



MOUNT

ST MARY'S | BARLBOROUGH HALL

Mount St Mary's College

GCSE Options



JESUIT
SCHOOLS

Your GCSE Options

As you prepare to start Year 10, you need to select which subjects you are going to continue studying at GCSE level.

These qualifications can affect future decisions, such as A Level options, university courses, even your career, so it is important to choose the right options for you.

You will study a set of mandatory subjects, and then you will chose further options from four blocks. The mandatory options are:

- English Language (1 GCSE)
- English Literature (1 GCSE)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Religious Studies (1 GCSE)
- Combined Science: (2 GCSEs) NB Pupils can use one of their options to increase this to Triple Science (3 GCSEs)

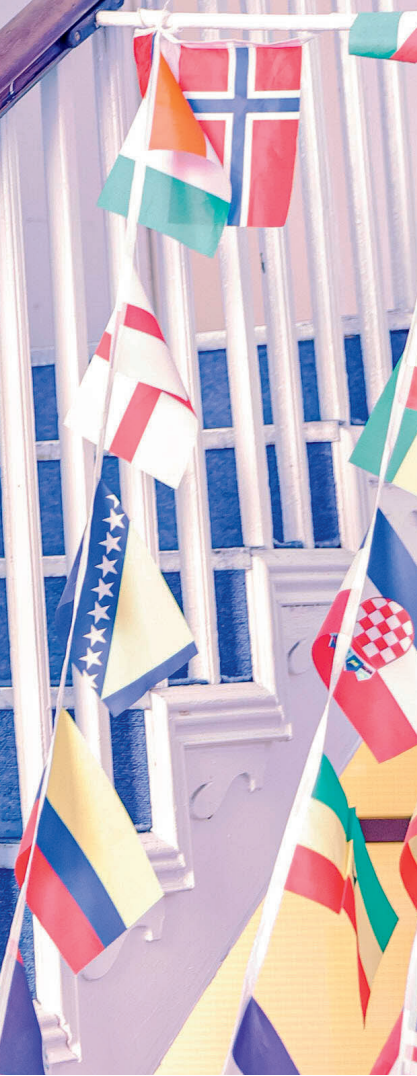
Students must choose a subject from block A. Second languages are compulsory; the only exceptions will be made by arrangement where there is a clear SEND/EAL need -in which case this time will be spent in Learning Support/EAL only.

Students then choose a subject from each remaining block. One of these can be Studies (meaning they will have supervised study periods at those times). Most students choose this option and benefit from the additional study time/support they have as a result.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
French	Triple Science	PE	Geography
Spanish	Business	History	Music
Latin	Drama	Computer Science	History
EAL	Classical Civilisation	Art	Design Technology
Learning Support	Studies	Studies	Spanish
			Studies

Mandatory Courses

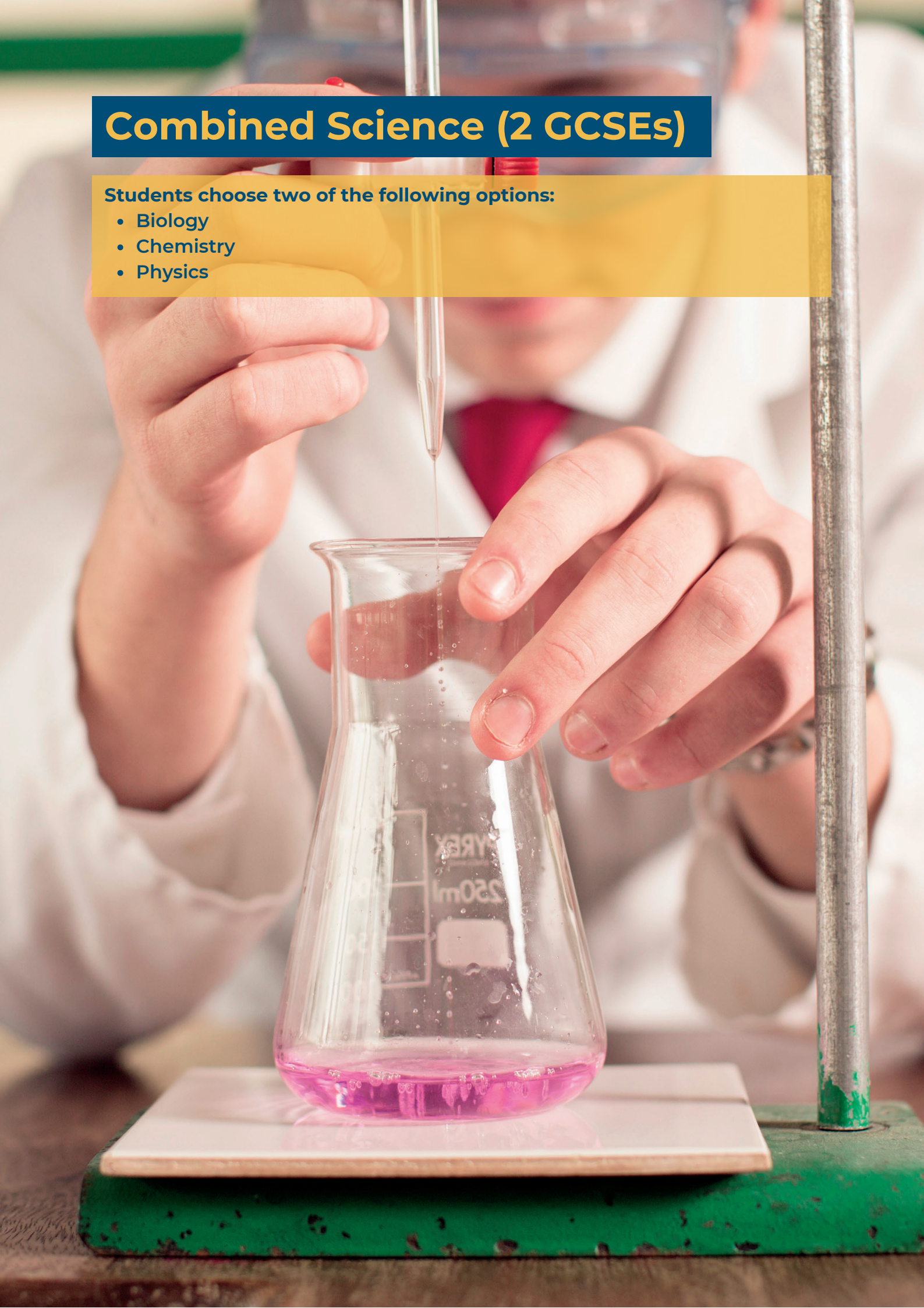
- English Language (1 GCSE)
- English Literature (1 GCSE)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Religious Studies (1 GCSE)
- Combined Science: (2 GCSEs) NB Pupils can use one of their options to increase this to Triple Science (3 GCSEs)



Combined Science (2 GCSEs)

Students choose two of the following options:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics



Biology

AQA Exam Board

The Course

Students will study the following topics:

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



Chemistry

AQA Exam Board

The Course

Students will study the following topics:

- Atomic structure & the periodic table
- Bonding
- Properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

The Course

Students will study the following topics:

- Energy transfers
- Energy resources
- Electricity
- Waves
- Radioactivity
- Forces and motion
- Momentum
- Light & Sound Electromagnetism
- Space

**Assessment**

Each subject has TWO written exams, each worth 50% of the GCSE.

NB -Pupils can use one of their options to increase this to Triple Science (3 GCSEs)

The Course

Students will develop their fiction comprehension and practice narrative writing as well as non-fiction comprehension and transactional writing. They will study the following genres:

- 20th Century literature
- 19th and 21st Century non-fiction
- Transactional / persuasive writing

Students will also develop their spoken Language skills by presenting to their peers.

Assessment

Exam 1 (40%)

Exam 2 (60%)



English Literature

Eduqas (WJEC) Exam Board

The Course

English literature encourages learners to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. It provides learners with opportunities to read widely for pleasure across a range of high quality texts in the genres of prose, poetry and drama and to develop an understanding of how literature is both rich and influential. It enables learners to make connections across their reading and develop a clear understanding of literary works and also prepares them for the study of literature at a higher level.

There are key texts that we study in English Literature in particular: Romeo & Juliet, An Inspector Calls, and A Christmas Carol. Students will also study entries from Anthology Poetry.

It is ideal if students start the course in Year 10 with copies of the key texts – particularly Romeo and Juliet, as this is studied first. If the students have some knowledge of the play, or a film version, that can also be very useful.

Assessment

Exam 1 (40%)

Exam 2 (60%)



The Course

Studying Mathematics empowers you to solve complex challenging problems, enabling you to make a positive difference in the world.

To support your study there is the GCSE Pods and MyMaths, both of which are excellent resources for learning and consolidating learning.

The course covers everything you will already have covered and then extends those ideas as well as introducing new concepts such as probability, statistics and algebra.

The decision on whether you do the Foundation or Higher Tier is not made until after Christmas in Year 11, but the school will prepare you for the most appropriate exam. A thorough knowledge of the Foundation material is enough to gain a good grade in the Higher Tier.

Assessment

Exam 1 - non-calculator (33.33%)

Exam 2 - allows the use of calculators (33.33%)

Exam 3 - allows the use of calculators (33.33%)



Religious Studies

Exam Board TBC

The Course

The course will allow students to develop an awareness and understanding of different beliefs and practices. It will encourage them to reflect on and evaluate philosophical, theological and moral issues and help students better understand their own beliefs and ideas.

Religious Studies will also prepare you for life by promoting respect and tolerance for those with views opposed to your own.

We will be examining questions which have fascinated humans for thousands of years. These will include:

- Where did the universe come from?
- Are humans special?
- Why is there suffering in the world?
- What happens after we die?
- Should euthanasia be legal?
- Why do we punish people for crimes?
- Should we bring back capital punishment?
- Did Jesus die for all or just a few?

These questions will be asked with the context of the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Students will also carry out a study of Judaism in which we explore Jewish beliefs and practices including festivals such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

As with all GCSEs, RS requires a high level of commitment and hard work. It is important that students are able to put in the effort to meet deadlines and ensure all work is of a high standard.

Assessment

The course is currently undergoing redevelopment, therefore the final exam board and assessments will be determined before the end of the school year of 22/23.



Selective Options

- **Art**
- **Business**
- **Classical Civilisation**
- **Computer Science**
- **Design Technology**
- **Drama**
- **EAL**
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Latin**
- **Music**
- **Physical Education**
- **Spanish**



The Course

Students will research a wide range of artists from the past as well as current practitioners. They will develop an awareness and understanding of how these artists can influence work and techniques. Students will be required to reflect on and evaluate their work and that of their peers.

The course enables students to build a range of practical and creative skills, using them to create a sketchbook with a final assessed piece of work. Students will study and explore the following endorsements:

- Fine art
- Textiles
- 3D
- Photography
- Graphics

Assessment

Practical Portfolio (60%)

Exam (40%)



Business Studies

Edexcel Exam Board

The Course

Students will study the following topics:

- Enterprise
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting business ideas into practice
- Making businesses effective
- External influences on business
- Growing business
- Marketing
- Operations
- Finance
- Human resources

Assessment

Exam 1 - Investigating small business (50%)

Exam 2 - Building a business (50%)



Classical Civilisation

OCR Exam Board

The Course

Students will study Greek and Roman myths and how these have shaped modern life by examining historical artefacts and sites to understand how and why these stories were told.

Students will study key sites in Greece and interpret what they tell us about daily life in Ancient Greece. Key study points will include Odysseus and his fabled encounters after the Trojan war.

Assessment

Exam 1 (50%)

Exam 2 (50%)



The Course

Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

Assessment

Exam 1 (50%)

Exam 2 (50%)



The Course

Students will study the following core topics:

- The impact of new and emerging technologies
- Informing design decisions
- Energy, material, devices and systems
- Material types, properties and structure
- Designing principals
- Timbers

Students will also create a portfolio and functioning prototype. This will require investigation and product specification, manufacturing, testing and an evaluation.

Assessment

Exam (50%)

Coursework (50%)



The Course

Students will explore a range of devised, scripted and practitioner influenced platforms. They will develop an awareness of roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional practice, as well as a range of theatrical skills, which they will apply to create performances.

The course requires students to work collaboratively to generate, develop, and communicate ideas and they will reflect on and evaluate each other's work. Students will also study performance texts to understand their social, cultural and historical context.

There will be opportunities for students to visit theatres and attend residential during this course.

Assessment

Performance 1 and Coursework (40%)

Performance 2 (20%)

Exam 1 (40%)



English as an Additional Language

We ask all students whose first language is not English to take the Cambridge adaptive online EAL placement test as part of their application to School. Depending on the student's understanding of English, additional support will be offered alongside the curriculum.

We also use the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) at the College. This is not a pass / fail examination. It is open to all levels and candidates are awarded a band score from 1-9 in each of the four skills areas (Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening) as well as an averaged overall band score.

The IELTS can be taken each term at the University of Sheffield and Cambridge exams are hosted at the College in December and June each year.



The Course

Students will study a variety of topics within three key themes:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Students will develop their reading, writing and speaking skills throughout the two-year course, through class discussion and independent study.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Listening (25%)

Paper 2 – Speaking (25%)

Paper 3 – Reading (25%)

Paper 4 – Writing (25%)



The Course

Students will study the following core topics:

- The challenges of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management
- Geographical applications (fieldwork and geographical skills)

Assessment

Exam 1 (35%)

Exam 2 (35%)

Exam 3 (30%)



The Course

Students will study a range of historical eras from both Britain and Europe. They will focus on these main topics:

- Medicine in Britain - examining approaches to prevention and treatment of the black death, the plague in London, the Cholera outbreak and injuries in the trenches of the Western front
- Elizabethan England
- The Cold War
- Weimar and Nazi Germany

Assessment

Exam 1 (30%)

Exam 2 (40%)

Exam 3 (30%)



The Course

Students build their knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures and should become familiar with the vocabulary in the defined vocabulary list (DVL) and prescribed syntax and accidence.

Learners study Latin set texts and answer questions in English on aspects of content and analyse, evaluate and respond to the ancient literature they have studied.

Verse A: Echo et Narcissus lines 1-82, (*aspicit ... albis*) amor

Verse B: Text Virgil, Aeneid, 6.295-316, 384-416, 679-712, 752-759, 788-800

Aeneas in the underworld

Assessment

Exam 1 - Language (50%)

Exam 2 - On two of five optional written texts (50%)



The Course

Students will study a wide range of music genres and study several pieces in detail. The course involves performing aspects, and practice is essential for success in this area. There is also a composition element, which allows students to explore their own flare and style in music, which will develop over the two-year course.

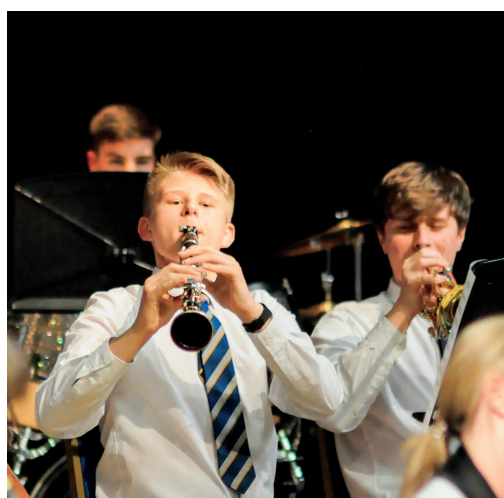
Students will expand on their listening skills in music, providing responses to given stimuli.

Assessment

Exam - Listening (40%)

Performance (30%)

Composition (30%)



Physical Education

OCR Exam Board

The Course

Students will study the following topics during this course:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Physical training
- Socio-cultural influences
- Sports psychology
- Health, fitness and wellbeing

Students will also undertake practical activity assessments, which is an ongoing process throughout the two years of the course.

They will also be expected to evaluate and analyse their own practical performance, or that of a peer.

Assessment

Exam 1 – Physical factors affecting performance (30%)

Exam 2 – socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (30%)

Performance (30%)

Coursework (10%)



The Course

Students will study a variety of topics within three key themes:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Students will develop their reading, writing and speaking skills throughout the two-year course, through class discussion and independent study.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Listening (25%)

Paper 2 – Speaking (25%)

Paper 3 – Reading (25%)

Paper 4 – Writing (25%)



Learning Support

Our SEND programme is designed to help and support any child with learning impairments.

We believe that Learning Support is not a 'one size fits all' system, and we are available for any pupil that walks through our doors.

This can be anything from additional help with Homework, to bespoke lessons in our Learning Support Classrooms. We work with every child so they have all the tools they need to reach their full potential.

Some families who come to us may already be aware of SEND, or know their child needs that little bit of additional support outside the classroom. We will work with your child to find the right level of assistance needed for them. We may sometimes recommend some level of Learning Support for a student, and we will contact you about the opportunities available.

The Learning Support Programme at the Mount has a range of options for students should they need it. We have a dedicated programme of study for students who benefit from a more one to one approach.

We have an excellent team of fully qualified teachers all working within the SEND Programme, and they are always on hand for advice, or just to say hello! We also run Enrichment and Homework Support Sessions after school. Please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss any Learning Support questions you may have.



MOUNT

ST MARY'S | BARLBOROUGH HALL

Mount St Mary's College
College Road
Spinkhill
Sheffield
Derbyshire
S21 3YL

+ (00) 44 1246 433388
admissions@msmcollege.com
www.msmcollege.com

