the vital role of chemistry in sustainability and Earth's resources management.

Physics

In Year 10 Physics, students embark on an in-depth exploration of core physics principles, covering Forces and Motion, Electricity, and Atomic Structure. The curriculum begins with Distance, Displacement, Speed, and Velocity, progressing to Acceleration and the analysis of Distance-time and Velocity-time graphs, offering insights into the complexities of motion, including Terminal Velocity. Stopping Distances are studied, focusing on braking and energy transfers. The Electricity module dives into Circuits, Current, Potential Difference, Resistance, and Component Characteristics, clarifying series and parallel circuits and their

application in Domestic Electricity. In Atomic Structure, students learn both historical and modern perspectives of the atom and delve into Radioactivity, exploring Activity, Half-life, Irradiation, and Contamination. This comprehensive study in Year 10 Physics provides students with a robust foundation in fundamental physics concepts, enhancing their understanding of the natural world and preparing them for advanced studies in the field.

YEAR 11

Biology

In Year 11 Biology, students delve into advanced biological topics, unravelling the complexities of life processes and systems. "Hormonal Control" is a key focus, exploring the regulation of physiological processes through hormones like adrenaline and thyroxine, and extending to plant hormones' roles in growth and germination. The "Homeostasis" module covers waste removal, kidney functions, dialysis, and transplants, deepening students' understanding of internal balance in organisms. "Cell Division" examines chromosomes, mitosis, stem cells, and ethical considerations, while "Reproduction" encompasses sexual and asexual reproduction, meiosis, DNA structure, and genetic inheritance, including genetic screening and inherited disorders. The course also covers "Variation and Evolution," introducing natural selection, selective breeding, genetic engineering, cloning, and the contributions of key scientists like Lamarck and Darwin. An additional focus for the academic year includes systematic and random sampling, studying how organisms adapt to environments and the role of extremophiles. Year 11 Biology at Brighton Girls provides a thorough exploration of biological principles, preparing students with a deep understanding of life's intricacies and the foundational processes that sustain living organisms.

Chemistry

In Year 11 Chemistry, students engage with advanced chemical concepts, deepening their understanding of the reactivity series, metal extraction, and sustainable use of Earth's resources. The "Reactivity Series & Earth's Resources" module examines the reactivity hierarchy among metals, focusing on electrolysis for aluminium extraction and sustainable methods

for copper extraction, emphasising the importance of recycling. In "Acids, Bases & Salts," students explore acid-base properties, the pH scale, and salt production through neutralisation, differentiating between strong and weak acids. The "Calculations" segment covers conservation of mass, atomic and formula masses, moles, Avogadro's number, reacting masses, limiting reactants, and concentration, along with gas tests for hydrogen, carbon dioxide, oxygen, and chlorine. This comprehensive Year 11 Chemistry curriculum equips students with a profound understanding of chemical reactions, analytical skills for informed calculations, and an appreciation for the sustainable management of chemical resources.

Physics

In Year 11 Physics, students delve into the core principles of Forces and Energy, exploring the intricate behaviours of matter and energy. The curriculum begins with "Newton's 3 Laws of Motion," laying the groundwork for understanding how forces interact with objects and influence motion. Students then explore "Energy Stores and Transfers," examining kinetic and potential energy, and study the effects of forces on elasticity, revealing how materials react to external forces. The concept of "Momentum" is covered in depth, teaching students how mass and velocity influence an object's momentum and applying this knowledge to dynamic scenarios. The module on "Magnetism and Electromagnetism" opens up the fascinating world of magnetic fields, delving into their influence on magnetic and electromagnetic phenomena and exploring the motor effect to illustrate the link between electricity and magnetism. Through this comprehensive study in Year 11 Physics, students gain a deep understanding of Newton's laws,



energy dynamics, momentum, and electromagnetism, equipping them with key insights into the foundational principles of the physical world.



Sport

YEAR 10

In Year 10 GCSE Physical Education (PE), students undertake a detailed study of fitness, training principles, injury prevention, and the skeletal system, balancing theoretical knowledge with practical sports application. They explore Components of Fitness, including cardiovascular endurance and muscular strength, using fitness assessments to interpret data. Principles of Training are covered, focusing on optimising performance through various training types and injury prevention strategies. The curriculum delves into the Skeletal System, studying major bones and joints, and their role in physical activities. Students also learn about the Characteristics and Classification of Skills in sports, applying SMART goal setting for personal improvement and understanding the importance of mental preparation and feedback in enhancing sports performance. The course defines health, fitness, and wellbeing, emphasising sports' holistic benefits. Practical elements include Non-Examination Assessment in sports like Netball and Tennis, and coursework components like Evaluation and Analysis. Year 10 GCSE PE provides students with foundational knowledge and skills in PE, preparing them for advanced studies and a future in physical education and sports science.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 of GCSE Physical Education (PE), students explore advanced topics, blending theoretical knowledge with practical sports applications. They delve into the Structure and Function of the Muscular System, studying major muscles and their movements, and Movement Analysis, focusing on biomechanics in sports. The curriculum covers the Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems, differentiating between aerobic and anaerobic exercise, and analyses the Effects of Exercise on the Body, considering physiological changes. Diet and Nutrition are emphasised for optimising sports performance, and Engagement Patterns of Different Social Groups in sports are explored. Students examine UK Participation in Sport, the Commercialisation of Physical Activity, and Ethical and Socio-Cultural Issues, such as the impact of media, sponsorship, and challenges like drugs and violence in sports. Practical aspects include Non-Examination Assessment in specific sports and Coursework that integrates theoretical knowledge with practical skills. Year 11 GCSE PE at Brighton Girls provides a comprehensive understanding of physical education, preparing students for advanced studies and opportunities in sports-related fields.

Wellbeing

YEAR 10

In the Year 10 Wellbeing programme, students engage in a comprehensive exploration of their overall wellness, focusing on emotional, physical, and social well-being. The program begins with a reflective session on the transition to GCSE, setting goals and addressing challenges. It then delves into emotional well-being, highlighting the importance of positive behaviour. "Reading for Wellbeing" reinforces the mental health benefits of reading, while "Guided Meditation" introduces meditation techniques for relaxation. An inclusive session on LGBTQ+ awareness fosters understanding and allyship, followed by discussions on healthy living, balancing academic and personal life. The curriculum also examines relationship dynamics, internet responsibility, and the impact of social issues like racism and alcohol use. Freedom of expression and speech, particularly online, is discussed, promoting respectful disagreement. The programme culminates with a "Just Dance" session, emphasising the role of physical activity in mental well-being. Year 10 Wellbeing at Brighton Girls equips students with insights and skills to handle adolescent challenges, fostering a holistic approach to well-being.

YEAR 11

In Year 11, Wellbeing sessions are customised to support students through their final GCSE year, addressing the challenges and transitions they face. The programme begins with an opening session for students to express concerns and set academic goals, establishing a focused approach for the year. A "Food & Mood Workshop" highlights the connection between diet and mental health, while discussions on digital relationships address the complexities of online interactions. "Online Portrayal" encourages students to assess their digital presence, considering its impact on future opportunities. Practical guidance on work experience empowers students to plan for their futures. The importance of physical activity is underscored in a "Self-Defence" session, reinforcing its role in mental well-being. As exams approach, a "CVs & Applications" session offers resume writing tips, and an external "Revision Skills Workshop" focuses on exam preparation. Financial literacy is addressed in "Kickstarter & Investing," educating students on online financial opportunities and risks. "Neurodiversity & Inclusion" promotes understanding of diverse learning styles, and "Sexual Health" covers STIs/STDs and the history of HIV/AIDS. The programme concludes with a reflective session on the year so far, preparing students for their upcoming mock exams. Year 11 Wellbeing at Brighton Girls equips students with crucial insights and skills for their academic and personal growth, readying them for the challenges of their final GCSE year.



Sixth Form and beyond

At Brighton Girls Sixth Form, we embrace a philosophy of limitless learning. As experts in girls' education, we provide a Sixth Form experience that is customised to your unique learning style, fostering a belief that the sky's the limit for your achievements.

Our tailored curriculum and small class sizes, averaging five students, ensure a personalised educational journey. Our Sixth Formers benefit from a specialised study programme comprising A-levels, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), and a dynamic Enrichment Programme. With experienced A-level teachers helping each department, you receive unparalleled academic guidance. A-levels offer the chance to delve deeply into subjects you're passionate about, laying the groundwork for future career paths. This environment also cultivates essential skills in time management and maximises opportunities for independent study and enrichment.

Your health and happiness are our top priorities. Our nurturing and positive atmosphere, supported by small class sizes, allows our staff to understand and guide each student closely. Our Sixth Form has a dedicated space in the Temple building's loft, a serene haven for both study and social interaction.

Leadership development is a cornerstone of our Sixth Form Programme. Opportunities abound to hone these skills, from mentoring younger students to leading initiatives like the GDST Young Enterprise Scheme and engaging in social enterprises. Our varied educational trips, both domestic and international, add a global dimension to your learning.



The Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) offers exceptional resources, including specialised tutoring and the chance to participate in an Oxbridge Conference – an immersive two-day experience providing first-class support for applications to elite universities.

Our GDST career insight days, hosted at various workplaces, offer early exposure to a wide range of careers in fields like business, finance, arts, science, and engineering. We encourage each student to attend at least one of these events, providing a headstart in networking and career exploration.

The GDST Alumnae Network, a vast community of over 70,000 professionals, is a valuable resource offering mentorship, advice, and work experience opportunities. Our Sixth Form students can leverage this network through the GDST Rungway app, connecting with Alumnae for insights into university and professional life.

At Brighton Girls Sixth Form, we don't just educate; we inspire and empower you to reach your full potential in an environment where there are no boundaries to what you can achieve.





**BRIGHTON
GIRLS**

GDST



www.facebook.com/BrightonGirlsSchool



[@BrightonGirls](https://twitter.com/BrightonGirls)



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

For further information, please contact the Admissions Department on
+44(0)1273 280 280 or via email to admissions@brightongirls.gdst.net

GDST registered charity number: 306983.