

KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

KEY STAGE FOUR OPTIONS BOOKLET
2026

KEY STAGE 4 COURSE BOOKLET



SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

20th January 2026

Courses information presentation for students in assembly

20th January 2026

Y9 Options Evening

20th January 2026

Options details and booklet go live on website

20th January - 6th February 2026

Y9 Options discussions with Tutors

26th January – 6th February 2026

Subject Information shared in lessons

26th & 27th January 2026

Parents' Evenings

2nd March 2026

Deadline for Preference Forms

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When students and parents have read this booklet and given thought to subject choices, the Option Preference Form should be completed online no later than Monday 2nd March 2026. The form can be accessed via the link in the Options letter.

Ready *Respect* *Strive*

THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM AND PATHWAYS

Welcome to the Key Stage 4 Options process. This is an important time for students and we recommend they make the most of this time between now and 2nd March 2026 to consider their options carefully. Students will study up to ten Level 2 courses and it is important when considering these courses for students to choose a balanced programme. They should consider future career choices and make sure they are not limiting their options later on.

The Four Curriculum Pathways

There are four pathways for students and they will be allocated their pathway depending upon prior attainment and application across Key Stage 3. It is really important for us as a school to get students on the most suitable pathway to enable them to maximise progress across Key Stage 4.

Students will be informed of their pathway at the beginning of February. When completing the Options Form online you will be required to select the appropriate pathway, it is really important that the correct pathway is chosen otherwise students may need to resubmit options after the 2nd March by which time some courses may already be full.

- K - Accelerated Pathway**
- E - Core Pathway 1**
- V - Core Pathway 2**
- I - Core Pathway 3**

All pathways contain some compulsory elements and some optional elements. The compulsory elements are outlined in this document as Core Subjects and these are dictated by the National Curriculum.

These subjects are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Modern Foreign Languages *
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education
- Personal Health and Social Education
- Work Related Learning and Enterprise

Those students completing the Accelerated Pathway will study Triple Science as oppose to Combined Science and in order to accommodate this there will be a slight reduction in the number of lessons for Maths, English and Religious Studies. Please see the pathway tables for the number of allocated lessons.

**Students on the V and I pathway get some choice in whether they complete a language.*

PATHWAY K

The Accelerated Pathway provides opportunity for students to gain ten Level 2 qualifications. The choices for those on pathway K are:

Subject	Qualification
Core English Language (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core English Literature (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Mathematics (7 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Biology (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Chemistry (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Physics (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core French or German (5 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Religious Studies (3 lessons)	1 GCSE
Option 1 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Option 2 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Non examination subjects	
Core Physical Education (4 lessons)	
Core Work Related Learning and Enterprise across subjects and through calendared events.	
Core Personal Health & Social Education, including Careers & Citizenship (1 lesson)	

Open Options Subjects:

Art and Design (GCSE)	Health & Social Care (BTEC)
Business (GCSE)	History (GCSE)
Computer Science (GCSE)	ICT - Media Studies (GCSE)
Design & Technology (GCSE)	Music (GCSE)
Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)	Performing Arts (BTEC)
Geography (GCSE)	Physical Education (GCSE)

PATHWAY E

Those students on the Core Pathway E will complete nine GCSEs and will have additional time for some core subjects. The options for those on Pathway E are:

Subject	Qualification
Core English Language (5 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core English Literature (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Mathematics (8 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Combined Science (9 lessons)	2 GCSE's
Core French or German (5 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Religious Studies (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Option 1 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Option 2 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Non examination subjects	
Core Physical Education (4 lessons)	
Core Work Related Learning and Enterprise across subjects and through calendared events.	
Core Personal Health & Social Education, including Careers & Citizenship (1 lesson)	

Open Options Subjects:

Art and Design (GCSE)	Health & Social Care (BTEC)
Business (GCSE)	History (GCSE)
Child Development (NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award)	ICT - Media Studies (GCSE)
Computer Science (GCSE)	Music (GCSE)
Design & Technology (GCSE)	Performing Arts (BTEC)
Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)	Physical Education (GCSE)
Engineering - Manufacture (Cambridge National)	
Geography (GCSE)	

PATHWAY V

Those students on the Core Pathway V will choose between French, German, Geography or History as their first option. The options for those on Pathway V are:

Subject	Qualification
Core English Language (5 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core English Literature (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Mathematics (8 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Combined Science (9 lessons)	2 GCSEs
Core Religious Studies (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core French, German, History or Geography (5 lessons)	1 GCSE
Option 1 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Option 2 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Non examination subjects	
Core Physical Education (4 lessons)	
Core Work Related Learning and Enterprise across subjects and through calendared events.	
Core Personal Health & Social Education, including Careers & Citizenship (1 lesson)	

Open Options Subjects:

Art and Design (GCSE)	Health & Social Care (BTEC)
Business (GCSE)	History (GCSE)
Child Development (NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award)	ICT - Media Studies (GCSE)
Computer Science (GCSE)	MFL—French or German
Design & Technology (GCSE)	Music (GCSE)
Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)	Performing Arts (BTEC)
Engineering - Manufacture (Cambridge National)	Physical Education (GCSE)
Geography (GCSE)	

PATHWAY I

Those students on the Core Pathway I are mainly those students who have not completed a Modern Foreign Language in Key Stage 3. All students will have three open options; however, they may be approached by the Learning Support Department for continued support in place of one subject at Key Stage 4. The options for those on Pathway I are:

Subject	Qualification
Core English Language (5 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core English Literature (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Mathematics (8 lessons)	1 GCSE
Core Combined Science (9 lessons)	2 GCSEs
Core Religious Studies (4 lessons)	1 GCSE
Option 1 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Option 2 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Option 3 See Options Table (5 lessons)	1 GCSE or Level 2 Qualification
Non examination subjects	
Core Physical Education (4 lessons)	
Core Work Related Learning and Enterprise across subjects and through calendared events.	
Core Personal Health & Social Education, including Careers & Citizenship (1 lesson)	

Open Options Subjects:

Art and Design (GCSE)	History (GCSE)
Business (GCSE)	ICT - Media Studies (GCSE)
Child Development (NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award)	Music (GCSE)
Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)	Performing Arts (BTEC)
Engineering - Manufacture (Cambridge National)	Physical Education (GCSE)
Geography (GCSE)	

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This booklet contains information about the subjects we hope to offer in Y10 and Y11; it also explains some of the choices and decisions which students will be making with guidance from parents and teachers and why it is important to consider carefully choices of subjects at this stage.

What am I aiming for?

One of the floor standards for schools is a measure of average attainment across 8 subjects. An adaptation of this is used to obtain the minimum entry requirements for admission to Sixth Form at King Edward VI School. As well as meeting the specific subject entry requirements all students need to gain a minimum of 33 points from their 7 best GCSE results, which must include English and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above. However, all students will be working towards an individual set of agreed targets across their subjects to maximise their potential.

Recently revised features of assessment, due to changes in national policies include:

- All GCSE courses are now examined in May/June of Year 11.
- All GCSEs are graded from 9 to 1.
- For students completing GCSEs in English Literature, Geography, History and Religious Studies, external assessments now include additional marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

What is the English Baccalaureate?

One of the performance measures used by the Government is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). This is not an overarching qualification and does not currently lead to a certificate.

Students need to obtain GCSE 9 - 4 passes in:

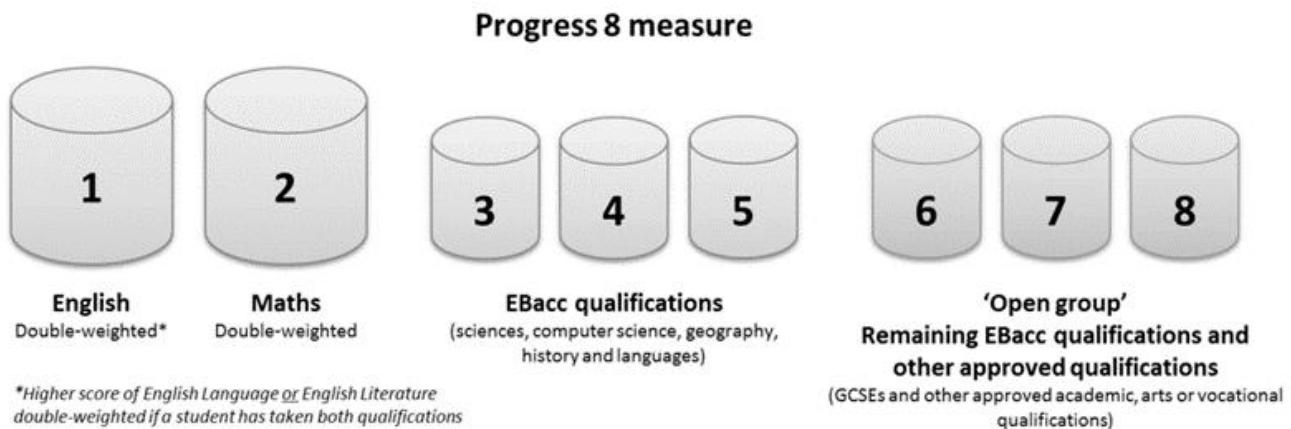
- English Language and/or English Literature (and be entered for both)
- Mathematics
- Two Sciences
- History or Geography
- A Modern Foreign Language

Students wishing to go on to A Levels and University should consider their range of subjects carefully. However, there is no requirement from universities for the English Baccalaureate.

Students are encouraged to take a balanced range of subjects and although we might encourage the Baccalaureate in some cases, students are not directed by the school towards this.

What are Attainment 8 and Progress 8?

Attainment 8 and Progress 8 are two measures used by the government to ascertain school performance. The one is a measure of average student attainment across eight subjects: English, Mathematics, three other EBacc subjects and three further subjects from a range of approved qualifications. Progress 8 is similar but an average of progress as oppose to attainment.



Since 2016, the floor standard has been based on a school's results for the Progress 8 measure. The school is well placed to respond to this given the courses on offer.

I've heard students have to stay in school till they are 18 - Is this true?

The Education and Skills Act 2008 states that young people are required to continue in education or training until their eighteenth birthday.

This does not mean young people must stay in school; they can choose one of the following options:

- Full-time education, such as school, college or home education
- Work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than twenty hours a week.

What are Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Courses?

With a wider range of courses it is useful to think of courses as Level 1 or Level 2.

- Level 1 is equivalent to 1 - 3 Grade at GCSE
- Level 2 is equivalent to 4 - 9 Grade at GCSE
- Level 3 is equivalent to AS/A Level standard

What is the GCSE?

GCSE stands for 'General Certificate of Secondary Education'.

Students will receive more information about GCSE examinations as they go through Key Stage 4 courses. Some, but very few, subjects will include *Controlled Assessment*; this is work completed during Years 10 and 11, which will count towards the final examination result.

For a small number of students, the school may decide to enter them for an 'Entry Level Qualification' in one or more subjects, usually as well as but sometimes instead of GCSE. An Entry Level Qualification is a widely recognised qualification which has been specially designed to meet the needs of and to reward those students who may be finding difficulties with certain aspects of the GCSE course. It allows staff greater flexibility in choosing key focus areas and can, therefore, make the course much more rewarding for students. Parents are kept informed about the details of such entries.

What is Controlled Assessment or Non Assessment Examination (NEA)?

Controlled Assessment or NEA is work completed during the course that contributes to the final grade. The controlled part of the assessment is intended to ensure the validity and reliability of coursework and to enable assessors to confidently authenticate candidates' work. Controlled Assessment is designed to take place within the normal teaching timetable, for example in the classroom, lab or workshop.

Excellent attendance at school is vital throughout Years 10 and 11. It is especially important during periods of controlled assessment. Whilst every effort would be made to help your child catch up, depending on the nature of the task set and the degree of supervision needed, it may not be possible to make up the time. Further information will be made available on the school website.

What is a BTEC/Cambridge National/NCFE CACHE?

These are all vocational courses. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. It introduces students to the employment area they have chosen and provides a good basis to go on to a more advanced work-related qualification. Although the courses are largely coursework based, all courses contain examinations at the end of the course.

How do I find out about the courses on offer?

- See the presentations on the website and use the web link for more information.
- Ask the Head of Department or your class teacher.
- ASK QUESTIONS! If in doubt your tutor can help you find the person you need.

Who should I speak to if I have problems?

- Heads of Department and subject teachers can give detailed advice about individual courses. Each subject page provides the name of a member of staff to contact.
- Mr Tizard (Achievement Leader)
- Mrs Pemberton (Head of Learning Support)
- Mr Cotton (Deputy Headteacher)

Should I choose the subjects that I enjoy the most?

Do choose a course because:

- ✓ *you are good at it and think you will enjoy the subject*
- ✓ *it links to a career idea*
- ✓ *it will go well with your other choices*
- ✓ *it will help you develop knowledge and skills that interest you*
- ✓ *you think that you might want to continue studying it after Year 11*
- ✓ *your research shows that it will interest you and motivate you*

Don't choose a course just because:

- ✗ *your friends have chosen it (you may not be in the same group)*
- ✗ *someone else thinks it's a good idea (you need to have a commitment to it)*
- ✗ *you like the teacher you have now (you may not have the same teacher)*

Can I begin to study a subject which I have not taken before?

Most subjects at Key Stage 4 will build on previous study of the same subjects. There are, however, some courses which are new, offering subjects which have not been available in Y7 - Y9 (eg Health & Social Care, Business, Engineering & Child Development). You may wish to consider one or more of these, but you need to be sure that you know what is involved. Just because it is new does not mean that it will be any easier! If you're not sure then talk to a teacher of the subject concerned and ask for advice. You may also opt for a taster session in these subjects.

Can I take a subject at Advanced Level without studying it at Key Stage 4 (GCSE or Equivalent)?

Yes. There are some subjects which you can take at Advanced Level which you don't have to have done before. These include Business, Economics, Psychology and Sociology. There may be other exceptional circumstances but, in most cases, students will be expected to have a qualification in the subject before selecting it for study at Advanced Level. If in doubt seek further advice from a teacher of the subject concerned.

What if I am uncertain about my career plans?

There is no need to worry at this stage if you don't yet have a career in mind. If you have no career plans it is wise to choose courses which keep open as many opportunities as possible. Simply remember that it is most important to achieve a good balance in the subjects chosen. Future employers will look for a person who is flexible and adaptable to changing situations.

Careers Guidance is available to all students; individual students and parents can request additional careers support at any time where this is felt to be necessary.

Ask yourself:

- Which subjects are most important for me at this stage?
- Is my proposed choice of subjects a well-balanced one?
- If my career aim changes, will my subject choice still be suitable?
- Does my choice of subjects close any career path which I may wish to follow?
- Am I likely to change my ideas as I grow older?

Students are using the '*Which Way Now?*' materials and Kudos website in school and you can also click through this link to access further materials.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/> - advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work

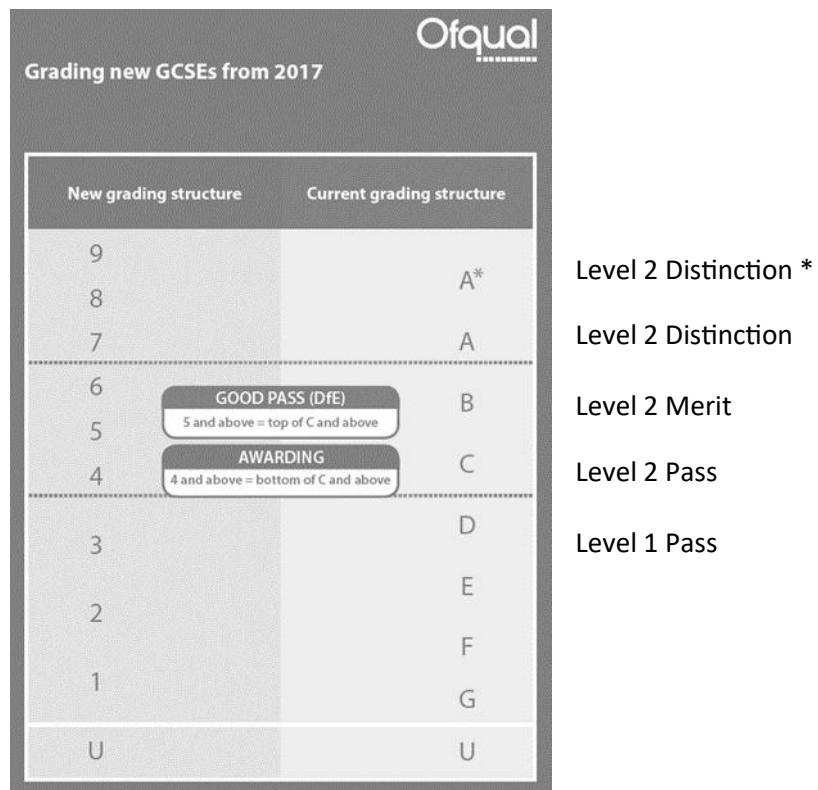
[Option choices | My World of Work](#) - advice on choosing subjects at GCSE with a view to pursuing a particular career in the future

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors> - gives case studies and information about entry requirements for a range of jobs in different sectors

Will I automatically be given my first choice of subjects?

It is possible that not all courses listed in this booklet will run. It is also possible that a certain combination may prove impossible. A minimum number of students are required to make a teaching group viable and some groups are limited to a maximum number which is determined by the availability of equipment or by safety considerations. With this in mind it is important that you not only consider the subjects you want to study but have some reserves in mind. We will try our best to support all students in gaining places on suitable courses.

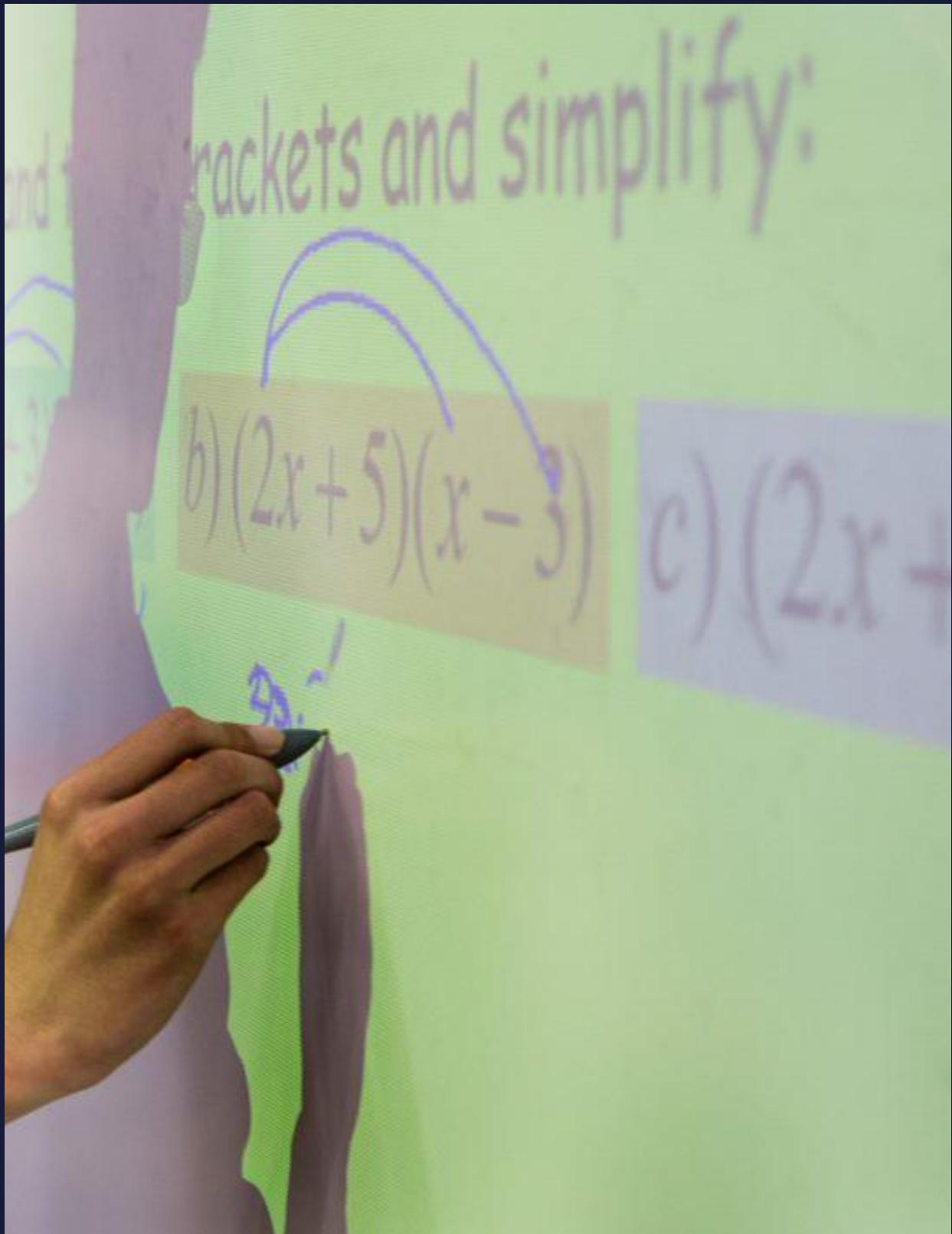
Grading Structure



BTECs are graded in terms of Distinction, Merit and Pass. See above for how they fit with the grading structure.

CORE SUBJECTS

The following subjects are part of the Core Curriculum for all students:



ENGLISH LANGUAGE (GCSE)

This course is undertaken by all students and must be taken in conjunction with the English Literature GCSE
AQA: [AQA](#) | [Subjects](#) | [English](#)

Course Details

The course gives you a range of skills across reading, writing and spoken language study. It encourages you to become fluent, critical and evaluative readers of a wide range of texts from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries and it will also help you to gain an understanding of how texts are tailored to suit their audience and purpose. These will include works of literature, as well as literary non-fiction and other writing such as letters, speeches and journalism. You will also be expected to use textual analysis skills and examine the impact of writers' use of language, structure and personal viewpoints. You will need to use the skills of analysis, evaluation, summary and comparison when reading and analysing texts.

The course also requires you to write accurately and coherently and use Standard English appropriately. You will be required to choose content and adapt your writing style and language to a wide range of forms, contexts, audiences and purposes. You will need to write grammatically correct sentences and use figurative language and a range of other linguistic and literary techniques purposefully. You will be expected to be able to write to entertain while producing engaging narrative and descriptive writing and also be able to write to argue and persuade while producing effective transactional writing.

You will also listen to and understand and respond to spoken language and will be required to use spoken Standard English effectively.

Students will be terminally assessed via two examinations, details of which are provided below. One speaking and listening task will also be undertaken throughout the course, but the marks from these do not count towards the overall GCSE qualification as you will be given a separate Spoken Language mark.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification in English Language comprises two examinations, which will be taken at the end of Year 11. The two papers to be sat are as follows:

Paper 1

A 1 hour 45 minute examination; 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing'. This will assess both Reading and Writing; the reading questions will be based on an unseen literature fiction text, while the writing section will test either descriptive or narrative skills. This exam is worth 50% of the GCSE.

Paper 2

A 1 hour 45 minute examination 'Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives'. This will again assess both Reading and Writing; the reading questions will be based on two linked texts - one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction and will test the skill of identifying and commenting on a writer's a viewpoint. The writing section will assess the skill of writing to present a particular viewpoint. This exam is also worth 50% of the GCSE.

What skills will I gain from studying English?

Communication skills are highly sought after by employers and the ability to express yourself clearly, creatively and persuasively will help make you stand out from the crowd. You will understand how spoken language evolves in response to changes in society and technology, and how this process relates to identity and cultural diversity.

You will learn to become critical readers, helping you to understand the ways in which texts attempt to manipulate their audiences. You will understand how meaning is constructed through words, sentences and whole texts and evaluate the ways in which meaning might be interpreted differently according to the perspective of the reader.

You will also learn how to adapt your own writing for a range of audiences and purposes by experimenting with language to create effects and to engage your audience.

Is there anything else I need to know?

This course leads to one GCSE in English Language and must be taken in conjunction with the GCSE English Literature course.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Miss R Phillips, Head of English



ENGLISH LITERATURE (GCSE)

This course is undertaken by all students and must be taken in conjunction with the English Language GCSE
AQA: [AQA | Subjects | English](#)

Course Details

The course aims to develop your knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, you will have a chance to develop culturally and to acquire knowledge of some of the best literary works that have ever been produced. You will therefore read a wide range of literature from different genres and different time periods, critically analysing and evaluating each text, as well as making connections and comparisons across your reading. You will be required to consider writers' viewpoints and the messages they try to put forward for their readers. While doing this you will be expected to analyse the methods they use to do this and the effects they have on their readers. Studying English Literature is the study of the human psyche and human emotions and how they are presented within texts. It will make you consider characters' motivations, different social and historical contexts and the impact of a wide range of literary devices. It should encourage you to read widely for pleasure as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification in English Literature comprises two examinations, which will be taken at the end of Year 11. The two papers to be sat are as follows:

Paper 1:

A 1 hour 45 minute examination 'Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel'. This will assess students' ability to write in detail about an extract from each text and then to write about the text as a whole. This exam is worth 40% of the GCSE.

Paper 2:

A 2 hour 15 minute examination 'Modern Texts and Poetry'. This will assess students' ability to answer an essay question on a modern drama text, as well as writing comparatively on anthology poetry and both singly and

What skills will I gain from studying English Literature?

You will understand how texts from the English literary heritage have been influential and significant over time and explore their meaning today. You will also explore how texts from different times and traditions may reflect or influence values, assumptions and sense of identity. You will be required to connect ideas, themes and issues, drawing on a range of texts. By doing this you will become critical readers of fictional prose, poetry and drama. You will develop the habit of reading widely and often and will learn to write accurately, effectively and analytically about your reading.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The course leads to one GCSE in English Literature and must be taken in conjunction with the GCSE English Language course.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Miss R Phillips, Head of English.

MATHEMATICS (GCSE)

AQA: [GCSE Mathematics 8300 | Overview | AQA](#)

Course Details

The Mathematics GCSE includes a high proportion of questions that require students to have a deep understanding of mathematical skills and techniques at both Higher and Foundation level. The emphasis is on how to use these skills to solve problems in context. Students will learn skills from the following strands; Number, Ratio & Proportion, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Probability and Statistics. The grades will be awarded on a nine-point scale, 1 - 9, with 9 being the best grade. Mathematics is a compulsory subject and achievement at grade 4 is a key requirement for entry onto many courses for study beyond age sixteen. The skills taught in the GCSE appear throughout the whole school curriculum and are essential life skills.

How will I be assessed?

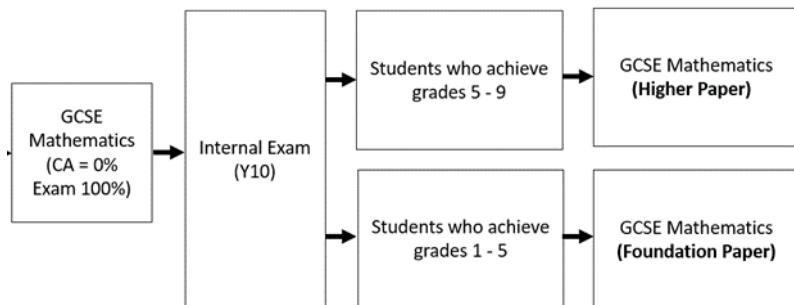
The course of study is the AQA Mathematics 8300. This is a linear course that is examined either at Foundation (Grades 1 - 5) or Higher (Grades 4 - 9). The examinations all take place at the end of the GCSE course in Year 11 and consist of three papers, all one hour and a half in length. They are equally weighted with one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers.

Students began the GCSE Mathematics course at the start of Year 9 and will continue to be examined internally and regularly throughout the course. The end of Year 10 assessments will contribute to decisions over final tiers of entry. Final external examinations will be at the end of Year 11.

There are two different paths a student might take:

- 1 Higher GCSE - The Higher GCSE is aimed at those targeted for Grades 6 to 9, although it covers Grades 4 to 9.
- 2 Foundation GCSE - The Foundation GCSE is aimed at those targeted Grade 1 to 5.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment for GCSE Mathematics.



What skills will I gain from studying Mathematics?

While working on the core skills and techniques, there is now much greater emphasis on encouraging students to think independently about mathematical problems and apply logic and problem-solving skills to the work they are completing. Therefore, alongside learning the core skills, students will develop skills and techniques that will support their studies across the curriculum.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact: Mrs Naylor or Mrs Cooper - Joint Heads of Maths

SCIENCE (GCSE)

AQA: [AQA](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Science](#)

Course Details

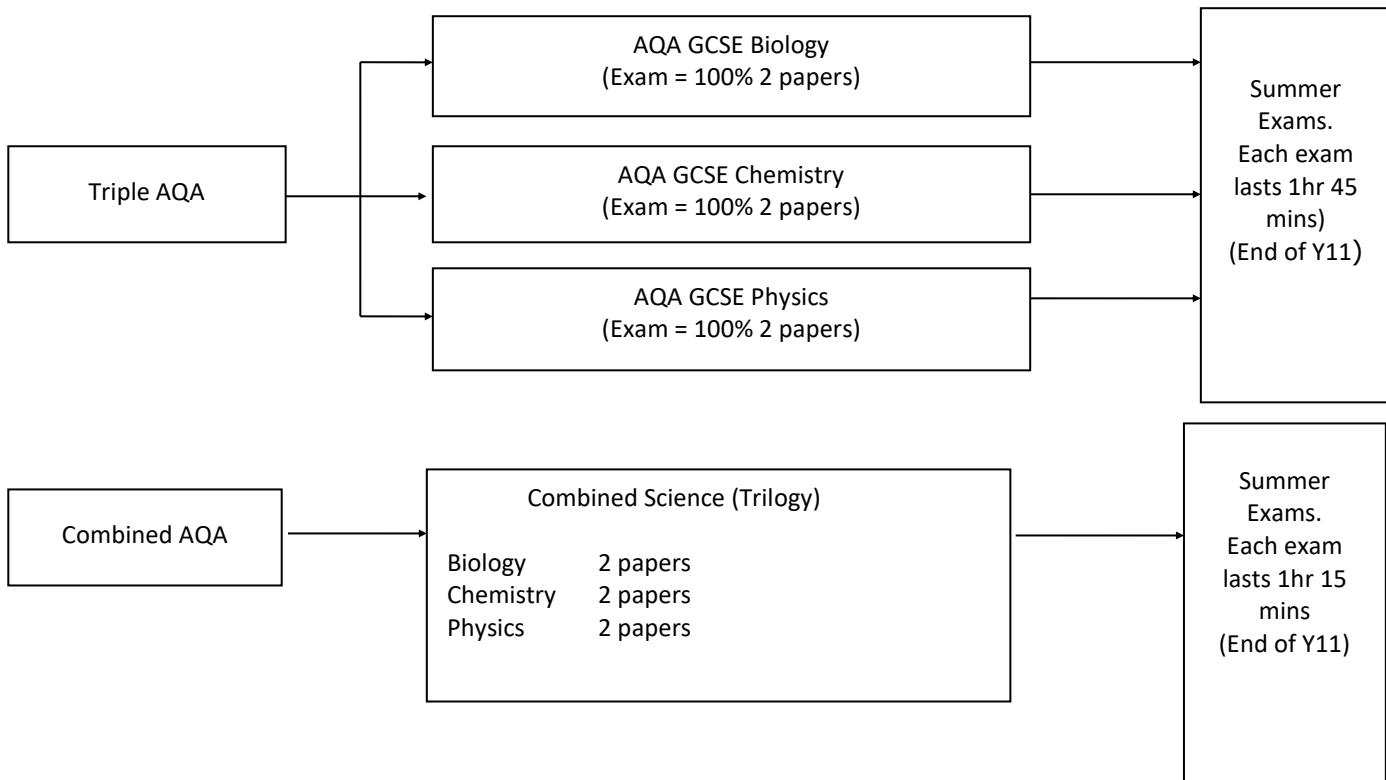
All students continue to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in year 10 and 11. They have already started to cover GCSE topics in these lessons during year 9. Two different pathways are offered: Combined Science and Triple Science. On the combined science pathway, students will learn about a wide range of topics in each of their science subjects. They will develop practical and analytical skills alongside building up a significant body of knowledge about science. They will take separate exams for Biology, Chemistry and Physics but their scores will be combined to give a double GCSE grade for science, this is the AQA trilogy qualification. On the triple science pathway students cover the same course as the combined science classes but also study some concepts in greater depth and learn about some additional topics. They will be entered for 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

1. Triple Science AQA:

Biology, Physics and Chemistry are studied as separate subjects leading to three separate GCSE grades. This is ideal for those students who are particularly able, interested in and committed to science. It is also a good base for those who wish to carry on with these subjects at A Level. The examinations will be completed at the end of Year 11.

2. Combined Science (Trilogy) AQA:

Students will still study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects. They take six separate exams two for each discipline and the examinations will be completed at the end of Year 11. Students will achieve two GCSE grades which will be an aggregation of all the exam modules. Students on this pathway are still able to study the sciences at KS5 providing they achieve the entry requirements.



How will I be assessed?

Triple Science / Combined Science AQA

Progress will be monitored over the 2 years by end of topic tests. Final examined assessments will be at the end of Year 11.

What skills will I gain from studying Science?

- Problem solving
- Communication skills
- Practical skills
- Improve your knowledge of a wide range of scientific topics
- Develop research skills
- Organisational skills improve allowing practical work to be carried out safely

Is there anything else I need to know?

- Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics will be taught by specialist teachers
- There are 3 periods of each of these subjects per fortnight for combined scientists
- There are 4 periods of each of these subjects per fortnight for triple scientists
- There are two tiers of entry for the examination:
 - Higher - Grades 4 - 9 targeted
 - Foundation - Grades 1 - 5 targeted

The sort of activities you will be doing in class:-

- Practical work, including experiments essential to the course
- Individual and group research
- Notes and consolidation questions on work studied to make sure concepts are understood
- Practical and investigative skills.

There will be at least one homework per fortnight for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, eg

- Building knowledge of key information by using Carousel for retrieval practice
- 'How Science Works' skills such as data analysis, graph drawing, data evaluation
- Research – for notes or practical's or presentations
- Short answer questions
- Learning for tests
- Extended writing
- Online activities, for example using Kerboodle or Isaac Physics

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to one of your Science teachers or to Mrs J Bryant, Head of Science

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (GCSE)

“Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way to think about things.” Flora Lewis

If you are on Pathway K or E, you will continue to study your chosen language, either French or German, in Years 10 and 11. If you are on Pathway V you have the option to continue with your chosen language, if you wish. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your teachers.

Course Details

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH GCSE
[AQA | French | GCSE | GCSE French](#)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: GERMAN GCSE
[AQA | German | GCSE | GCSE German](#)

Core Content

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Please see the above links for further detail about the topic areas.

How will I be assessed?

The way you will be examined at the end of Year 11 is very similar to the way you have been assessed in Years 7 - 9.

There are four exams and there are two tiers of entry: a Foundation Tier (Grades 1 - 5) and a Higher Tier (Grades 4 - 9). Your teacher will advise you which tier to take, based on your target grade and the progress you have made so far.

The Listening Exam 25%

35 minutes at Foundation Tier, 45 minutes at Higher Tier.

The Reading Exam 25%

45 minutes at Foundation Tier, 1 hour at Higher Tier.

The Writing Exam 25%

1 hour 10 minutes at Foundation Tier, 1 hour 15 minutes at Higher Tier.

The Speaking Exam 25%

7-9 minutes at Foundation Tier, 10-12 minutes at Higher Tier with 15 minutes of supervised preparation time. Speaking exams will take place at the end of April/start of May and be conducted by your French or German teacher. Exams are recorded and sent off to the exam board to be marked.

What skills will I gain from studying Languages?

In every environment, speaking languages gives you access to a whole new world: music, the internet, cultural history, ideas and people you would never otherwise have met!

There is a real shortage of employees in the UK with [languages skills](#) so you will really set yourself apart from others in the job market. Employers also value languages because of the wide range of transferable skills that this study provides, such as:

- Communication skills
- Organisational skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Intercultural understanding – very important for building up business relations
- Working independently
- Teamwork
- Absorbing and retaining complex information
- Self-motivation
- Problem-solving skills
- Skills of analysis

[According to recruitment agencies](#), salary uplift for those using languages at work can be anything from 8% to 20%, depending on how central languages are to the role. Jobs involving languages have many attractive features: travel/overseas placements flexible working hours opportunities for promotion and new responsibilities.

[Research](#) has also shown that studying languages can even help your learning in other subjects because:

- You become smarter
- You build multi-tasking skills
- Your memory improves
- You become more perceptive
- Your decision-making skills improve
- You improve your English

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will have five periods per fortnight in your chosen language.

You need to study the language at GCSE level to be able to continue to study it at A-level.

“In today’s world English graduates without languages are at a real disadvantage.”
says Anny King, French-born director of the Centre of Languages at Cambridge University

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact your teachers directly or Mrs S Dunn (German and Head of MFL) or Miss L Marshall (French) and/or see the following resources:

<http://www.all-languages.org.uk/uploads/files/Press%20Releases/Work%20Talk.pdf>

<http://creative.dailymail.co.uk/dcsf/modernlanguages/ml-didyouknow.html>

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (GCSE)

AQA: [AQA](#) | Subjects | Religious Studies

All students follow the Full Course as part of the Core Curriculum

All students started the course at the beginning of Year 9

Course Details

Religious Studies is one of the most useful, stimulating and interesting subjects to study at GCSE, as it is concerned with people, their beliefs and lifestyle, and their responses to a variety of current moral, social and philosophical issues. In today's world, it is even more vitally important to be religiously educated.

This course allows you to study religious and non-religious ideas as well as philosophical and ethical ideas - using the insights of Christianity and Hinduism:

- What is God like?
- Is there life after death?
- How is the universe created and the impact this has on humanity.
- The different ways religions celebrate festivals and rites of passage
- Why get married - why not live together? and other issues such as divorce, re-marriage, the family,

How will I be assessed?

Your final GCSE grade is based on two examination papers. One paper is on Christianity and Hinduism, this paper is an hour and 45 minutes long. The second paper is on modern ethical issues, this paper is two hours long.

You will be given practice in the different types of examination questions during the course. There are no tiered papers or controlled assessments in Religious Studies.

What skills will I gain from studying Religious Studies?

- Improved discussion skills - talking about your own ideas, taking account of alternative views and drawing reasoned conclusions
- Skills of enquiry and critical reflection on issues and ideas
- Better understanding of the complexity of beliefs and values and their application in everyday life and moral issues
- Reflect on your own beliefs and values

Is there anything else I need to know?

You do not have to have any particular faith yourself to study Religious Studies at GCSE. This exciting and varied course builds on the work you have done at Key Stage 3 and will challenge your ideas.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mr R Garner, Head of Religious Studies or a member of the RE Department.

OPTIONS SUBJECT INFORMATION

Subject	Page	Options
Art & Design (GCSE)	26	✓
Business (GCSE)	27	✓
Child Development (NCFE)	28	✓
Computer Science (GCSE)	29	✓
Design & Technology (GCSE)	30	✓
Engineering - Manufacture (Cambridge National)	31	✓
Food Preparation & Nutrition (GCSE)	32	✓
Geography (GCSE)	33	✓
Health & Social Care (BTEC)	34	✓
History (GCSE)	36	✓
ICT - Media Studies (GCSE)	37	✓
ICT - Microsoft Office Specialist Certification	38	✓
Music (GCSE)	39	✓
Performing Arts (BTEC)	41	✓
Physical Education (GCSE)	43	✓
English (GCSE) (Language & Literature)	14	CORE SUBJECT
Mathematics (GCSE)	17	CORE SUBJECT
MFL - French & German (GCSE)	20	CORE SUBJECT or option as Second Language
Religious Studies (GCSE)	22	CORE SUBJECT
Science (GCSE)	18	CORE SUBJECT

OPTIONS SUBJECTS





ART & DESIGN (GCSE)

AQA: [AQA](#) | Subjects | Art and Design

Course Details

This is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media and techniques such as textiles, wood, plaster, plastic and paint. It is an unendorsed course where students can work in appropriate art, craft and design materials and processes. Students will produce practical and contextual work associated within two or more art specialties ie graphics, textiles, fine art, jewellery/costume, fashion, sculpture and photography.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- 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.

Component 1: Portfolio

Students will produce a portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study. This is worth 60% of the GCSE.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignments

There will be a Preparatory period followed by a ten hour exam. Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. This is worth 40% of the GCSE.

What skills will I gain from studying Art and Design?

The most important skill is that of independent learning and thinking. Students will learn to develop their own ideas across a wide range of media, materials and techniques. Outcomes can be highly personal and individual.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The field of Art and Design is massive. Students wishing to work in Architecture, Graphic Design, Fashion and Textiles, Interior Design, Advertising, 3D Design and more creative industries will need to study this subject at this level (and advisably at post GCSE level too). Employers in related industries and admissions officers in Art and Design Foundation, HND and Degree course will require a background in Art and Design plus an extensive portfolio of work. Students will be required to purchase an art pack from the department.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Mrs L James, Head of Art or your art teacher.

BUSINESS (GCSE)

Edexcel: [Edexcel GCSE Business \(2017\)](#) | Pearson qualifications

Why study GCSE Business?

The GCSE Business course is an introductory course to studying Business and is ideal for any student who:

- wants a good understanding of how businesses work
- is intending to study any business subject in the future
- wishes to understand how to make a success of their future career in business
- who might be thinking of setting up their own business

GCSE Business looks to give students an understanding of a wide range of ideas, theories and skills that are essential for any business to succeed, with particular focus on small businesses and business start-ups.

The first year of the course focuses on 'Investigating Small Businesses' and looks at identifying business opportunities, understanding and researching the competition and developing the skills of the business 'entrepreneur' (the person who sets up and runs a business). Whilst in the second year students look to develop their understanding of 'Building a Business' focusing on key business functions including Marketing, Finance, People and Operations and the Impact of the Economic Environment on Businesses.

What skills will I gain from studying Business GCSE?

Students will develop a broad understanding of the range of activities businesses undertake to complete and be successful in the global economy. Key to the course is understanding and developing the skills that an entrepreneur needs to be successful in business with activities being undertaken to improve students' teamwork, leadership, communication, presentation, thinking and risk-taking skills.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is assessed by two written exam papers sat at the end of the course. The exams are the same in both length and structure and include case studies of real businesses, with the main difference between the two exam papers being the size and nature of the businesses being considered.

Both exam papers are one hour and forty five minutes in length and each accounts for 50% of the GCSE. Each paper will consist of Calculations, Multiple Choice questions, Short Answer questions and Extended Written questions.

Business is one of the most successful GCSE subjects at King Edward VI School. In 2025 23.1% of students gained grades of 7 or above this was against a target of 12.3% illustrating the quality of teaching and significant progress made by students studying the Business qualification. On average students achieved more than half a grade higher in their Business GCSE than would otherwise have been expected based upon their prior attainment and ability. In addition, every year for ten consecutive years, on average, students have consistently made

What should I do if I need further information?

Contact Mr C Chambers, Head of Business, Economics and Accounting.

NCFE LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE IN THE EARLY YEARS

NCFE: [NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years | NCFE](#)

The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years is designed for learners who want an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the early years sector or progress onto further study.

Course Details

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 9 content areas of this qualification.

Content area 1: Child development
Content area 2: Factors that influence the child's development
Content area 3: Care routines, play and activities to support the child
Content area 4: Early years provision
Content area 5: Legislation, policies and procedures in the early years
Content area 6: Expectations of the early years practitioner
Content area 7: Roles and responsibilities within early years settings
Content area 8: The importance of observations in early years childcare
Content area 9: Planning in early years childcare

How will I be assessed?

During year 10, learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of all the content areas. Their comprehension of these topics will be tested during year 11 by two assessments externally set by NCFE: one non-exam assessment and one written examined assessment.

Assessment breakdown	
Non-exam assessment (Coursework) – September to January of Year 11	14 hours non-exam assessment Weighting (50%)
Examined assessment (Exam) – February to May of Year 11	1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment Weighting (50%)

How will I be graded?

The qualification is graded over seven grades from Level 1 Pass (Performance Table Point 1) to Level 2 Distinction* (Performance Table Point 9).

What skills will I gain from studying Child Development and Care in the Early Years?

As well as the specific subject knowledge gained from studying Child Development and Care in the Early Years, you will develop many transferable and work-related skills that are highly valued by employers and universities. These include the ability to critically evaluate information and data, effectively communicate with individuals and groups and produce well-judged arguments. Through the internally assessed units you will develop the ability to write concisely, clearly and accurately and will effectively use ICT.

What else should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Miss Socratous, Lead Teacher of Child Development

COMPUTER SCIENCE (GCSE)

OCR: [GCSE - Computer Science \(9-1\) - J277 \(from 2020\) - OCR](#)

Course Details

The OCR GCSE in 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.

Course Structure and Assessment

Unit	Assessment Method	Description
Computer Systems (01)	Written Exam. 1 hour 30 mins	Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.
Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (02)	Written Exam. 1 hour 30 mins	Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.
Programming Project	Assessed during the written examinations, in particular component 02.	Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language.

What skills will I gain from studying Computer Science?

The most commonly acknowledged type of skills gained from computer science are the practical abilities that allow students to develop software and digital tools. In addition, analytical and problem-solving skills, creativity, critical thinking and resilience.

Is there anything else I need to know?

- The course involves mathematical and technical content
- Next steps for this course include the Cambridge Advanced National in Computing: Application Development or A Level Computer Science

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Miss S. Burton, Head of ICT & Computing.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (GCSE)

AQA: [GCSE Design and Technology 8552 | Specification | AQA](#)

Course Details

Examined Component. The 2 hour written examination is worth 100 marks and contributes to 50% of the GCSE.

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks). A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks). Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks). A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA). The NEA is worth 100 marks and contributes to 50% of the GCSE.

A substantial iterative design challenge that responds to a contextual statement issued by the examination board.

Students are required to produce an eportfolio and a final working prototype that demonstrates an ability to develop a solution and meets the needs of a client. This work is marked by KEVI teachers and then externally moderated by AQA.

How will I be assessed?

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit a single examination and submit all their non-exam assessment (coursework) at the end of the course. Both the examination and the coursework focus on core principles, specialist technical principles and designing and making principles. Coursework is regularly assessed throughout the course using assessment criteria laid down by the examination board; thus enabling the student to have a reasonable idea of the progress they are making. The examination and coursework each account for

What skills will I gain from studying Design Technology?

Are you interested in solving problems? Do you enjoy designing, modelling and manufacturing? Are you a creative person with an inquisitive mind? Can you be innovative and use your imagination? Do you like working with others in a practical environment? In Design Technology you will learn how to use Computer Aided Design (CAD) alongside developing your drawing and sketching skills. You will use a variety of technical skills, working on hi-tech machines and equipment including 3d printers and laser cutters. You will also develop workshop skills, through the use of hand tools and machines. You will develop your knowledge of a range of materials including, polymers, metals, wood, textiles, papers/boards and use many of these in your projects. You will develop an understanding of electrical and mechanical systems, learn about industrial production systems and consider how Design Technology links to the environment and sustainability. As part of the course you will be required to complete an Non-Exam Assignment (50% of GCSE). This project will be completed in school and will give you the opportunity to personalise your own learning.

The examined component requires students to apply mathematical and scientific concepts within section B (Specialist technical principles). Students choosing to study Design technology should ideally be working at grade 4 or above in maths and science.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Mr N Barratt, Head of Design and Technology.

ENGINEERING MANUFACTURE (Cambridge National OCR (LEVEL 1/2))

OCR: [Cambridge Nationals - Engineering Manufacture Level 1/Level 2 – J823 - OCR](#)

Course Details

Unit R015 Manufacturing a one-off product

In this unit you will learn to identify the information required to make a product, plan the production of a product and carry out risk assessments for the processes, tools and equipment needed to produce a product in small quantities. You are required to manufacture a product predesigned by the examination board and submit a supporting eportfolio. This NEA is centre-assessed and OCR moderated. There are 60 marks awarded for this unit of work which constitutes 30% of the final grade.

Unit R016 Manufacturing in quantity

In this unit you will learn how to manufacture and use simple jigs and templates to support manufacturing in volume. By using CAD software, you will learn about the information needed to facilitate manufacture and apply this in order to program Computer Numerical Control (CNC) equipment. You are required to manufacture the product predesigned by the examination board on a repeat production basis and submit a supporting eportfolio. This NEA is centre-assessed and OCR moderated. There are 60 marks awarded for this unit of work which constitutes 30% of the final grade.

Unit R014 Principles of engineering manufacture

In this unit you will learn about the different types of manufacturing processes, the materials that can be used to manufacture products using these processes, and the factors to be considered when determining the manufacturing requirements of an engineered product. This unit will require you to sit a 1 hour 15 minutes written examination which is worth 40% of the final grade. This component is set and marked by the OCR examination group.

How will I be assessed?

Cambridge Nationals apply something called the ‘terminal rule’. The terminal assessment rule or ‘terminal rule’ means the exam **must** be taken in the student’s final assessment series for their Cambridge National, which could be in January or June. Non-examined assessment (NEA) units can be submitted in the same series as the exam or an earlier series but the exam must be taken in their final series.

We would start Unit R015 Manufacturing a one-off product on January 1st (Y10) and submit in May for a June final assessment. We would commence Unit R016 Manufacturing in quantity on September 1st (Y11) and submit before Christmas for the January final assessment. The examined component is completed last of all in the summer of Y11 along with all other subjects.

What skills will I gain from studying Engineering (manufacture)

You will learn through NEA and via practical based learning the different types of manufacturing processes, the materials that can be used and what other factors need to be considered. You will learn how to select and use equipment skilfully and safely. You will learn how to manufacture a one-off product using hand tools and manual machines, how to manufacture in large quantities and how to use software computer-controlled machinery.

You will learn via a synoptic approach addition, different types of manufacturing processes, the materials that can be used to manufacture products using these processes, and the factors to be considered when determining the manufacturing requirements of an engineered product. You will consider the different types of manufacturing processes that are typically used in engineering, using specific examples of each process type. The engineering materials include ferrous and non-ferrous metals, polymers, ceramics, composites, and smart materials. You will understand how the properties of these materials relate to their manufacturing characteristics. In addition you will also develop an understanding of some of the current developments in engineering manufacture.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Mr N Barratt, Head of Design & Technology.

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION (GCSE)

Eduqas: <http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/food-preparation-and-nutrition/>

Course Details

This GCSE course enables learners to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. The course is designed to create a balance between practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding. The examining board is EDUQUAS and the course leads to a GCSE qualification. Assessments covers the range of grades from 1 - 9.

Year 11		
Component 1 Principles	50% of the total course 1 hour 45 minute written paper	Examination
Year 11		
Component 2 Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action	50% of the total GCSE Controlled Assessment	2 Practical Assessments: 1 Food Investigation 15% 1 Prepare, Cook and Present 35%

How will I be assessed?

The two coursework projects account for 50% of the overall mark and are internally assessed. The examination accounts for the remaining 50% of the overall mark and is externally assessed.

Both practical and theory work is regularly assessed throughout the course. The higher the quality of the work handed in the higher the marks awarded. Assessment is carried out using criteria laid down by the examination board.

What skills will I gain from studying this course?

You will gain a wide range of practical skills ranging from pastry, cakes, breads and dough products, hot and cold desserts, pasta, vegetable, meat and fish dishes. Students will learn many set skills as well as having the opportunity to choose and create their own dishes.

In addition, you will learn how to plan, research and carry out investigations and specific target market tasks.

Is there anything else I need to know?

As the majority of this course is food production and cooking it is essential you are able to provide ingredients on a regular basis. In addition, you will need to have an interest and love of food. This course is certainly for the 'foodies' amongst you. If you enjoy watching programmes such as 'Master Chef' or the 'Great British Bake Off' you should enjoy this course.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Mrs C Sheasby in Design & Technology.

GEOGRAPHY (GCSE)

AQA: AQA | Subjects | Geography

Course Details

The course followed is AQA Specification which is divided up into Physical Geography (35%), Human Geography (35%) and a Geographical Application paper (30%). The course deals with contemporary issues which will help you make sense of the changes happening in the world and to make informed decisions as a result.

Geography groups are generally taught in mixed ability sets but this will depend on the number of students opting and the timetable arrangements.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be given mid and end of unit tests and engage in both peer and self-assessment. 'Assessment for learning' will be prominent throughout the course. Final examinations will take place in the summer term at the end of Year 11 when all three papers will be sat. The Physical paper will include Hazards, Coasts and Rivers in the UK, Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests and Cold Environments. The Human paper will include Urban Issues and Challenges, the Changing Economic World and the Challenge of Resource Management. The Geographical Applications paper will involve an element of fieldwork which will be undertaken during the two years of study, the application of geographical skills and an issues evaluation section. The exams are not tiered and therefore everyone will be entered for the same exam which includes a mixture of multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose questions.

What skills will I gain from studying Geography?

Students will find a flexible and enquiring mind useful along with good personal organisational skills. Geography will help you to develop your spatial and interpretational skills. In addition, you will learn to work with data and the presentation of this data sometimes using statistical analysis, develop modelling and role playing skills, produce ICT presentations and have the opportunity to debate issues. Throughout the course you will constantly develop your literacy and numeracy skills. Fieldwork will help develop your individual, group and social skills. You will research using a variety of information sources including the internet, TV programmes and newspapers.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Geography is a popular and successful subject and one that is hugely important and relevant in today's complex and rapidly changing world. As a 'bridging' subject it fits between the physical sciences and the social sciences, combining elements of both and, as such, will combine well with most other subjects. The department runs two field visits to collect the data for the third exam paper and these must cover both Human and Physical Geography topics; they are also compulsory to the course. There is also the possibility of an optional four-day international visit.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Mrs K Lowe, Head of Geography.

BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Pearson: [Health & Social Care \(2022\)](#) | [BTEC Tech Award](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#)

Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. In 2019/20, the adult social care sector contributed approximately £41.2 billion a year to the UK economy. Social care employees such as care assistants and social workers work with individuals to support them to be as independent as possible in their own homes, in care homes or nursing homes. Healthcare employees, such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and physiotherapists, work with individuals to enhance their quality of life by improving their health. Approximately 3 million people are currently employed in the sector. In 2019, it was estimated that by 2035 approximately 2.17 million health and social care job vacancies will need to be filled.

Course Details

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will also develop key skills relevant to the health and social care sector such as research techniques and how to measure someone's physical health. You will also develop your written communication skills as you create health and wellbeing plans for an individual with specific needs.

What does the qualification cover?

The course is made up of three components: two Person Set Assignments (PSA) and one that is externally assessed.

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development | PSA (coursework) - 30% of the total course

In this unit you will explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. They will explore the different events that can impact on individuals' physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development and how individuals cope with and are supported through changes caused by life events.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values | | PSA (coursework) - 30% of the total course

This unit explores health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. They will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing | Externally assessed assignments (exam) - 40% of the total course

Within this unit you will explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person-centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

How will I be graded?

The qualification is graded over seven grades from Level 1 Pass (Performance Table Point 1) to Level 2 Distinction* (Performance Table Point 8.5).

What skills will I gain from studying Health and Social Care?

As well as the specific subject knowledge gained from studying Health and Social Care, you will develop many transferable and work-related skills that are highly valued by employers and universities. These include the ability to critically evaluate information and data, effectively communicate with individuals and groups and produce well-judged arguments. Through the internally assessed units you will develop the ability to write concisely, clearly and accurately and will effectively use ICT.

What else should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Miss C Socratous, Lead Teacher of Health and Social Care.



HISTORY GCSE

Edexcel: [Edexcel GCSE History \(2016\)](#) | Pearson qualifications

Subject Details

The Edexcel History course aims to:

- Develop and extend student's knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history; and of the wide diversity of human experience.
- Engage students in historical enquiry to develop them as independent learners as well as critical and reflective thinkers.
- Develop student's ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context.
- Develop student's awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them.
- Help students organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions.

How will I be assessed?

There are three examinations at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (1 Hour 20 Minutes)

- Medicine in Britain c1250-present
- The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study (1 Hour 50 Minutes)

- Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 AND
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (1 Hour 30 Minutes)

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

What skills will I gain from studying History?

- The ability to discuss and debate issues
- The ability to write effective extended pieces of work
- Knowledge of modern issues linking to citizenship and politics
- Ability to evaluate evidence critically and reach a conclusion
- Opportunity to undertake independent research
- An understanding of how the past can be interpreted in different ways

Career Links

History provides students with a very broad range of skills which are highly valued by employers (eg the ability to evaluate information and the skill required to present an argument). In addition, the subject has relevance to careers such as law, business and personnel management. People as diverse as Gordon Brown, Jonathan Ross, Michael Palin, Al Murray and Chris Martin from Coldplay have History degrees.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Mrs L Gray, Head of History.

MEDIA STUDIES (GCSE)

OCR: [GCSE - Media Studies \(9-1\) - J200 - OCR](#)

Course Details

GCSE in Media Studies helps students develop a wider understanding and appreciation of the media, both historical and contemporary, and their role in society, culture and politics. Students apply their academic knowledge in the creation of their own media production.

Course Structure and Assessment

Unit	Assessment Method	Description
Television and Promoting Media (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Written Exam.1 hour 45 mins	<p>There are two sections:</p> <p>In section A: Television, students engage with an in-depth study of one contemporary and one historic television products, responding to questions covering the whole of the theoretical framework and a range of media contexts</p> <p>In section B: Promoting media, students study media products from the same global conglomerate producer illustrating the media forms of film, advertising and</p>
Music and News (02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Written Exam.1 hour 15 mins	<p>There are two sections:</p> <p>In section A: Music, students engage with one in-depth study covering magazines, a comparative study of music videos and a study of contemporary radio.</p> <p>In section B: News, students engage with one in-depth study of online news, including its social and participatory media. Students also study contemporary and historical newspaper front pages and how they illustrate changing social, cultural, historical and political contexts.</p>
Creating Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NEA	Students apply their knowledge and understanding of media language and representations to create media products of their own, using the theoretical framework to express and communicate meaning to an intended

What skills will I gain from studying Media Studies?

The most commonly acknowledged type of skills gained from media studies are communication skills, critical reading and thinking, research, presentation and digital creativity.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Next steps for this course include the Cambridge Advanced National in Computing: Application Development or A Level Media Studies.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Miss S. Burton, Head of ICT & Computing.

MICROSOFT OFFICE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

MOS: Microsoft Office Specialist - Prodigy Learning

Course Details

Demonstrate that you have the skills needed to get the most out of Office by earning a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification in a specific Office program.

The course enables students to access the full features and functionality of Microsoft Office, resulting in increased academic and job performance, individual differentiation and personal confidence.

How will I be assessed?

To achieve Microsoft Office Specialist Certification students will sit a performance-based exam conducted in a "live," or simulated, environment. Exam candidates are asked to perform a series of tasks to clearly demonstrate their skills.

What units can I study within the Microsoft Office Specialist Certification?

Word	Enhanced features, collaborative tools and almost anywhere file access make it easy to create high-quality documents.
Excel	New analysis, visualization and access tools make it easier to manage and share data.
PowerPoint	Exciting and easy-to-use audio/visual capabilities make it simple to create powerful, polished presentations.
Access	Simplified tools and new Web databases make it easier to track, report and share information.
Outlook	Advanced e-mail organization, search, communication and social networking features enhance productivity.

Is there anything else I need to know?

- The number of job postings in the cloud computing industry is growing so rapidly that there aren't enough qualified workers available to fill the positions. Earn your Microsoft Certification, and be part of the solution.
- All Microsoft Office Specialist exams are administered by Certiport.
- When you pass a Microsoft Certification exam, you become a member of the Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) community, with access to all of the benefits provided through the Microsoft Certification Program. You can use your Microsoft account to access your benefits and exams dashboard and to find lots of ways to keep your skills relevant, applicable, and competitive.
- This course will be delivered in after school sessions. At this stage we are collating an expression of interest and will confirm details about the delivery of the course at a later date.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Miss S. Burton, Head of ICT & Computing.

MUSIC (GCSE)

Eduqas: [GCSE Music](#) | Eduqas

Why study GCSE Music?

GCSE Music offers fantastic opportunities to further your musical and creative development, whether pursuing a career in music or experiencing the benefits it offers in a wide range of career choices. You will be equipped with all the skills you need to write and produce music on our industry-standard software in the Production Suite and Studio. You will be guided to produce high-quality performances in both a solo and ensemble/group context. To assist with this, the cost of instrumental lessons on your first instrument will be covered by the school. Through the examination component, you will learn how to listen to a variety of musical styles with a critical ear, allowing it to inform your own music performance and composition work. We cover a broad range of styles, learn about the techniques and theory behind them and show you how to apply them to your own music-making.

How will I be assessed?

Performance (30%): You will produce a Solo and Ensemble/Group performance on your chosen instrument(s)/voice, with a combined total duration of between four and six minutes. You will have a number of opportunities to record your performances, accompanied by regular feedback to ensure you constantly improve and submit your best work. Performances are expected to be of a Grade 3 level or higher standard by Year 11, so it is advisable that students already have some experience on their instrument (including voice) and are open to supporting their progress by taking instrumental lessons.

Composition (30%): You will complete two compositions, a Composition to a Brief and a Own Choice Composition, which will combine to a total of between three and six minutes. You can choose to write in a style that suits your tastes and strengths. Previous examples have included song-writing, film music and classically-inspired pieces. Composition work is completed on the mac computers using Music Production Software (Logic Pro), Music Notation (Musescore) packages and the department instruments.

Listening and Appraising (40%): You will develop your understanding of musical concepts and your ability to listen to and make critical judgements about music. There are four Areas of Study which are explored: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensembles, Film Music and Pop Music and Fusions; alongside which are two set works that you will study in detail: 'Badinerie' by J. S. Bach and 'Africa' by Toto. Over the course, you will learn to recognise key features of different musical styles and eras and explore how the different musical elements work together in a variety of different music. This knowledge is assessed in your final examination in the second year.



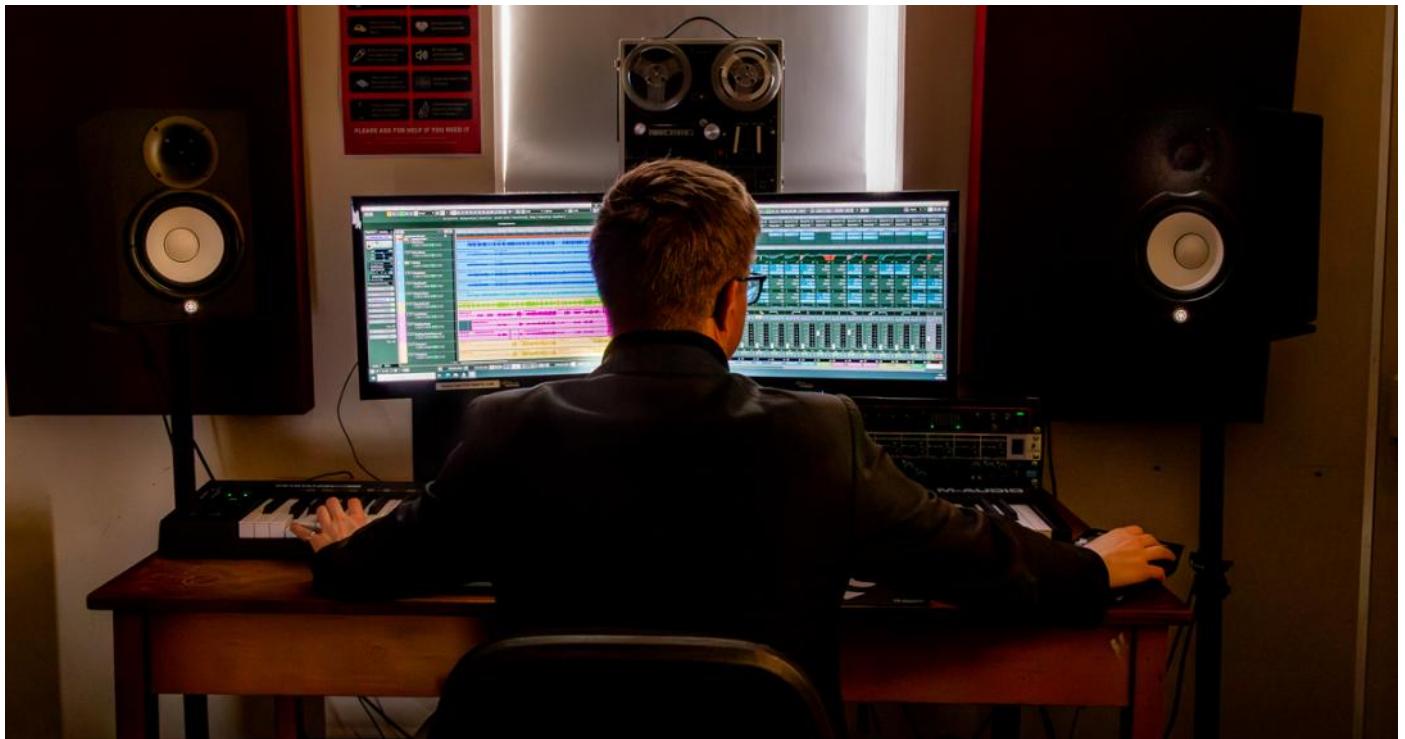
Additional Comments:

- All GCSE Music students are expected to attend an extra-curricular ensemble which supports their main instrument.
- Lessons on the student's first instrument are covered by the school and are carried out within the school day on a rotated timetable. Lessons do still need to be applied for through the normal application process to ensure provision.

Course Overview:		
Unit 1: Performance (30%) (40%)	Unit 2: Composition (30%)	Unit 3: Appraising
Performance 1: Solo 15	Composition 1: To a Brief	Examination (1 hour minutes)
Performance 2: Ensemble Bach, Combined Total 4-6 minutes	Composition 2: Own Choice Combined Total 3-6 minutes	2 Set Works (J. S. Toto) 4 Areas of Study

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Mr S Willey, Director of Music.



PEARSON BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN PERFORMING ARTS

Pearson: [Performing Arts \(2022\)](#) | [BTEC Tech Awards](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#)

Performing Arts is a fun, exciting and challenging subject. You will not only create your own original plays but also bring existing plays to life.

Drama gives you many of the skills employers look for. You will practice building up your team, leadership, self-confidence, research, independence and motivational skills so that you can progress confidently into any career path.

For a performer it's about understanding what it's like to put yourself in someone else's shoes and empathise with the different roles and situations they find themselves in. It's an emotional and intellectual journey that allows you to get in touch with your creativity.

Course Details

This is a course that requires you to perform in front of others and there will be lots of written work too!

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award is a Level 2 qualification equivalent to ONE GCSE. It is a practical, work related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.

The Grades you can achieve are: Level 2 Pass (equivalent to GCSE 4), Level 2 Merit (GCSE 5)

Level 2 Distinction (GCSE 6/7), Level 2 Distinction * (GCSE 8)

However, if a Level 2 is not achieved you will still be able to achieve a Level 1 Award.

How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of three components.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (Internally assessed and externally moderated)

This component will help you to understand the requirements of being a performer or designer across a range of different performance styles such as Naturalism, Physical theatre and Epic Theatre.

You will analyse live performances, take part in workshops exploring the different styles and keep a log book recording your work and progress. You will then write a report based upon these professional performance in response from a set task and theme given by the exam board.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (Internally assessed and externally moderated)

In this component, you will develop performing or design skills and techniques. You will take part in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. You will work from existing performing arts repertoire, applying relevant skills and techniques to reproduce performance or design elements of the work. You will keep a logbook charting your progress as a performer or designer. You will then write a report based upon your performance in response from a set task and theme given by the exam board.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief (Externally assessed)

In the final year you will work in groups to produce a piece of theatre based upon stimulus given by Pearson. You will have twelve weeks to prepare and rehearse for this workshop performance and you will keep logbook entries charting your ideas, development and progress.

What skills will I gain from studying Performing Arts?

Performing: movement, vocal, presentation skills. Team and social skills such as reliability, cooperation, problem-solving, decision making, confidence, communication. You will also develop your independent learning and research skills.

Is there anything else I need to know?

This is a course that requires you to perform and there will be lots of written work too!

BTEC Performing Arts is a group subject and so you need to be reliable, positive and hard working as you will not want to let your group down! You need to be able to give and take feedback about your performances and so you will need to be robust and strong. You will need to be creative and solve problems. Although it is a practical subject there are lots of logbooks to be completed and so you need to keep on top of this and complete homework and any independent learning regularly.

What should I do if I need further information?

Contact Miss D Service, Head of Drama.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (GCSE)

Pearson: [GCSE Physical Education 2016: Specification](#)

Course Details

60% Exam-based assessment (2 x exams)

30% Practical (3 sports)

10% PEP Controlled Assessment

How will I be assessed?

You will learn all about how the body works, how this links to sport and leading a healthy, balanced lifestyle. This will be examined in the summer of Y11. Over the course you will generally have 4/5 lessons in a classroom and 1/5 as practical sessions (one practical every two weeks). You should be participating in at least one of your three sports outside of school, we will look at some sports in GCSE PE and core PE and internally assess your performance to award your three highest sporting performances.

Examinations

Two exams with a range of multi-choice, short and extended questions:

Physical Factors affecting training (applied anatomy & physiology and physical training)

Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (socio, sports psychology and health, fitness and well-being)

Practical Performance

You will put forward your best THREE sports; one team, one individual and one other activity. You will complete practical's in CORE PE and some in GCSE PE where we will score you on curriculum activities. There is opportunity to put alternative sports forward; however, the list is limited to those outlined using the link below. We strongly recommend that students taking GCSE PE take up at least one extra-curricular club in school to improve their performance.

PEP

A controlled assessment, focusing on training for improvement in a chosen weakness in your sport.

Course outline - [GCSE Physical Education 2016: Specification](#)

Sports criteria - [Practical Performance Assessment Criteria](#)

Be assessed in three different activities in the role of player/performer

One activity must be an individual sport

One activity must be a team sport

Students can only be assessed once in any sport or activity

What skills will I gain from studying Physical Education?

You will gain further experience of both practical and theoretical PE. This will help you to develop a wide range of skills, including team work, independence, performance, observation and coaching (teaching skills). You will assess both your performance as well as other students' performances.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The theory content has links with Science, Mathematics and Core PE. It also requires you to answer extended questions; therefore, linking closely with English.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact Mrs N Coombes, Head of PE or ask any PE Staff.

SUBJECTS OFFERED POST-16

If you are interested in finding out more then follow the link below to the Sixth Form Prospectus.
[Sixth-Form-Information-Booklet-2024.pdf](#)

Course	Level
Accounting	A Level
Art	A Level
Biology	A Level
Business	A Level
Chemistry	A Level
Design & Technology – Product Design	A Level
Economics	A Level
English Language	A Level
English Literature	A Level
French	A Level
Geography	A Level
German	A Level
Health & Social Care - Certificate	BTEC Level 3
History	A Level
ICT – Cambridge Technicals	OCR Level 3
Mathematics	A Level
Mathematics – Further Mathematics	A Level
Medical Science	Diploma
Music	A Level
Music Technology	A Level
Performing Arts	BTEC Level 3
Physics	A Level
Physical Education	A Level
Physical Education - BTEC National Certificate in Sport	BTEC Level 3
Psychology	A Level
Religious Studies	A Level
Sociology	A Level
Core Mathematical Studies	Level 3



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