Year 9
Guided Pathways

2026-27

BELIEVE ACHIEVE INSPIRE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome Pupils, Parents and Carers to the next stage in your educational journey.

Choosing subjects in Year 9 is a rite of passage that children have gone through for generations. The choices made now, while not determining the future, will set the direction of travel for the coming years. By now our pupils will have a future career in mind and choosing the right subjects will allow them to achieve this goal.

This booklet, and the process over the coming weeks, is designed to enable you to make informed choices. Too often pupils pick subjects for the wrong reasons and spend two years regretting it. I urge our young people to take the time to consider and ask yourself the following questions:

Will I enjoy the subject?
Do I need this to go onto a future course or apprenticeship?
Do I do well in exams or would an alternative type of assessment suit me best?
Is picking what my mates have or the teacher I like best really the best way of deciding what to study?

At Wordsley we aim to take an individual approach to the process, so that pupils are guided and supported to be successful. We call this **guided pathways**. This will be outlined in the coming pages and the Parents Information Evening on Wednesday 4th MArch 2026.. This will begin at 6pm.

Please take the time to read this booklet carefully. It will provide information on the process, the pathways on offer and the wide range of subjects we offer at Wordsley. Below are some key dates to keep in mind during the process. I look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

Finally, we are here to help during the process. Any questions please ask.

Mr T Brain
Assistant Headteacher

The Guided Pathway Process

Guided Pathway Booklets issued to pupils

Friday 27th February 2026

Y9 Parents Information Evening

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Y9 Parent's Evening

Wednesday 11th March 2026

Guided Pathways Form Deadline

Monday 23rd March 2026

PUPILS WILL HAVE AN OPTIONS DISCUSSION WITH MOST APPROPRIATE MEMBER OF STAFF

GUIDED PATHWAYS

At Wordsley we want our young people to choose the subjects they wish to. We want our pupils to achieve their ambitions and reach their goals. They need to:

Believe they can do it (aim high).
Achieve the best they can.
Inspire themselves and each other, acting as role models for future Wordsley pupils.

However, through experience we know that all pupils have different needs and that some find Key Stage 4 a more difficult experience than others. As a result, we have designed different pathways to allow our learners to achieve the best they can.

BELIEVE PATHWAY

For our most academically able pupils, designed to stretch and challenge them to achieve as well as their peers nationally.

ACHIEVE PATHWAY

Designed to enable these pupils to achieve good passes in a full suite of subjects.

INSPIRE PATHWAY

For those pupils who have the potential to achieve passes but need a bit more support to do so.

SUPPORT PATHWAY

To allow a small group of pupils to receive extra intervention, so that they can be supported to achieve.

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY

A bespoke pathway for pupils who need an individualised programme at KS4 (by agreement with families).

No pupil will be denied the right to choose any subject. The only reason anyone may not get their first choice will be due to limited places on that course. While we offer advice and guidance, the choice ultimately resides with families.

For a summary of each pathway, please see below:

PATHWAYS	GCSE TARGET GRADE RANGE	NUMBER OF SUBJECTS	PERSONALISATION
BELIEVE	6-9	8	Triple Science as a suggested GCSE Option. At least one Ebacc subject.
ACHIEVE	4-6	8	One Ebacc subject Two Free Picks
INSPIRE	3-4	8	One Ebacc Subject Two picks but consider vocational options.
SUPPORT	1-3	7	Option to drop a subject to receive intervention time.
ALTERNATIVE	VARIOUS	6-7	Bespoke programme including Work N Learn Offer.

QUALIFICATIONS & GRADING

GCSE qualifications are mainly exam based, with the exams at the end of Year 11.

Some GCSEs have a coursework element, now term NEAs (Non-Examined Assessments).

In 2017, GCSE grading was changed from letters (A*-G) to a numerical system (9-1).

See below for how the grading compares:

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
	8
A	7
B	6
	5 STRONG PASS
C	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

A Grade for is considered a standard pass grade (equivalent of an old grade C.

However, a grade 5 is now a strong pass and is required by many colleges and apprenticeships for many courses. .

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a group of subjects that the top universities value and provide greater opportunities for further study and more sought after careers.

The EBacc. consists of English, Maths, Science, Separate Science History or Geography and Spanish. Passing all five subjects at grades 4, 5 or 7 plus will look good to future colleges, universities and employers.

Vocational courses are qualifications that provide an equivalent to GCSE. The most widely know are BTECs, although there are others.

Vocational courses are usually assessed through coursework completed throughout the course, although there is an examined element. These exams are sat at different points throughout the two years.

The grading system is for vocational is below:

GCSE 9-1 Points		BTEC Tech Award	
Grade & points	Grade terms	Grade	Points
9		L2 D*	8.5
8			
7		L2 D	7
6		L2 M	5.5
5	Strong Pass (DfE)		
4	Standard Pass (DfE)	L2 P	4
3		L1 D	3
2		L1 M	2
1		L1 P	1.25
U		U	0

Vocational courses are graded at Levels 1 and 2.
Within that are Pass, Merit and Distinction grades.
A Level 2 Pass is the equivalent of a grade 4.
A Level 2 Distinction is the equivalent of a Grade 7.

At Wordsley, pupils must pick at least one of the subjects below:
Separate Science
Geography
History
Spanish
Computer Science

These subjects will be highlighted RED on the options form.

WORDSLEY CURRICULUM

At Wordsley, we believe that all students should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. This curriculum has an academic core but allows our learners plenty of opportunities to follow their individual passions and ambitions. The choices are wide ranging and aim to meet the needs of all of our pupils.

The Wordsley curriculum has academic foundations. All pupils at Wordsley have to study:
GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Combined or Triple Sciences

For most pupils, they will also have to choose at least one red Ebacc subject:
GCSE Separate Science
GCSE Geography
GCSE History
GCSE Spanish
GCSE Computer Science

All pupils have two free picks from a list of subjects which are outlined in the remainder of this booklet. These subjects are in three option blocks. You are required to choose a first and second preference in each block.

In the vast majority of cases pupils will receive their first choice. There are a small number of subjects where there are limited numbers.

In addition, all pupils have to study:
Non-examined P.E.
Relationships, Social and Health Education
Careers
Non-examined R.E

All of these subjects are required by law and ensure that our pupils enter the world as healthy, knowledgeable and safe young people.

Green = Vocational subjects.
Blue = Non-EBacc. GCSE Subjects.
Red = EBacc. GCSE Subjects

PATHWAY	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	EXTRA INFORMATION
BELIEVE	Business Studies Computer Science Creative iMedia Food Geography History Music Spanish	Art Food Geography History Music RE Spanish Textiles 3D Design	Art Business Studies Health and Social Care History R.E. Spanish PE Sport Science Sport Studies Separate Science	Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) Is suggested for Believe pathway pupils.
ACHIEVE				
INSPIRE				
SUPPORT	As above or study support	As above	As above	
ALTERNATIVE	1 Day Work N Learn or as above	1 Day Work N Learn or as above	As above	

NEXT STEPS

When making your choices, you need to consider what you want to do after you leave school and what you need to do to get there. In each Option Block, please choose a first and second preference.

Firstly, do your option subjects fit your area of interest or chosen career?

Secondly, what do you need to achieve in order to follow that path.

Most pupils leave to go on to further study at college or an apprenticeship. Below is a summary of the paths you can follow.

Option:	A Levels	Apprenticeships	T-Levels	BTEC Level 3
Duration	2 Years	1.5-4 years	2 Years	2 Years+
Learning Method	100% Classroom	80% on Job 20% Training	80% Classroom 20% Placement	Classroom based (some placement
Type of Assessment	End of course exams	Coursework and exams	Mixed assessment	Coursework and exams
Requirements	5 grades 5+ Relevant or particular subjects can be stipulated.	Pupils ready to enter work Relevant subject or evidence of work ethic/ability.	People sure of career path. Relevant subject, with some courses stipulating particular subjects/grades.	Pupils not fully sure of career path. Sometimes but not always the Level 2 qualification or equivalent.

All will require you to re-sit English Language and Maths if you do not achieve a grade 4 at the end of Year 11.

MAKING YOUR CHOICES

A

Ability in a subject.

You will do well if you work to your particular strengths.

I

Interest in a subject.

This will sustain you through hours of lessons, homework and revision.

M

Motivation to achieve.

Is this subject required for your future career?

Shaping Your Future: Making Informed Choices

The decisions you make now are a significant milestone in your educational journey. It is essential that you select subjects that not only engage you during your remaining time at school but also build a strong foundation for your long-term career aspirations and personal growth.

Use the AIM Framework

To help you navigate these choices, we recommend using the **AIM** approach:

A – Ability: Consider the subjects you excel in. Where do your strengths lie, and which topics do you find most rewarding to study?

I – Interest: What are you passionate about? Choosing subjects you genuinely enjoy will keep you motivated and curious over the coming years.

M – Motivation: Think about your future. Which subjects align with your potential career paths, university requirements, or personal goals?

How to Submit Your Preferences

Once you have reflected on your options, please submit your choices via our digital portal. You can access the **Google Form** in two ways:

1. **Scan the QR Code:** Use your phone or tablet to scan the code provided on the posters around school.
2. **Check Your Email:** A direct link to the form is included in the options letter sent to your school email address.

Selecting Your Subjects

The curriculum is organized into **Option Blocks**. For each block, you are required to select:

A First Preference: Your top choice for that category.

A Second Preference: A "reserve" choice. While we strive to give everyone their first pick, identifying a strong second option ensures you are still enrolled in a subject you value if a class becomes oversubscribed.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

BELIEVE ACHIEVE INSPIRE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

CORE SUBJECT

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – AQA (Language)
Head of Subject – Miss McCann

What will I Study?

In English Language you will learn through reading, writing, speaking and listening. All are covered through the study of non-fiction and fiction texts. You will be asked to read, analyse and respond to a range of texts, on many different themes and issues. You will be expected to write for different purposes, adapting to different audiences. Learning will take place through reading, highlighting, discussing, debating and written responses.

How will I be Assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams. Both are 1 hour 45 minutes long and worth 50% of the GCSE:
Paper 1 - Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Questions will be a range of shorter and longer answer questions. There will be some analysis of written texts and producing a range of different types of writing.

There is a **non-examined assessment**, where you will be assessed presenting., responding to questions and feedback and your use of standard English. This set during the course and assessed by your teacher. It is compulsory but does not count towards your final grade.

What Skills are Required?

Reading for understanding and meaning
Analysing a range of texts
Evaluating opinions and interpretations
Writing for audience and purpose

Why is this course important?

English Language is the cornerstone of every course and career.

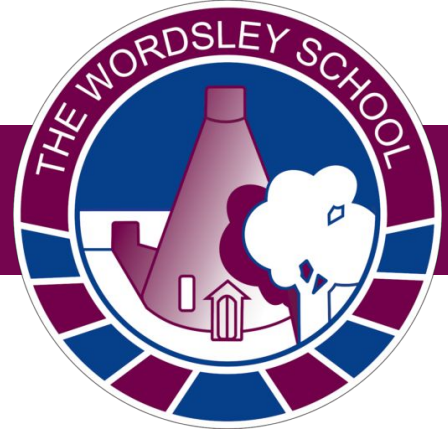
Everything you do in life involves reading, writing, speaking and listening. Effective communication is important everywhere.

If you do not pass this course in Year 11, you will be required to do it again at College.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels or Level 3 Qualifications
Future Careers:
Business
Education
Journalism
Law
Politics
Public Services

ENGLISH LITERATURE



Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – AQA (Literature)
Head of Subject – Miss McCann

CORE SUBJECT

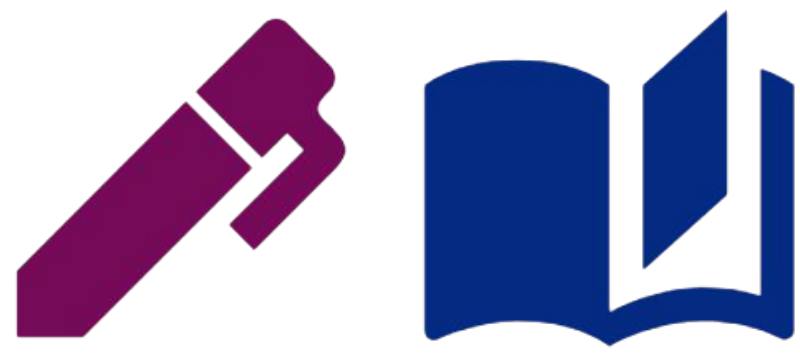
What will I Study?

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Section A - Shakespeare: Pupils will answer one question on a studied play (Macbeth). They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.
Section B - The 19th-century novel: Students will answer one question on a studied novel (Jekyll and Hyde or a Christmas Carol). They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Section A - Modern texts: pupils will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text (An Inspector Calls).
Section B Poetry - Pupils will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from a studied anthology cluster (Power and Conflict).
Section C Unseen poetry - Pupils will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem



How will I be Assessed?

Paper 1 - Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes, 64 marks, 40% of GCSE
Paper 2 - Written exam, 2 hour 15 minutes, 96 marks, 60% of GCSE

What Skills are Required?

Reading for understanding and meaning
Analysing a range of texts
Making contextual links

Why is this course important?

English Literature GCSE helps students understand powerful ideas about people, society and the world through plays, novels and poetry.

It develops critical thinking, empathy and the ability to analyse language and structure — skills that are essential for further study and a wide range of careers.

Students also learn to express their ideas clearly and confidently, both in writing and discussion. Above all, the course encourages a lifelong appreciation of reading and storytelling.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels or Level 3 Qualifications

Future Careers:
Author
Business
Journalism
Media
Law
Politics

MATHS

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – Edexcel
Head of Subject – Mrs Sharpe

CORE SUBJECT

What will I Study?

The course allows pupils to acquire mathematical knowledge and skills in a way which encourages confidence and enjoyment of the subject. The higher level course should allow pupils to pursue Mathematics to a further level. The course will form an important basis to be able to study many other college courses as well as preparing pupils to apply mathematics in everyday situations.

How will I be Assessed?

You will be assessed through sitting three exam papers:
Paper 1 – 1 Hour 30 mins (⅓ of GCSE)
Paper 2 – 1 Hour 30 mins (⅓ of GCSE)
Paper 3 – 1 Hour 30 mins (⅓ of GCSE)

There are two different tiers of entry in GCSE Maths:
Higher leading to GCSE Grades 9-4
Foundation leading to GCSE Grades 5-1

What Skills are Required?

Problem solving
Logical thinking
Critical thinking
Effective communication

Useful Information:

Pupils will require a scientific calculator.

Pearson Edexcel

Why is this course important?

Maths is a subject that is important for everyday life and future employment.

Employers and colleges will look for numerical skills from their employees.

Further study and many jobs will require Maths at Grade 4 and above. You will have to re-sit at Post-16 if you do not achieve this.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Maths, Computer Science, Economics, Accountancy and Sciences), or Level 3 Qualifications

Future Careers:
Accountancy
Banking and Finance
Engineering
IT/Computing related careers
Statistical/data handling roles

COMBINED SCIENCE

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – Edexcel
Head of Subject – Miss Howe

CORE SUBJECT

What will I Study?

GCSE study in the Sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Students will learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

Pupils will study a range of topics through Years 10 and 11. These include:

Biology: The key principles of biology, focusing on cells, genetics, evolution, ecosystems, and human biology. It covers topics like cell structure, enzymes, photosynthesis, respiration, inheritance, genetic modification, natural selection, and biodiversity. Students also learn about human organ systems, such as the circulatory, nervous, and immune systems, alongside ecological concepts and environmental impact.

Chemistry: The fundamental principles of chemistry, including atomic structure, the periodic table, bonding, and chemical reactions. It explores topics such as quantitative chemistry, energetics and rates of reaction, as well as acids, alkalis, and salts. Students learn about Earth's resources, the environment, and sustainability while developing scientific inquiry and practical skills.

Physics: The principles of physics through topics including forces, energy, waves, electricity and magnetism, particle model of matter, and atomic structure. Students study motion, Newton's laws, nuclear physics, and the universe's structure, applying mathematical skills to solve problems and interpret data.

How will I be Assessed?

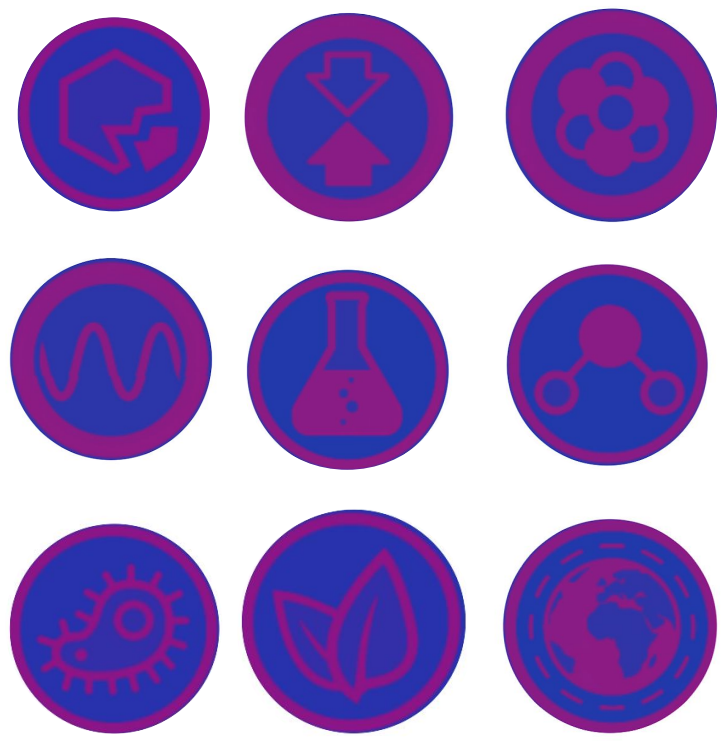
This course has six exam papers:
Biology – 2 x 1 hour 10 minute papers
Chemistry - 2 x 1 hour 10 minute papers
Physics - 2 x 1 hour 10 minute papers

Each candidate will gain 2 GCSE grades.
Higher tier of entry leading to GCSE Grades 9-4
Foundation tier of entry leading to GCSE Grades 5-1

What Skills are Required?

Practical skills – such as scientific inquiry, data analysis, and evaluation.
Numeracy skills.
Effective communication skills and collaboration.

Pearson Edexcel



Why is this course important?

Science will be at least two of your GCSEs.

More importantly, it helps you to understand the world you live in and provides lots of skills that will help you in your life.

In addition, it opens up a large number of career options when you leave school, including further study and employment.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Biology, Chemistry or Physics) or Level 3 Qualifications (e.g. Criminology)
Future Careers:
Astronaut, Astronomy
Chemist, Pharmacist
Doctor, Medical
Engineer
Forensic Scientist/Criminology
Veterinary, Animal Care, Zoologist

SEPARATE SCIENCES

Qualification – GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Awarding Body – Edexcel
Head of Subject – Miss Howe

CORE / OPTION SUBJECT

What will I Study?

GCSE study in the Sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Students will learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses.

Alongside the Core Science curriculum, pupils will study a range of additional topics for each discipline in Science through Years 10 and 11. These include:-

Biology: Key biological principles and their applications, organised into topics like cell biology, organisation of organisms, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance, evolution, and ecology. Students explore cell structure, transport processes, and enzymes, alongside how organisms are structured and function efficiently. It delves into how pathogens cause disease, photosynthesis and respiration processes, genetic inheritance, genetic engineering, and variation. It also examines ecosystems, biodiversity, and the human impact on the environment.

Chemistry: Key topics in chemistry including atomic structure, the periodic table, bonding, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, and energy changes. It explores organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere, and using resources sustainably. The course emphasises understanding the principles of chemistry and applying them to practical contexts, alongside developing skills in scientific investigation, data interpretation, and problem-solving

Physics: Key topics focusing on fundamental principles and practical applications. It includes forces and motion, energy, waves, electricity and magnetism, matter, and atomic structure. Students explore core concepts such as energy transfer, wave behavior, electric circuits, electromagnetism, and nuclear decay. Practical work including required experiments develop scientific inquiry and problem-solving skills. Pupils study the real-world relevance of physics, developing an understanding of its role in technology, engineering, and sustainability.

How will I be Assessed?

This course has six exam papers:
Biology – 2 x 1 hour 45 minute papers
Chemistry - 2 x 1 hour 45 minute papers
Physics - 2 x 1 hour 45 minute papers

Each candidate will gain 3 GCSE grades (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).
Higher tier of entry leading to GCSE Grades 9-4
Foundation tier of entry leading to GCSE Grades 5-1

What Skills are Required?

Practical skills – such as scientific inquiry, data analysis, and evaluation,
Numeracy skills
Effective communication skills and collaboration.

Pearson
Edexcel

Why is this course important?

Science will be at least two of your GCSEs. This course will provide an additional GCSE qualification.

More importantly, it helps you to understand the world you live in and provides lots of skills that will help you in your life.

In addition, it opens up a large number of career options when you leave school, including further study and employment.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Biology, Chemistry or Physics) or Level 3 Qualifications (e.g. Criminology)

Future Careers:
Astronaut, Astronomy
Chemist, Pharmacist
Doctor, Medical Professional
Engineer
Forensic Scientist/Criminology
Veterinary, Animal Care, Zoologist

GEOGRAPHY

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – AQA
Head of Subject – Miss Bladen

EBACC SUBJECT

What will I Study?

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment. E.g. Natural hazards, climate change, ecosystems, coastal and river landscapes in the UK.

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment. E.g. Cities: their growth and the issues this causes, the gap between the rich and poor, changing industries and the economy of the UK, how the increasing demand for food in the world will be met.

Unit 3: Geographical Applications.
This includes 2 field visits to collect geographical data and includes studies in both a human and physical environment e.g. a river study looking at how changes occur from one location to another.

How will I be Assessed?

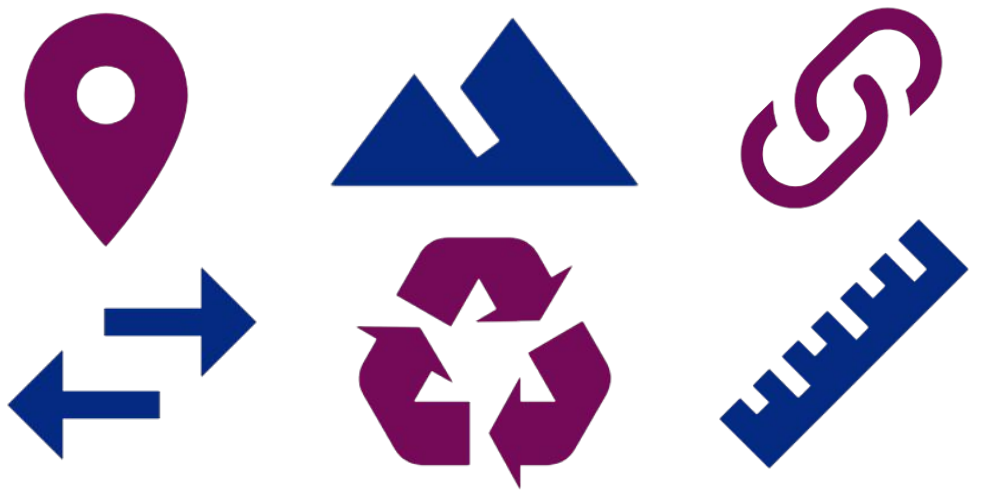
Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes, 35% of the qualification.
One exam made up of three sections from the content of Unit 1.
Questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answers and extended essays.

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes, 35% of the qualification.
One exam made up of three sections from the content of Unit 2.
Questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answers and extended essays.

Paper 3: One exam made up of two sections. One section will be based on fieldwork techniques, these will follow fieldwork completed in two different locations.

The other section is based on a geographical issue.
The issue will be known to pupils 12 weeks before the exam.

What Skills are Required?
Analysis and evaluation
Planning and investigating
Using data and presentation
Communication



Why take this course?

Geography helps you to understand the world around you and how it works. If you love finding about and visiting other places, then it is the subject for you.

Geography also teaches and develops a range of skills that colleges and employers are looking for, making it a highly regarded subject.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Economics, Geography., Geology, Humanities or Science related subjects) or Level 3 Qualifications (e.g. Agriculture, Science, Travel and Tourism) or Apprenticeships.

Future Careers:
Agriculture
Architecture
Education
Local Government/Town Planning/Transport
Travel Industry

HISTORY

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – Edexcel
Head of Subject – Mrs Taylor

EBACC SUBJECT

What will I Study?

Medicine in Britain c1250 to Present - A study of how medical ideas, treatments, people and events have changed, developed and continued from the Medieval world to the present day.

Germany 1918-1939- An in-depth modern study in which you will examine the changes in Germany after WW1 with the creation of the Weimar Republic, how it faced challenges and created a 'Golden Age', until its demise by 1933. This is explored alongside the rise of the Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party, their seizing of power and what it was like to live in Nazi Germany in the 1930s.

Early Elizabethan England 1558-88. Pupils will learn about the key events of this iconic monarch's reign – including the problems posed by Mary Queen of Scots, the Spanish Armada and the settlement of Virginia in America.

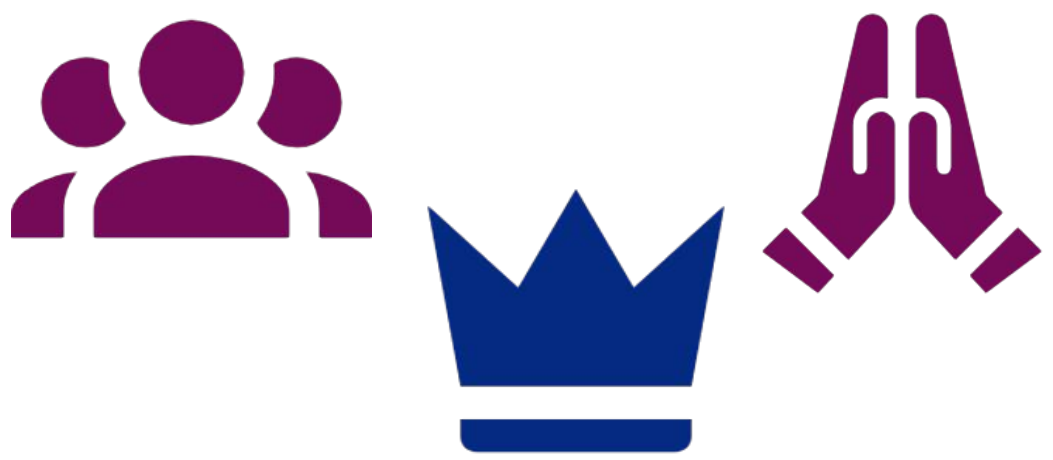
The American West, c1835-c1895 A study about the growth of modern America. How expansion Westwards from the 13 colonies led to the creation of the USA and the 'settling' of the Plains. This explored through themes such as settlement and the lure of Gold and riches . Lawlessness, controlling settlers and the problems for law enforcement. Finally, examining conflict and tension. These new White settlers coming into contact and conflict with the indigenous peoples living in the West.

How will I be Assessed?

Paper 1 - Written exam on Medicine in Britain, 1 hour and 20 minutes - 30% of the qualification.
Paper 2 - Written exam on Early Elizabethan England and the American West in the 19th century, 1 hour and 50 minutes - 40% of the qualification.
Paper 3—Written exam on Germany, 1 hour and 30 minutes – 30 % of the qualification.

What Skills are Required?
Demonstrating subject knowledge
Showing understanding through explanation
Using and analysing sources
Evaluating interpretations

Pearson Edexcel



Why take this course?

History is crucial if you want to understand the world around you and how it came to be as it is. By knowing History we can also avoid the mistakes of the past.

History is highly valued by educational establishments and employers. It shows the ability to use a range of information, analyse and present it, developing your own argument.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. History, English, Law, Economics, Politics).

Future Careers:
Accountancy, Politics, Journalism, Public Relations, Teaching , Business, Architecture, Law, Marketing, Broadcasting.

SPANISH

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – Edexcel
Head of Subject – Mrs Bevan

EBACC SUBJECT

What will I Study?

There are six engaging and relatable themes which are relevant to pupils' current and future needs.

The themes are:
My personal world
Lifestyle and wellbeing
My neighbourhood
Media and technology
Studying and my future
Travel and tourism

How will I be Assessed?

All skills, Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, are equally weighted and each contribute 25% towards the final mark.
Speaking is assessed during a short practical exam with 15 minutes preparation time, where the pupil talks to their class teacher for a maximum of 9 minutes (Foundation tier) and 12 minutes (Higher Tier)
There are written exams for Listening, Reading and Writing.
Pupils will be entered for either Foundation or higher tier; the tiers cannot be mixed for each skill.

There are two tiers of entry—Foundation (Grades 1 to 5) and Higher (Grades 4 to 9)

What Skills are Required?

Communication skills – written and verbal
Logical-thinking
Open-mind to new cultures
Creativity
Collaboration
Resilience

Pearson
Edexcel

Why take this course?

Languages are recognised as 'facilitating' subjects, giving pupils a wider range of options open to them at University and are a key part of the English Baccalaureate.

The ability to speak other languages are highly valued by employers and give you the option of working for multinational companies and help to travel the world.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Spanish)

Future Careers:
Government
International Business
Journalist/Media
Education
Translation & Interpreting
Intelligence Services

ART AND DESIGN – 3D DESIGN

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – OCR
Head of Subject – Mr Graham-Reid

OPTION SUBJECT

What will I Study?

Three-dimensional design involves prototyping and modelling or making of products, objects, and environments, drawing upon intellectual, creative and practical skills.
In this course you will work on a Portfolio, worth 60%.
There will be one externally set task, 1 worth 40%.

How will I be Assessed?

The scheme of assessment consists of one portfolio (coursework) and the external set task (examination). Both the portfolio and external set task are moderated using 4 assessment objectives which are:

AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

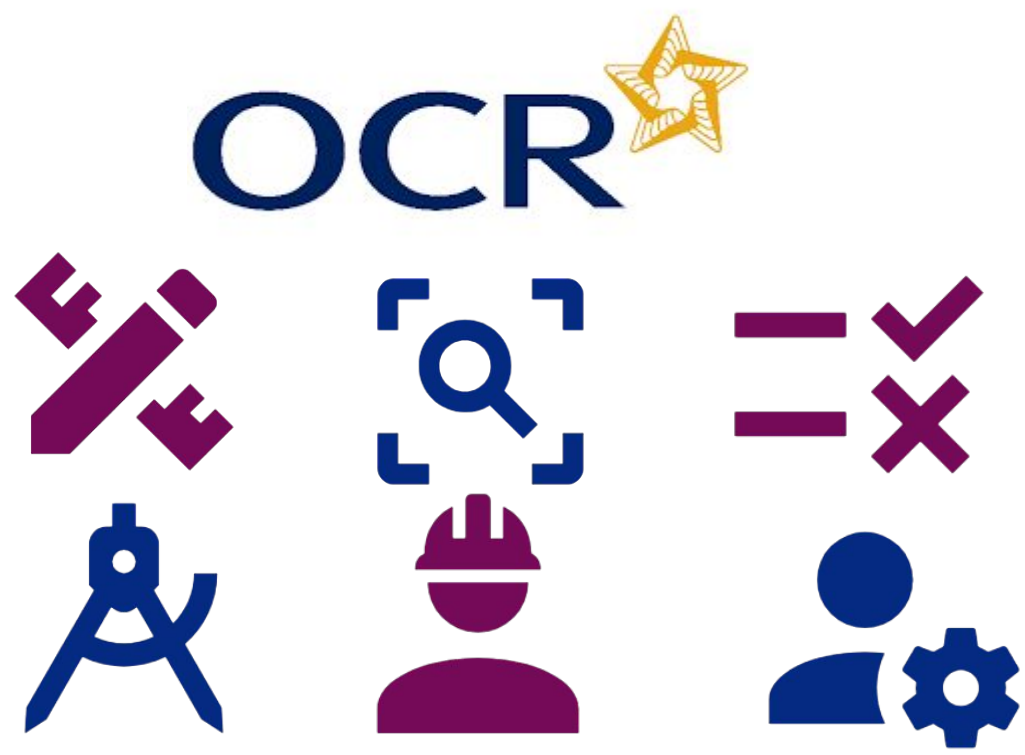
AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

What Skills are Required?

Independence
Patience
Creativity
Problem solving
Commitment and meeting deadlines

Useful Information:

All pupils will have to purchase an A3 sketchbook or an A3 folder for each project to keep their work safe and secure. General equipment such as pencils, rulers, rubber should be brought to every lesson. Materials for general use will be provided but pupils may be required to purchase more specialist materials and components for individual projects.



Why take this course?

In this course you get create artwork in 3Dimensions using materials such as clay, wood and metal. This course suits pupils who like to design, make, build and evaluate.

It is hard work but worth it. You will need to enjoy Art and DT. There is a requirement to attend some after school sessions to work on your portfolio designs but it is well worth it when you see the results.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (Design Technology or Product Design) or Level 3 Qualifications (Art and Design related)

Future Careers:
Interior design
Product design
Theatre design
Model making
Sculpture
Furniture design

ART AND DESIGN – FINE ART

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – OCR
Head of Subject – Mr While

OPTION SUBJECT

What will I Study?

In this course you will work on a Portfolio, worth 60%. During this unit you will study a wide variety of artists and themes. This coursework will be completed inside and outside of lessons. You will need to be willing to attend Art Club to add to your body of work.

There will be one externally set task, 1 worth 40%. The exam paper will become available after Christmas in Year 11. This will lead them to produce an original piece of work.

How will I be Assessed?

The scheme of assessment consists of one portfolio (coursework) and the external set task (examination). Both the portfolio and external set task are moderated using 4 assessment objectives which are:

AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

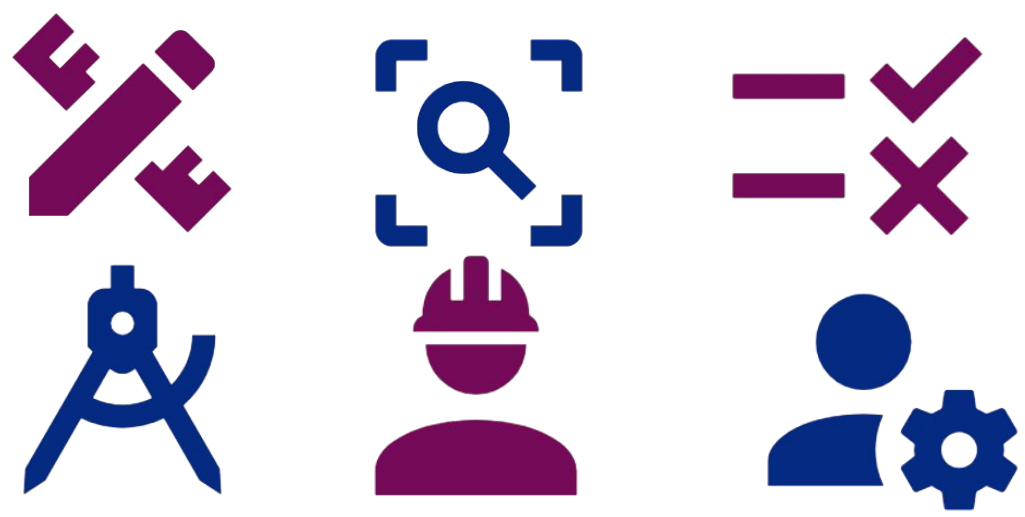
AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

What Skills are Required?

Creativity
Art skills and techniques
Love of Art
Self-motivation
Resilience

Useful Information:

All pupils will have to purchase an A3 sketchbook or an A3 folder for each project to keep their work safe and secure. General equipment such as pencils, rulers, rubber should be brought to every lesson. Materials for general use will be provided but pupils may be required to purchase more specialist materials and components for individual projects.



Why take this course?

If you have a talent and passion for art and are creative by nature, then this is the subject for you.

People who are creative, independent and can produce original pieces of work are highly sought after in a variety of fields.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (Design Technology or Product Design) or Level 3 Qualifications (Art and Design related)

Future Careers:
Animator
Artist
Designer
Fashion
Photographer

ART AND DESIGN – TEXTILES

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – OCR
Head of Subject – Mrs Skilbeck

In this course you will work on a Portfolio, worth 60%. During this unit you will study a wide variety of artists and themes. This coursework will be completed inside and outside of lessons. You will need to be willing to attend after school sessions to work on this.

There will be one externally set task, 1 worth 40%. The exam paper will become available after Christmas in Year 11. This will lead them to produce an original piece of work in.

How will I be Assessed?

The scheme of assessment consists of one portfolio (coursework) and the external set task (examination). Both the portfolio and external set task are moderated using 4 assessment objectives which are:

AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

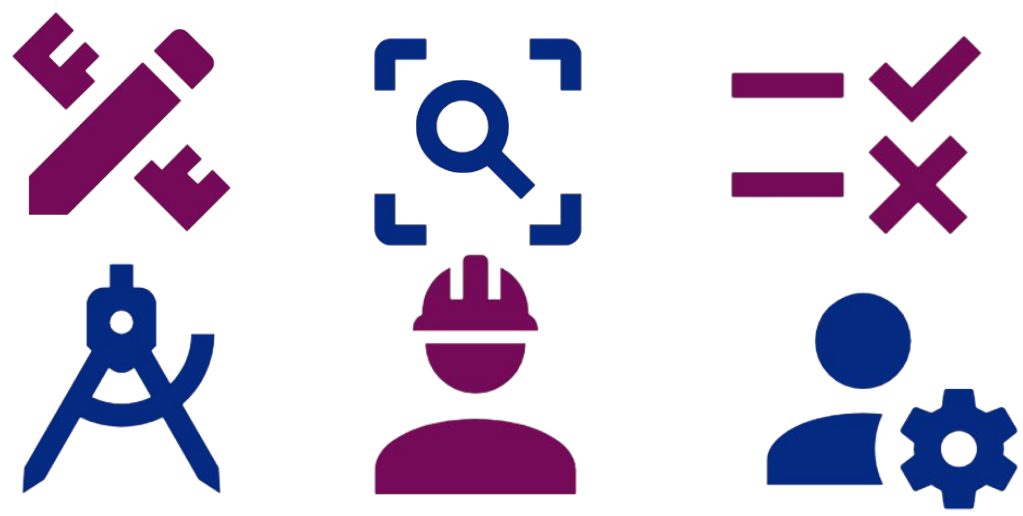
AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

What Skills are Required?
Independence
Patience
Creativity
Problem solving
Commitment and meeting deadlines

Useful Information:

All pupils will have to purchase an A3 sketchbook or an A3 folder for each project to keep their work safe and secure. General equipment such as pencils, rulers, rubber should be brought to every lesson. Materials for general use will be provided but pupils may be required to purchase more specialist materials and components for individual projects.



Why take this course?

If you have an interest in clothing, style and fashion then this is the course for you. You will work with a range of fabrics and techniques to produce your own unique designs.

This course will help you to get into your flow and take something from the design to the making stage. Unleash your inner creativity and produce something you are proud of.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Textiles) or Level 3 Qualifications (Art and Design or Fashion related)

Future Careers:
Business
Designer
Fashion
Photographer
Retail

OPTION SUBJECT

BUSINESS

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – Edexcel
Head of Subject – Mrs Ohri

OPTION SUBJECT

What will I Study?

Business is a diverse subject, providing pupils with the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. Pupils will study a wide range of engaging business topics during the course. Real life business case studies are a key feature of classroom delivery, with pupils applying their knowledge to both small businesses and large multinationals.

The GCSE consists of 2 units of work as detailed below:

Unit 1 - Investigating small business
1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
1.4 Making the business effective
1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Unit 2 - Building a business
2.1 Growing the business
2.2 Making marketing decisions
2.3 Making operational decisions
2.4 Making financial decisions
2.5 Making human resource decisions.

Lessons include team work activities, role play, business games and individual work to appeal to all learning styles. Pupils are actively encouraged to participate in enterprise activities and competitions.

How will I be Assessed?

Unit 1 - 1 hour 45 minute examination - this contributes 50% towards pupils' final grades.
Unit 2 - 1 hour 45 minute examination - this contributes 50% towards pupils' final grades.

What Skills are Required?

Applying business concepts into context
Considering the impact of business decisions outcomes
A keen interest in current business affairs
Written communication skills.

Pearson
Edexcel

Why take this course?

If you have an interest in business then this is the course for you. You may want to work for a large company, a small business or set up your own company. This course will provide you with the knowledge and skills to achieve those ambitions.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Accountancy, Business, Economics and Law) or Level 3 Qualifications (Business related)

Future Careers:
Accountant, Business and Management, Economics, Law, Marketing, Retail, Politics.

CREATIVE IMEDIA

Qualification – OCR Cambridge Nationals (Vocational)
Awarding Body – OCR
Head of Subject – Miss Watson

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

What will I Study?

Through the two mandatory units, students will learn about roles and responsibilities within the media industry and how media is distributed. They will also create a range of digital marketing materials for a given scenario, developing colour schemes, logos, and typography styles to suit a brand. In the Digital Games module, students will study various game genres and mechanics before planning, developing, testing, and deploying their very own digital game.

How will I be Assessed?

Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry
This is assessed by taking a 1hr 30min exam.
40% of the final grade
70 marks in total

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics
This is assessed by submitting a portfolio of evidence.
30% of the final grade
50 marks in total

Unit R099: Digital games
This is assessed by submitting a portfolio of evidence.
30% of the final grade
70 marks in total

What Skills are Required?

ICT Skills
Creativity
Meeting deadlines
Commitment – You will need to stay after school at times to meet deadlines.

Why take this course?

You should consider this course if you are interested in creative industries, such as video, photography, film and game design.

It will equip you with the IT and digital skills to be able to create a range of media products, using packages and tools that will enable you to pursue further study or a career in a digital industry.

It has a majority of coursework which suits some pupils.

Where can it take me?

Further Study –Level 3 Qualifications (e.g. Digital Media) and T Levels

Future Careers:
App Developer
Computer Games Designer
Digital Content Creation
Web Designer
Magazines and Publishing

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – OCR
Head of Subject – Miss Watson

EBACC SUBJECT

What will I Study?

In Year 10, pupils will learn about:
Boolean logic and different numbering systems
Physical components of a computer system and network
The theory of programming attacks
Defensive design and testing
Algorithms, program development and IDEs
Networks and their operation.

In Year 11, pupils will learn about:
Ethical, legal, environmental and cultural impacts of Computer Science
Advanced programming techniques.

Computer Science will give pupils the opportunity to learn what happens inside a range of computer systems, and how computers operate. We will also continue to teach and develop pseudocode and the Python programming language so pupils can complete their own projects.

How will I be Assessed?

Paper 1: Computer Systems - 1 hour 30 minute examination, 50% of the final grade.

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 1 hour 30 minute examination 50% of the final grade.

What Skills are Required?
Resilience
Logical thinker
Able to analyse problems and fins solutions
Mathematical/numeracy skills

Why take this course?

The modern world is a technological one. The ability to engage with modern technology, build, operate and programme computers puts you at a huge advantage.

Employers highly value computer science students. It will also open doors to a range of colleges and universities.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Level Computer Science or Level 3 IT related Qualifications.

Future Careers:
Computer Games Developer
Forensic Computer Analyst
Programmer
Software Developer
Web Designer

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – Eduqas
Head of Subject – Miss Isaacs

OPTION SUBJECT

What will I Study?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure pupils develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing pupils' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition and food science.

Subject Content – What is covered?

1. Food commodities – Range of foods and ingredients from the major commodity groups reflecting recommended dietary guidelines for a healthy diet, e.g. reduction of sugar intake.
2. Principles of nutrition – Macronutrients and micronutrients and their role in human nutrition.
3. Diet and good health – Energy requirements of different individuals, planning balanced diets for different nutritional needs, calculating energy and nutritional content of meals.
4. Food science – The effect of cooking food on the sensory and nutritional properties of food. Food spoilage and sound understanding of the microbiological food safety principles.
5. Food provenance and manufacturing – Where food comes from.
6. Cooking and food preparation – Factors affecting food choice, preparation and cooking techniques, developing recipes and meals.

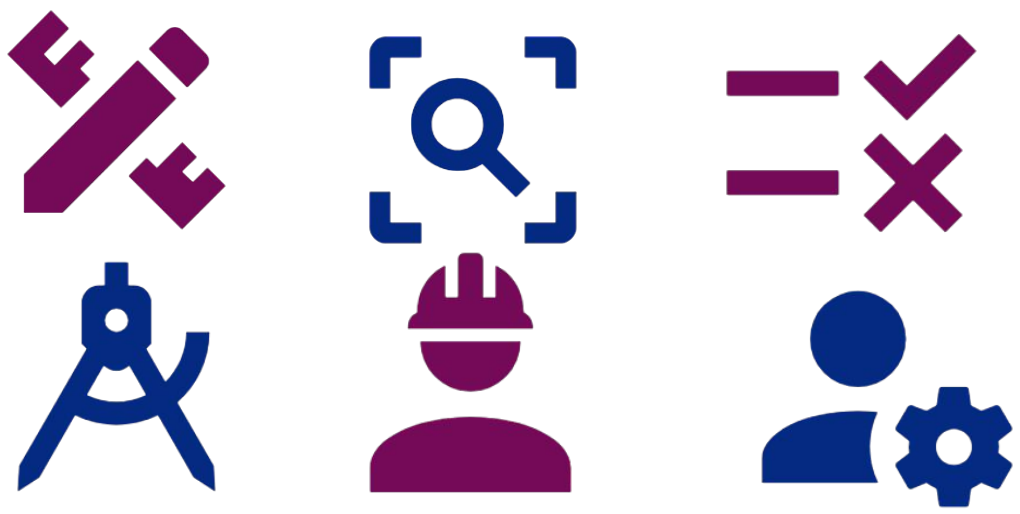
How will I be Assessed?

EXAM Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition (50%) Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Non-Examined Assessment - Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action**:**
Practical based Scientific Food Investigation, 8hours (15%)
Practical based Food Preparation Assessment, 12 hours (35%)

What Skills are Required?
Culinary skills
Research, Planning and investigating
Organisation

Useful Information
All pupils will be required to source their own ingredients for practical lessons. Ingredients are mandatory due to the emphasis of this course on the design and development of a food product. All pupils will be expected to cook in every practical lesson, modifying and adapting recipes.



Why take this course?

If you have an interest in food, wish to work in the food industry or have ambitions of one day owning your own restaurant, then this is the course for you.

It combines practice and theory to make people more knowledgeable about food and nutrition and a better cook. It also provides you with an important life skill.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels or Level 3 Qualifications

Future Careers:
Chef, Food Product Developer, Buyer, Food Safety Inspectors, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Quality Managers, Teacher, Food Engineer, Food Scientist, Food Technologist, Food Photographer, Food Stylist, Hotel and Restaurant Manager, Microbiologist, Media.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Qualification – OCR Cambridge Nationals (Vocational)
Awarding Body – OCR
Head of Subject – Mrs. Tett

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

What will I Study?

R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings - In this unit you will learn about the key topics that are important when caring for and protecting people in health and social care. Topics include: the rights of service users, person-centred values, effective communication and protecting service users and service providers.

R033: Supporting individuals through life events - In this unit you will learn about growth and development through the life stages. You will also learn how to understand the needs of individuals who have been affected by life events and how to recommend support to meet their needs. Topics include: life stages, impacts of life events and sources of support.

R035: Health promotion campaigns - In this unit you will research health promotion campaigns and learn about their benefits to society. You will also plan and deliver your own health promotion campaign. Topics include: current public health issues and the impact on society, factors influencing health, plan and create a health promotion campaign and deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign.

How will I be Assessed?

Exam Unit: Principles of care in health and social care settings – (sat at some point during the course – 40% of qualification)

Non-Examined Assessment 1:Supporting individuals through life events (30% of qualification).

Non-Examined Assessment 2: Health promotion campaigns (30% of qualification)

What Skills are Required?
Interest in the care and medical professions
Debate and discussion
Presentation skills
Ability to meet deadlines as largely coursework based.

Cambridge Nationals

Why take this course?

If you wish to work in the child, health or care sectors when you leave school then this is the course for you.

It will give you a detailed knowledge of those areas of work and prepare you for working with children and adults in a range of settings.

It also provides and opportunity to learn differently, with 60% Non-Examined Assessment.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (Health and Social Care) or Level 3 Qualifications (Health and Social Care, Child Care).

Future Careers:
Care Home Assistant
Childcare
Counselling
Nursing
Social Services

MUSIC

OPTION SUBJECT

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – OCR
Head of Subject – Mr Brookes

What will I Study?

This exciting course develops pupils' interest in, and understanding of, how music is created through a practical, hands-on approach. Learning is organised into five Areas of Study:

Area of Study 1: My Music
Area of Study 2: The Concerto Through Time
Area of Study 3: Rhythms of the World
Area of Study 4: Film Music
Area of Study 5: Conventions of Pop

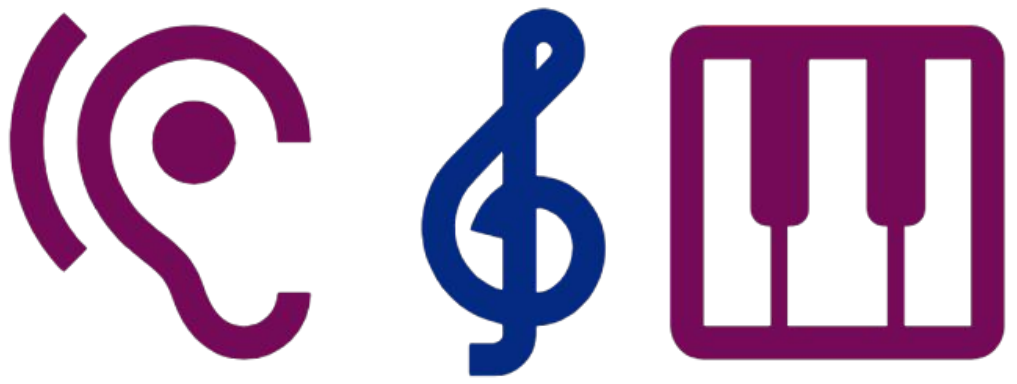
How will I be Assessed?

Coursework (60%)
Each pupil must produce a minimum of 4 minutes of performance on their chosen instrument. This will include at least two pieces: one solo and one group performance.
Pupils must also compose two pieces of music: one in a style of their own choosing (Year 10), and one to a brief set by the exam board (Year 11).

Listening Exam (40%)
At the end of Year 11, pupils will sit a listening exam based on the musical styles covered in Areas of Study 2, 3, 4, and 5.

What Skills are Required?
Confidence in performing to an audience
Interest in and understanding of music
Ability to play an instrument and/or strong
musical aptitude
Reliability and the ability to meet deadlines

Useful Information
Owning an instrument is not required, though pupils who do often have an advantage. Regular practice is essential for success in Music, so all pupils are given access to instruments in school. Instrumental lessons are also subsidised to £20 per term to support pupils in developing their instrumental technique.



Why study this course?

If you enjoy and have a passion for music then this is the course for you. This course will equip you with the knowledge and the skills to take this interest forwards to further study or a career. By the end of the course, you will be more proficient in composing and performing, opening a wide variety of opportunities to you.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Music or Music Technology) or Level 3 Qualifications

Future Careers:
Recording and Performing Artist, Session Musician, Recording Engineer, DJ, Composer, Media, Education, Producer, Studio Manager, Programmer, Sound Designer, Jingle Writer, Orchestrator, Sound Technician, Music Journalist.

PE SPORTS SCIENCE

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – Edexcel
Head of Subject – Miss Woodhouse

OPTION SUBJECT

What will I Study?

Fitness and Body Systems
Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology
Topic 2: Movement analysis
Topic 3: Physical training
Topic 4: Use of data.

Health and Performance
Topic 1: Health, fitness and well-being
Topic 2: Sport psychology
Topic 3: Socio-cultural influences
Topic 4: Use of data.

How will I be Assessed?

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems - Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes. 36% - 90 marks
Component 2: Health and Performance - Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes. 24% of the qualification - 70 marks
Component 3: Practical Performance - Externally moderated (30% of the qualification).
Component4: Non-Examined Assessment - Externally moderated (10% of the qualification).

What Skills are Required?
Interest in sport both inside and out of school.
Keen to participate in sport in school.
Sporting ability – Play sport regularly outside of school.
Interest in and knowledge of human biology.

Useful Information:

This course is suitable for students that regularly participate in organised sport outside school.

Pearson Edexcel

Why take this course?

If you have a keen interest in Sport and potentially wish to explore this after you leave school, then this is the course for you.

This sports course has a real focus on how athletes perform, both physically, biologically and psychologically.

The NEA puts a great deal of emphasis on sporting ability. There is a strong science element too.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (PE) or Level 3 Qualifications (Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Academies)

Future Careers:
Fitness Instructor
Nutritionist
Personal Trainer
Physiotherapy
Sports Science

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Qualification – GCSE
Awarding Body – Edexcel
Head of Subject – Mrs Grosvenor

OPTION SUBJECT

GCSE Religious Studies is for students who like thinking, debating and asking big questions about life, people and society. This subject isn't about being religious, it's about understanding the world you live in and having the confidence to form and defend your own views.

What will I Study?

Paper 1: Religion and Ethics. In this part of the course, you explore how Christian beliefs influence personal choices, family life and society today. You'll explore big questions about God, suffering, forgiveness and life after death. Debate relationships, marriage, divorce and family life in the modern world. Tackle moral dilemmas such as abortion, euthanasia and the value of human life. Discover how Christians put belief into action through worship, festivals and charity. This unit helps you understand how beliefs shape values, decisions and behaviour in everyday life.

Paper 2: Peace and Conflict. This part of the course focuses on belief, justice and living responsibly in society, challenging stereotypes along the way.
You will learn about core Muslim beliefs and how they shape identity and purpose. Examine crime, punishment and justice, including forgiveness and rehabilitation. Explore Islamic teachings on peace, conflict, war and terrorism. Understand what it means to live as a Muslim today through daily practices and festivals. This unit builds understanding of Islam and its role in promoting justice, peace and community.

How will I be Assessed?

Paper 1: Religion and Ethics – 1 hour 45 minute written exam (50% of qualification). Covering
all four topics from Religion and Ethics.

Paper **2**: Religion, Peace and Conflict - 1 hour 45 minute written exam (50% of the qualification). Covering all four topics from Peace and Conflict.

What Skills are Required?
A curiosity about the world and people
Written communication
Debating skills
Analysis and evaluation

Pearson Edexcel

Why study this course?

If you enjoy studying about people's beliefs, cultures and way of life, then this is the subject for you.

By studying this course it enables you to understand modern Britain and the World, as it helps you to understand people's beliefs and cultures.

Religious Studies is highly valued by an career that involves working with people. It also involves a lot of higher level thinking, such as analysis and evaluation.

Where can it take me?

Further Study – A Levels (e.g. Religious Studies, Law, Politics) or Level 3 Qualifications

Future Careers:
Police officer
Doctor/Nurse
Care worker
Journalist
Education
Lawyer
Politics

SPORT STUDIES

Qualification – OCR Cambridge Nationals (Vocational)
Awarding Body – OCR
Head of Subject – Miss Woodhouse

What will I Study?

Contemporary issues in sport - By completing this unit you will understand a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including learning about participation levels and barriers to completing sporting activities. You will also learn how participation is impacted by the promotion of values and ethical behaviour, about the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used in within sport.

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities - In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills. You will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with team mates as well as being in front of an audience when you perform. You will perform under pressure, both as a participant and as a leader, and will use your initiative to solve problems and make decisions. Finally, you will deal with rapidly changing conditions and situations.

R186: Sports and the media - In this unit you will understand the different sides of a range of media sources and apply real life examples to show the nature of the relationship between media and sport. You will also learn how rapid development in technology is enabling sport to be viewed, replayed and discussed whenever and wherever the spectator wants. You will then develop your ability to evaluate and interpret the different ways in which sport is represented by the media.

How will I be Assessed?

Exam Unit: Principles of care in health and social care settings – (sat at some point during the course – 40% of qualification)

Non-Examined Assessment 1:Supporting individuals through life events (30% of qualification).

Non-Examined Assessment 2: Health promotion campaigns (30% of qualification)

What Skills are Required?
Interest and ability in sport
Ability to be organised and meet deadlines.
Effective verbal and written communication.

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

Who should take this courses and why?

First and foremost, you need to have an interest in Sport. Not just playing it but coaching, developing and analysing performance.

You will not simply do practical PE, you will need to produce written assignments and sit and exam.

It will suit pupils who can keep up to date with coursework and meet deadlines. It will also appeal to pupils who find exams difficult, as it is largely coursework based.

Where can it take me?

Further Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3. This prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the Sport Sciences or other related courses.

Future Careers:
Business
Coaching or Fitness Instructor
Education
Sports related careers and industries