



KEY STAGE 4

TOOT HILL
SCHOOL

OPTIONS 2018



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WELCOME

The selection of courses at Key Stage 4 is one of the key moments in your secondary education. Since September 2010 all Toot Hill pupils have followed a three-year Key Stage 4 programme, starting in Year 9. This provides the best opportunity for you to achieve your full potential and secure success by the end of Year 11.

The ever-changing political landscape continues to impact on our curriculum provision and we must respond to such changes in a way that gives you the greatest advantage in higher education or employment. Major GCSE reforms have recently been implemented, but please be assured that we have taken all the necessary steps to ensure you are well prepared for these changes.

Selecting the right courses is not always a straightforward decision. Making choices at this earlier stage becomes more difficult because of limited experience of different subjects. However, we aim to ensure that the information and guidance provided will alleviate some of these issues. It is important that you understand your own strengths and weaknesses so that you can optimise your chances of success. Equally, we trust that you will select courses in which you have a real interest.

It is important that you listen to the advice of teachers, parents and friends but ultimately you must arrive at your own decision and accept the responsibility of giving your best efforts to achieve success. You should avoid making a decision based upon poor information. Responding to pressures from others or doing the same as a friend is not recommended (even if your friend has picked the same courses, you may well be in different teaching groups).

Please read the information in this brochure, together with the Year 8 Progress Check data and teacher comments before making these choices. The Options Information Evening (**Tuesday 6 February 2018**) will aim to provide further guidance. There will also be the opportunity at the Year 8 Parents' Evening (**Tuesday 27 February 2018** and **Wednesday 7 March 2018**) to ask questions of subject teachers as to the appropriateness of option choices.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



WHAT WILL I STUDY NEXT YEAR?

You will follow a curriculum comprising of four key elements:

- The core curriculum
- A Humanities choice
- A Modern Foreign Language choice
- Optional subjects

The curriculum at Toot Hill School has been designed to enable you to realise your potential in every subject. The changing landscape in education means that the quantity of GCSEs taken is no longer the priority; grade 9–11 GCSEs are very challenging and benefit from extra classroom learning time if you are to be able to access the highest grades.

The core curriculum

When you enter Year 9 in September, you will be studying the following core subjects:

- English and English Literature (two GCSE courses)
- Mathematics
- Science (Separate Sciences or Combined Science: Trilogy)
- Physical Education

- Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (now being delivered as themed days)
- Religious Studies

Humanities choice

Geography or History.

Languages choice

The majority of students will study a foreign language in Years 9–11. This must be the same language as chosen and studied in Year 8:

- French
- Spanish

A minority of students will not study a foreign language because of course suitability but these admission decisions will be made later in the year. Note that students will not be able to study two foreign languages in Years 9–11.

In total all students will study a minimum of eight GCSE subjects.

Optional subjects

The subjects below will all be offered in the option blocks and you will be asked to choose **any two** different subjects and two reserve choices from the following list:

GCSE

- Art and Design
- Art: Textiles and Fashion
- Business Studies
- Citizenship Studies
- Computing
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Vocational

- BTEC Engineering
- BTEC Performing Arts (Acting or Production)*
- BTEC Performing Arts (Dance)*
- BTEC Sport
- Cambridge National Child Development
- WJEC Hospitality and Catering

*You cannot study both BTEC Dance and BTEC Acting or Production as they are two strands of the same course

Please note that you are expected to follow Geography or History as a core subject but can then choose further humanities courses to study as optional subjects.

For some, the demands of two option subjects in addition to core subjects may be inappropriate. The Learning Support Department offer a Level 1 Diploma in skills to enable progression (AIM), which has the scope to be tailored to meet your interests and needs and which can prepare you for more vocational life pathways. Mrs Kitchener will speak to you if this course may be appropriate for you.



THE 9–1 GCSE GRADES

GCSE reform

All GCSE courses are currently undergoing major reforms that include more challenging content, the removal of controlled assessments and a completely new grading system.

In the new GCSEs, assessments in most subjects will be by examination only—there will be no controlled assessments. All examinations will normally be taken in May/June of your final year, Year 11. There will be no modular examinations along the way, so the terminal examinations at the end of Year 11 will count as your full grade.

A new grading system of 9–1 is being introduced for all GCSE courses that will be taken in 2018 onwards (from 2017 in English and Mathematics). This new grading system replaces the current A*–G system. A grade 7 on the new system will be roughly equivalent in standard to the current A grade and a grade 4 will be roughly equivalent in standard to the current C grade. Grade 5 is the standard considered nationally to be a ‘good pass’, whereas grade 4 is considered a ‘standard pass’. It is expected that grade 9 will be achieved by the top 30% of the current A* grade student cohort.

Raising of Participation Age (RPA)

In 2013 the Government changed the age that young people can leave education or training. You now need to remain in education or training until you are 18 years old. However, this does not mean you will be required to stay in school.

There will be three ways in which you can participate post-16:

- Full time education in a school or college;
- An apprenticeship;
- Part-time accredited learning if you are in full-time employment or volunteering.



KEY DATES

Friday 2 February 2018

Receive Options Brochure

Tuesday 6 February 2018

Year 8 Option Information Evening
6.00pm and 7.30pm

Wednesday 14 February 2018

Year 8 Options Taster Day

Friday 16 February 2018

Reports issued

Tuesday 27 February 2018

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 7 March 2018

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Friday 16 March 2018

Deadline to hand in completed Options Form



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How will I know if I have to study a language?

As a rough guide, most pupils currently in base tiers H–L will not have to study a language as one of their options. The tiered groupings will be reviewed at the end of this academic year. Your final tier placement, at the end of this academic year, will determine whether a language is mandatory for you.

How will I know if I have to study Separate Sciences?

If you are in base tiers A–D you will be expected to study Separate Sciences. The tiered groupings will be reviewed at the end of this academic year. Your final tier placement, at the end of this academic year, will determine whether Separate Sciences is a suitable GCSE pathway for you.

What are BTEC, Cambridge National and WJEC courses?

These are qualifications designed to provide a broad-based education from which you can progress to further education, further training or directly into employment. At Key Stage 4, BTEC First Awards and Cambridge National

Certificates are being offered in Acting or Production, Dance, Engineering and Sport. These are equivalent to one GCSE. A WJEC (Welsh Joint Education Committee) course in Hospitality and Catering is also being offered.

What grades can I get in a BTEC First Award and WJEC courses?

You can gain a Level 1 Pass (equivalent to grades 3–5 at GCSE) or a Level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction at the end of the course. A Level 2 Pass is equivalent to GCSE grade 5. A Level 2 Merit is equivalent to GCSE grade 6 and a Level 2 Distinction is equivalent to GCSE grade 7.

What grades can I get in a Cambridge National Certificate?

You can gain a Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction or a Level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction at the end of the course. A Level 2 Pass is equivalent to GCSE grade 5. A Level 2 Merit is equivalent to GCSE grade 6 and a Level 2 Distinction is equivalent to GCSE grade 7. A Level 1 Pass is equivalent to GCSE grade 2. A Level 1 Merit is equivalent to GCSE grade 3 and a Level 1 Distinction is equivalent to GCSE grade 4.

How are BTEC First Diplomas and Cambridge Nationals viewed in Higher Education?

Universities accept all courses with an equivalence to GCSE when considering UCAS applications from students at Toot Hill College.

Is there the opportunity to gain qualifications before the end of Year 11?

Due to the implementation of new and more challenging specifications, the loss of controlled assessments, the introduction of terminal, linear examinations and a new grading system that differentiates more at the top end, it is unlikely that you will be ready to sit examinations early.

Completion of the courses in Year 11 will enable the highest ability learners to achieve the new grade 9, a grade only achieved by approximately 3% of students nationally.

If I want to go on to study at Toot Hill College after Year 11, which subjects would be best?

There are no 'best' options to prepare you for further study—keep your options broad and balanced. If you wish to study A Level subjects at Toot Hill College, you will need to secure at least a grade 4 in GCSE English Language and a grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics. There are also subject-specific entry requirements to gain entry to a college course, with the vast majority of courses requiring a grade 5 in the matching course being studied at GCSE.

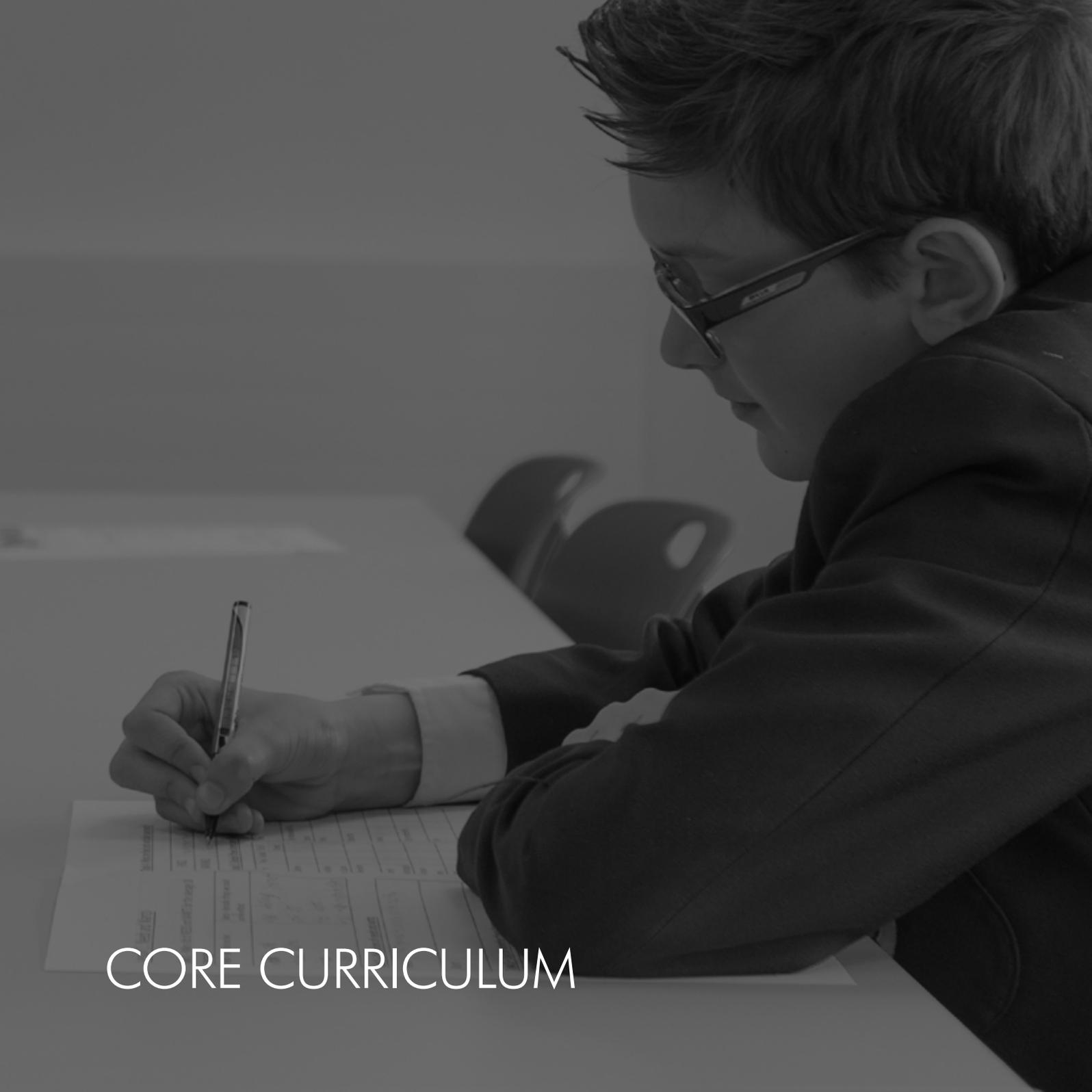
The college also provides a range of BTEC National courses, which are equivalent to A Levels and build on the BTEC qualifications at Level 2.

If I can't decide between two subjects, who should I talk to?

Talk to your teachers, parents, tutor or Head of Year. Remember to consider your own strengths, interests, needs and career plans in making your final choice.

Can Toot Hill School guarantee that all optional courses listed in this brochure will run next year for Year 9 students?

At Toot Hill School we design a curriculum that caters for the needs and choices of as many students as possible. However, in extreme cases where the number of students opting for a certain course is unusually low, we cannot guarantee that this course will run.



CORE CURRICULUM



GCSE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

Paper 1: **Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing** 50% (1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper 2: **Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives** 50% (1 hour 45 minutes)

Reading: You will analyse a range of unseen modern and pre 20th century non-fiction and literary extracts for the reading sections of the exams.

Writing: You will be required to write one non-fiction text such as an article, letter, website entry or a speech for a specified audience and purpose. In addition, you will write one creative text, either a description or narrative, prompted by an image.

Assessment details

100% examination. Throughout the course you will complete assessments linked to exam questions and criteria.

Additional information

There are no set texts for this part of the course though you should read a variety of non-fiction and literary texts to prepare you for the demands of the exam.

English qualifications open doors to college courses and are highly regarded by UCAS and employers. Some careers involving English skills include journalism, publishing, law and marketing.



GCSE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

Paper 1: Shakespeare and Nineteenth Century Novel
40% (1 hour, 45 minutes)

Section A: Shakespeare

You will answer one question on the play you have studied. You 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

You will answer one question on the novel you have studied. You 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 60% (2 hours, 15 minutes)

Section A: Modern Texts

You will answer one essay question from a choice of two on your studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B: Poetry

You will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from your chosen anthology cluster.

Section C: Unseen Poetry

You will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Assessment details

100% examination—two exams at the end of Year 11. Throughout the course you will complete practice exam-style questions.

Additional information

You will be required to buy set texts to be annotated in class—letters will be sent out with further information on these.

English qualifications open doors to college courses and are highly regarded by UCAS and employers. Some careers involving English skills include journalism, publishing, law and marketing.



GCSE

MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

The GCSE Maths course continues to develop the skills and understanding you have already been working on during Key Stage 3. Topics are based on the core areas of number, algebra, proportional reasoning, geometry, probability and statistics.

Assessment details

100% examination. There are two tiers of entry for the final exam: Foundation, which covers grades 1–5 and Higher, which covers grades 4–9. At each level, you will sit three exam papers at the end of the course.

At the beginning of Year 9, you will be allocated to a group based primarily on your achievement in the June examination in Year 8.

The path that you take through the content will be based on your previous achievement. At various times throughout the course you will sit an internally-assessed exam in order to show your current progress and what you need to do to improve further.

Final decisions about tiers of entry are not made until the later stage of the course.

Additional information

For Maths lessons you will need to bring your equipment to every lesson. You should have a pen, a pencil, a ruler, a protractor, compasses and a scientific calculator.



PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education covers the recommended elements for PSHE and elements of Citizenship that are not covered elsewhere in the curriculum.

There will not be timetabled lessons of PSHCE. Instead the programme is delivered through three themed days per year group per year—in Years 9, 10 and 11.

The themes covered are:

Health and well-being: You will have workshops on healthy eating, first aid, body image, drugs and alcohol and sexual health.

Financial capability: You will have workshops on money management, bank accounts, etc.

Citizenship: You will have a day on enterprise, creating a small business and raising money. On Politics Day you will create a political party along with policies, vote collecting, hustings and a mock election.

Careers: There is an intensive programme for careers helping you to make the important decisions for post-16 options. There is a mock interview day along with CV and personal statement writing and detailed advice on career pathways.

Along with tutors and PSHCE teachers, a number of outside providers are used, charities and theatre groups to make the presentation of PSHCE and careers as exciting and current as possible. The school responds where appropriate to topical issues or concerns we have in school.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board: Sports Leaders UK (www.sportsleaders.org)

All pupils will take part in three lessons of Physical Education per week, known as 'Core PE'. Following on from the work covered in Key Stage 3, the activities included in the Key Stage 4 curriculum will be Games, Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, Swimming and Fitness (aerobics, circuit training, jogging, and Fitzys—Year 11 only). You are required to follow at least two activities in depth to comply with the National Curriculum.

Maximum participation by pupils is expected throughout Key Stage 4 so that the following objectives can be achieved:

- Improve personal health and fitness and enhance awareness of issues surrounding this
- Develop more advanced skills and tactical knowledge in the activities undertaken
- Further develop awareness of safety
- Critically assess and evaluate performances
- Develop key skills which will enable the roles of coach, official, umpire, referee, choreographer and leader to be undertaken successfully

Sports Leaders Level 1 Award

Within the Core PE curriculum time, you may undertake

the Sports Leaders Level 1 Award (SL1), which is a nationally recognised award that helps develop leadership qualities through sport. Although practically based, it does not focus on performance but the ability to organise and manage sporting activities safely and effectively.

Course outline

The Sports Leader Level 1 Award is ideal if you have an interest in coaching or teaching younger children. During theory work, you will have opportunity to:

- Appreciate personal, social and mental factors that affect participation, lifestyle and performance
- Understand the detailed physiological and psychological knowledge of how the body systems work together and respond to training
- Look at the organisation of sport within this country
- Carry out risk assessment and basic first aid in physical activity

Assessment details

1 hour demonstration of leadership . You will be assessed in the planning and delivery of sports sessions.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies is a compulsory part of education and consequently all students will receive their entitlement.

The topics covered include:

British values—what is it like to be a religious believer in Britain today?

Ethical themes such as:

- Is it ever justifiable to use violence?
- Is everyone equal?
- Is it ever acceptable to end the life of another?

The school has designed an exciting curriculum in Religious Studies that is dynamic and responds to the many topical issues present in the world today.



SCIENCE PATHWAYS



GCSE BIOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

Biology is a complex and broad science. You will enjoy this course if you are interested in all aspects of living organisms, how they work and how they interact with their environment. The GCSE course looks at the following topics:

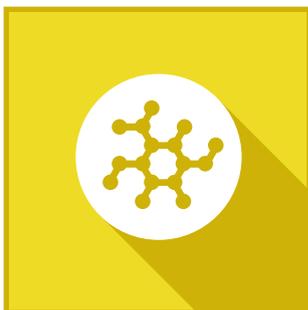
- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Assessment details

100% examination—two 1 hour 45 minute papers, each worth 50%. Papers will include multiple choice, long and short answer questions.

Additional information

Biology is a highly valued subject that provides students with a wide variety of skills and knowledge that help to prepare students for KS5. The course is an essential subject for areas of study such as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Sports Science whether it be as a separate science or part of the combined science course.



GCSE

CHEMISTRY

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

Throughout GCSE Chemistry you will develop and enhance your knowledge on a range of topics. The themes that you will cover include:

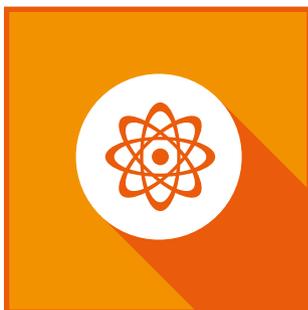
- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere

Assessment details

100% examination—two 1 hour 45 minute papers, each worth 50%. Papers will include multiple choice, long and short answer questions.

Additional information

Chemistry is an essential subject for areas of study such as Medicine and Veterinary Science, but will also open the door to exciting careers at the cutting edge of disciplines such as Materials Science, Engineering, Pharmaceuticals and the Petrochemical industry.



GCSE

PHYSICS

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

Physics plays a big part in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The main topics you will cover are:

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

Assessment details

100% examination—two 1 hour 45 minute papers, each worth 50%. Papers will include multiple choice, long and short answer questions.

Additional information

Physics is a highly valued subject that provides a strong grounding in knowledge and skills applicable to a wide variety of careers, as well as giving you a good grounding in the subject, preparing you for study at Key Stage 5.

The course will equip you for possible careers in Mathematical Sciences, Engineering, Medicine and Veterinary Science, Finance, Design and Technology, Architecture, Defence, Computing and Education.



GCSE

COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

This is a combined course—you will be taught the three science disciplines as separate subjects, however, you will receive two GCSEs in Science as a combined award.

Biology

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

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis

- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

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

Assessment details

100% examination—six 1 hour 15 minute papers, each worth 16.7%. Papers will include multiple choice, long and short answer questions.

Additional information

You will be expected to bring a scientific calculator to all lessons (e.g. Casio FX-GT83) along with normal equipment such as a ruler, a pen and a pencil.



HUMANITIES CHOICE



GCSE

GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

In Geography you will look at two main themes:

Physical Geography: You will explore threats to human survival: extreme weather, tectonic hazards (earthquakes and volcanoes) and climate change; look at what is special about the UK landscapes: roaring rivers and dramatic coasts; investigate what is destroying our planet; how humans exploit the rainforest; and the stage for World War Three: Antarctica.

Human Geography: Poor world cities and rich world cities—challenges and opportunities for people living there; ‘Is it OK for some people to be poor?’ (tackling the poverty crisis); and ‘Will we run out of puff?’ (resource issues focusing on food, energy and water).

Assessment details

100% examination—two exams covering all the content above, fieldwork and decision-making skills. Question types include multiple choice, short response, data analysis and case study questions.

Additional information

A GCSE in Geography will develop a range of transferable skills including communication and strong presentation skills, competent IT skills, independent research, the ability to work effectively in a team in a variety of roles, effective time management, and combining information from a variety of sources with excellent writing skills. These could be useful in the following areas: an expedition leader, a travel writer, a TV researcher, a conservation worker, an architect, an urban planner, an environmental consultant, a financial risk assessor, a banker, an accountant, a lawyer, a transport/logistics manager, a diplomat, Voluntary Service Oversea (VSO), a human rights officer, the armed forces, a surveyor, a town planner, an environmental engineer (all fields of engineering), marketing, a social worker, a hydrologist, hazard prediction and management and a weather presenter.



GCSE

HISTORY

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

In History you will cover four exciting and varied topics:

Hitler's Germany: Experience a dramatic time during which Hitler came to power and plunged Germany and the world into war. You will explore how Hitler kept the support of many Germans whilst killing millions including the Jews.

The Cold War: Look at a period when the world came to brink of nuclear war and Armageddon but was saved in the nick of time. Were the Americans right to use the atomic bomb? Why was the Berlin Wall built? Why was the Cuban Missile Crisis so dangerous?

The Norman Conquest: A leap back in time to meet William—Viking invader, castle builder and rebel killer!

The People's Health: 'Horrible History' at its best; blood, guts and gore! You will explore surgery and treatment, become aid workers, disease hunters and medical experts.

Assessment details

100% examination—two exams each worth 50% of overall grade.

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

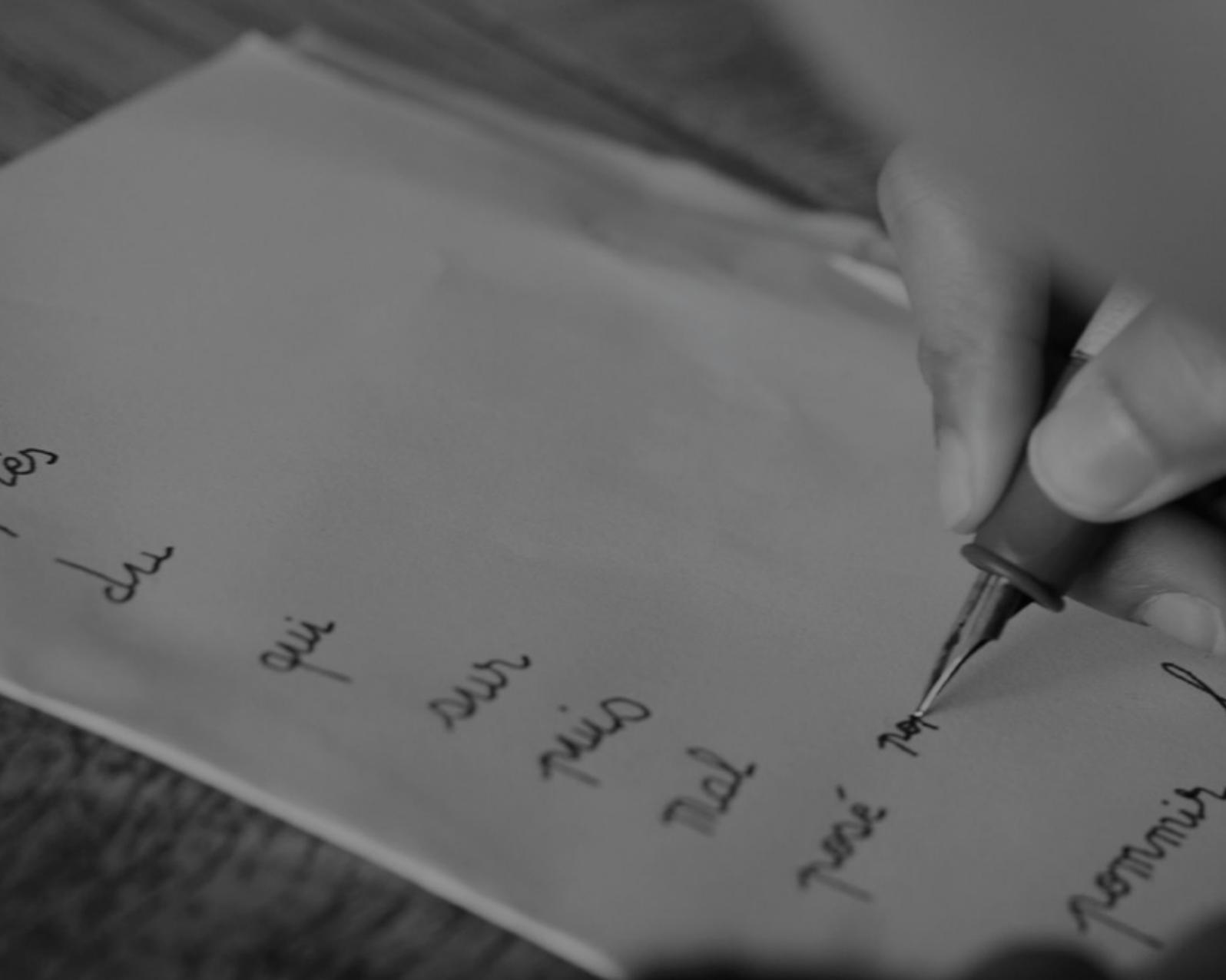
Paper 2: Shaping the nation

Question types include short answers, knowledge based answers and source questions.

Additional information

History is full of transferable skills, such as the ability to conduct research using different types of tools, the capacity to be a problem solver, the inspiration to be a creative thinker, an understanding of different people and societies, the skills to argue a case and to express your ideas clearly, essential debating, communication and ICT skills, and additional communication skills, such as negotiating, questioning and summarising.

History has been voted one of the top transferable subjects by Oxbridge universities. Careers include an advertising executive, an accountant, an analyst, an archivist, an archaeologist, a broadcaster, a business professional, an explorer, a diplomat, a campaign worker, a consultant, an editor, a foreign service officer, a journalist, a lawyer, a lecturer, a legal assistant, a manager, a politician, a public relations officer, a teacher, a social worker and many more.



LANGUAGES CHOICE



GCSE

FRENCH OR SPANISH

Exam Board: Edexcel (qualifications.pearson.com)

Course outline

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics. The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Assessment details

100% examination—25% reading, 25% speaking, 25% listening and 25% writing.

Additional information

There are many reasons for studying languages at GCSE. You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak French, Spanish or German. You will learn about the countries where the language is

spoken and get a lot more out of a trip there.

You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects and learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers.

You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad. Those who can offer a language in addition to other skills are likely to be paid 10–20% more and are highly sought after in the job market both in the UK and abroad.

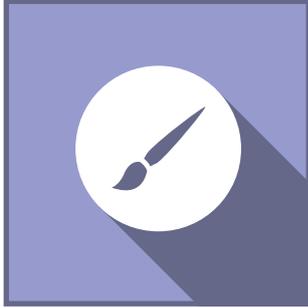
At university, you can combine a language with practically any other subject. There are over 450 available combinations.

The ability to speak two foreign languages is a qualification which few people can offer, and is a skill which puts you ahead of the competition.

As the numbers of pupils in school who are studying a language continue to decrease, so are the numbers of students applying to study for a degree in languages at university. If you decide to apply to study languages, you are in with a very good chance of securing a place. In 2015, 42% of students applying to the University of Cambridge to study languages were successful in securing a place.



OPTIONAL GCSE
COURSES



GCSE

ART AND DESIGN

Exam Board: Edexcel ([qualifications.pearson.com](https://www.pearson.com/qualifications/edexcel))

Course outline

In Year 9 you will research specialist techniques to explore and understand a range of practices such as 2D drawing and painting skills; use of presentation within a sketchbook; researching and responding to an artist; photography skills; digital editing as well as learning mixed media techniques.

In Year 10 and 11 you will explore a range of projects focusing on different themes around the areas of drawing, artist research, responses and developmental studies. In order to gain examination experience you will complete a 10 hour mock exam and produce preparatory studies around a set theme. This will count towards 60% of your final controlled assessment grade.

The exam, which is worth 40%, is directed by the examination board but will be similar to the controlled assessment sketchbook. At the end of this, you will produce a final piece in examination conditions.

Assessment details

60% controlled assessment, 40% examination. Both controlled assessment and exam work will be assessed through the Edexcel board's assessment criteria over four key assessment objectives: recording, experimenting, developing and producing an outcome.

Additional information

A GCSE in Art and Design can lead to studying A Level Art as well as developing a breadth of creative skills which compliment a wide range of subjects and career paths.



GCSE

ART: FASHION AND TEXTILES

Exam Board: Edexcel (qualifications.pearson.com)

Course outline

GCSE Art: Fashion and Textiles is a creative course that will inspire all budding designers. It is a fast and furious intense three years, full of new techniques and ideas inspired by interior and fashion designers.

Textile design involves an arrangement of different disciplines embracing both contemporary and traditional technologies. These involve the specialisms of Constructed Textiles, Dyed Textiles, Printed Textiles, Fine Art Textiles and Fashion Textiles. This allows you to explore and understand all types of techniques in Year 9. You are then able to produce individual projects in the form of sketchbook work as well as understanding the importance of presentation and researching and responding to artists/designers in Years 10 and 11. Imaginative designs will be produced and developed into appropriate outcomes.

Assessment details

60% controlled assessment, 40% examination. Both controlled assessment and exam work will be assessed through the Edexcel board's assessment criteria over four key assessment objectives: recording, experimenting, developing and producing an outcome.

Additional information

A GCSE in Textile Design can lead to studying A Level Textiles Design as well as developing a breadth of creative skills which compliment a wide range of subjects and career paths.



GCSE

BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

You will learn to apply business knowledge to a range of case studies from both small and large businesses: local, national and international.

The course will be divided into a number of topics including business start ups, external influences, finance, marketing, human resources and operations.

You will gain skills including application to real life companies, quantitative skills linking to revenue and profit amongst others and the interpretation of financial accounts and market research.

Assessment details

100% examination—two 60 minute papers (proposed).

Additional information

There are many paths you can take using a Business Studies GCSE, from setting up your own business to working in various departments of an international corporation. Business Studies is useful for both everyday working life and specialist disciplines in successful companies.



GCSE

CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

Exam Board: OCR (www.ocr.org.uk)

Course outline

If you are interested in law, politics and enjoy debating, discussing worldwide issues and people listening to your viewpoints then this is the subject for you.

In Citizenship Studies, you will study:

- **Rights, the law and the legal system in England and Wales**
Including human rights, different types of law, how laws are made in England and Wales, roles of the police, the courts, types of punishment and crime rates.
- **Democracy and the Government**
Including the UK Government, politics, party manifestos, media releases, voting and how you could become an MP!
- **The economy, finance and money**
Including public taxes and expenditure (on welfare, health, education or the needs of the elderly), pressure groups, charities and faith groups.

- **The role of the media and free press**
Including moral responsibility to reporting accurate reports that are respectful to peoples' privacy and dignity, media regulation and also how media is used by people in power to influence citizens.
- **UK and the wider world**
Including migration and seeking asylum, identity and diversity, control of the immigration to the UK, the European Union and United Nations and decisions during times of war and conflict.

Assessment details

100% examination—the assessment will comprise of multiple choice questions, short written answers and extended writing.

Additional information

A GCSE in Citizenship Studies can lead to a career as a lawyer, an MP, a social worker, a police officer, a judge, a journalist / news reporter and many more.



GCSE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam Board: OCR (www.ocr.org.uk)

Course outline

In GCSE Computer Science you will cover the following topics:

Computer systems

- Systems architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- Network security
- System software
- Moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Translators and facilities of languages
- Algorithms
- High and low level programming
- Computational logic
- Data representation

Programming project

- Programming techniques
- Design
- Development
- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Technical understanding
- Testing, evaluation and conclusions

Assessment details

80% examination, 20% programming project.

Additional information

A GCSE in Computer Science can lead to careers in computer and electronics design, many varieties of programming as well as computer games development.



GCSE DANCE

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

Dance GCSE focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of contemporary dance and the use of movement to express and communicate ideas and concepts through the interrelated processes of performance, choreography and critical appreciation.

Assessment details

40% examination, 20% solo performance, 20% performance in a duo/group dance, 20% choreography.

Additional information

GCSE dance is suitable for pupils who are experienced in contemporary dance and wish to pursue education in performing arts.



GCSE

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

GCSE Design and Technology enables you to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques.

Packaging, labelling and instructions are encouraged as part of the complete design proposal, and advertising and points of sale can be used to supplement the making experience to help create products which can be evaluated for their commercial viability.

To do a GCSE in Design and Technology you will need to be resilient, understand your first idea won't always be the one you develop, accept constructive criticism and input from others around you and be open to all suggestions.

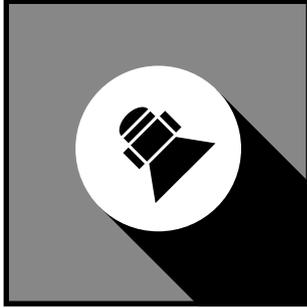
If you have a natural inquisitive mind into how products work, where they have come from and why they have been designed in that way, then this course is the right one for you.

Assessment details

50% examination, 50% controlled assessment. The controlled assessment will include a portfolio of design and investigation work as well as practical pieces made using workshop tools and equipment.

Additional information

A GCSE in Design and Technology can lead to a career as a product designer, a typographer, a graphic designer, an engineer, sales and marketing, media and advertising, a carpenter, an architect, a book designer, a landscape designer, an interior designer, a set designer, a teacher and many more. If it is creative, it more than likely will have stemmed from Product Design!



GCSE

DRAMA

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

This exciting new course offers you an amazing opportunity to learn about all aspects of theatre in a practical setting. You will be given the opportunity to hone and develop your acting skills focusing on voice, movement and characterisation, as you study how scripts can be brought to life and performed to an audience.

You will explore the work of theatre practitioners like Stanislavski and modern physical theatre companies such as Frantic Assembly, applying these new techniques to the performances you create yourself. You will have opportunities to see live theatre and develop your understanding and knowledge of various genres, styles and forms of drama.

This is a fantastic new GCSE which gives you the chance to show off your talents in performance exams, demonstrate your understanding of theatre in the written exam and rewards dedication and creativity in the devised performance and a controlled assessment log book.

Assessment details

40% open book examination, 40% controlled assessment, 20% scripted performance examination. You will be assessed on your acting/technical skills in performances, how you have creatively developed a piece of work from a stimulus and your understanding of specific play texts and practitioners.

Additional information

Drama combines a lot of different transferable skills which can not only support further study of drama and a career in acting or directing, but also a range of other subjects and careers. Public speaking, presentation and confidence are also abilities which always support you, whether you choose to become a solicitor debating issues of law, a business person delivering marketing pitches or an army captain leading troops into difficult situations.



GCSE

ECONOMICS

Exam Board: OCR (www.ocr.org.uk)

Course outline

The course is split into two units; How Markets Work and How the Economy Works.

In How Markets Work, you will look at economic foundations such as the nature and purpose of economic activity, the factors of production and the importance of making choices. You will also look at how resources are allocated using a market mechanism of demand and supply.

In How the Economy Works, you will investigate the goals of governments, such as economic growth, low unemployment, stable price inflation and balancing export and import trade. You will also investigate some international economics, such as the economics of globalisation.

Assessment details

100% examination—two 1 hour 45 minute papers.

Additional information

Economics is great if you want to understand how prices work to guide resources in our economy. You will enjoy this subject if you are interested in politics and current affairs. You may gain a strong interest at GCSE, and wish to take Economics at A Level. Economics is a very popular degree at many leading universities, and would allow you to gain employment in many industries.



GCSE

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Exam Board: WJEC (www.wjec.co.uk)

Course outline

This qualification aims to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

It will encourage you to cook and also develop life skills that will enable you to feed yourself and others affordably, now and in later life.

This GCSE will help you develop strong practical cookery skills and techniques as well as a good understanding of nutrition and healthy eating. You will also discover the science behind cooking and the huge challenges that we face globally to supply the world with nutritious and safe food.

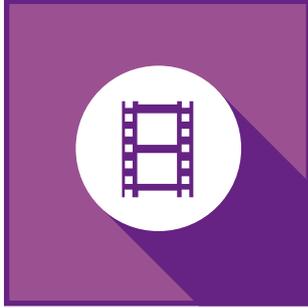
Assessment details

50% examination, 15% food investigation task, 35% food preparation task.

Additional information

If you enjoy cooking, have a natural curiosity about food, what it contains and want to learn skills for life, then this is a course you should consider. You will be expected to bring ingredients for practical lessons most weeks.

Careers in nutrition, dietetics, the food industry and hospitality all stem from an interest and qualification in Food Preparation and Nutrition. This GCSE can also lead onto catering qualifications or food-related A Levels.



GCSE

MEDIA STUDIES

Exam Board: TBC

Course outline

Students will study texts in relation to the four key areas below:

Media Language: how the media through their forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings

Representation: how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social group

Media Industries: how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platform

Audiences: how media forms target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them and how audiences become producers themselves

Assessment details

Unit 1: Examination (35%)

Unit 2: Examination (35%)

Unit 3: Creating a Media Product (30%)

This will be a non-exam assessment.

Additional information

A qualification in Media Studies can open a variety of career doors for you. Work experience is vital to ensure that you have a better chance of succeeding in occupations such as a Programme Researcher, Broadcasting/Film/Video, a Public Relations Officer, a Runner, Broadcasting/Film/Video, a Television/Film/Video Producer, a Video Editor; a Graphics Animator; a Production Assistant; a Marketing Manager, a Broadcast Journalist, an Editorial Assistant, an Event Organiser, a Magazine/ Newspaper Journalist, a Writer and many more.



GCSE MUSIC

Exam Board: Edexcel (qualifications.pearson.com)

Course outline

Eight set works are studied over three years. They are examined in a paper which tests aural skills as well as knowledge of the set works. You are required to write short comparative essays as part of the paper.

You will be required to create three compositions—one in Year 9, one in Year 10 and one in Year 11.

You will also be required to perform a minimum of two pieces each year—one solo piece and one ensemble piece.

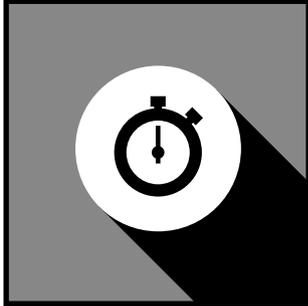
Assessment details

60% controlled assessment, 40% examination. The controlled assessment is in two sections: composing and performing. Two compositions are submitted at the end of the course and count as 30% (15% each) of the final mark. Two performances, a solo and ensemble performance, are submitted at the end of the course and count as 30% (15% each) of the final mark.

Additional information

You must be prepared to perform on your chosen instrument or sing, as this counts as 30% of the final GCSE mark.

Possible career paths include performing, the military, teaching, a sound technician, composing, research, a historian, a librarian, advertising and many more.



GCSE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board: OCR (www.ocr.org.uk)

Course outline

The GCSE Physical Education course may be followed in addition to the core PE programme outlined earlier in this publication, that all pupils must follow.

During theoretical work you will study:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Social and cultural influences

Assessment details

60% examination, 30% practical and 10% controlled assessment.

Additional information

If you decide to take this course then you must be prepared to perform a variety of sports and activities and attend extra-curricular PE clubs. The GCSE PE course leads directly onto AS and A2 courses in Physical Education and should be undertaken if you are interested in acquiring detailed sporting knowledge and developing your own performance towards a high level.



GCSE

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk)

Course outline

If you enjoy discussing current issues and are interested in solving moral dilemmas, investigating different belief systems and developing your own opinion, then Philosophy and Ethics is perfect for you.

You will study:

- **Christian and Muslim beliefs, teaching and practices**
- **Peace and conflict**
Is war ever just? What is terrorism? Are some actions unforgivable? How can we reconcile with enemies?
- **Religion and life**
Are religion and science compatible? How should we treat the planet? Should we test on animals? What do religions think about abortion and euthanasia?
- **Crime and punishment**
Why is there evil? Why do people commit crime? What is the best way to deal with criminals?
- **Relationships and families**
What do religious believers think about marriage, divorce, contraception and same-sex marriage? Are

men and women equal? What role do parents play?

- **Human rights and social justice**
Do the wealthy have a responsibility to take care of the poor? What are our human rights?
- **The existence of God**
Does complexity in the universe infer an intelligent designer? Do miracles happen? Why is suffering a problem for God?

Assessment details:

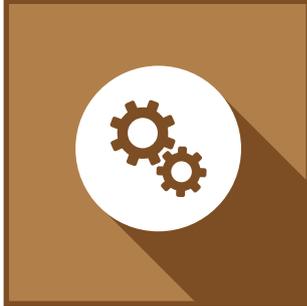
100% examination—two exam papers (each worth 101 marks). There is a variety of short answer and essay-type questions.

Additional information

Possible career paths include a teacher, a social worker, a lawyer, a police officer and many more. You will gain many transferable skills such as constructing arguments, communication, debating and evaluation skills, as well as having a firm grip on current, worldwide events.



OPTIONAL VOCATIONAL
COURSES



BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award

ENGINEERING

Exam Board: Edexcel (qualifications.pearson.com)

Course outline

This qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE and is aimed at everyone who would like to find out more about engineering and undertaking their own projects. On this course you will:

- Learn about the key engineering sectors—mechanics, electrical/electronic and engineering design and how they contribute to industry
- Develop key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research, observation, measurement, planning, making, using CAD and disassembly
- Develop key skills for employment in engineering sectors, such as problem-solving, design, creativity, communication and collaboration

Assessment details

Component 1: Exploring engineering sectors and design applications (internally-assessed controlled assessment—30%)

Component 2: Investigating an engineering project (internally-assessed controlled assessment—30%)

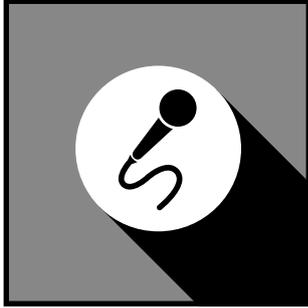
Component 3: Responding to an engineering brief (externally-assessed controlled assessment—40%)

Additional information

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of engineering skills.

After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A Levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. You will find that many of the ideas covered here are further developed in qualifications such as BTEC Nationals in Engineering and Information Technology. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the engineering sector as an apprentice or a trainee.

The best option for you will depend on both the grades you achieve in this qualification and in any other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and the advice you can access about further learning and training opportunities available in your area.



BTEC Level 2 First Award

PERFORMING ARTS (ACTING OR PRODUCTION)

Exam Board: Edexcel (qualifications.pearson.com)

Course outline

BTEC Performing Arts is a very exciting and practical course. You will get to try out different performance styles, be creative and develop your own drama performances and work with scripts to put on a show! During Year 9 you will learn lots of new acting skills and techniques, then in Years 10 and 11 you will create the performances that will count towards your BTEC grade as well as doing some coursework. The great thing about this course is that there is no written exam! You are given marks on your practical work, performances and coursework. As well as all of this, there are opportunities to go on trips to the theatre. If you prefer the technical side of theatre, we can offer the 'Production Skill' route through the BTEC which means that you will learn and be assessed on your lighting designs, sound skills and other technical roles.

This is a really fantastic Drama course that we can tailor make to suit each individual class.

Assessment details

75% controlled assessment, 25% external assessment. You will be awarded a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* grade.

Additional information

You will go to see live theatre on school trips and will be expected to attend rehearsals outside lesson times (lunch/after school) when preparing for the performance exams.



BTEC International Level 2 Diploma

PERFORMING ARTS (DANCE)

Exam Board: Edexcel (qualifications.pearson.com)

Course outline

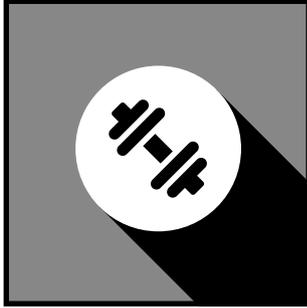
This course teaches you to rehearse, perform and choreograph dances. You will experience a variety of dance styles including urban dance featured in the West End, pop videos, pop acts' live performances, stage shows, movies and television programmes. You will also develop your knowledge of the social and historical features of dance.

Assessment details

75% internal practical and theory assessment, 25% external practical assessment. You are expected to perform independently and in a group in a performance that will be externally assessed by an examiner.

Additional information

BTEC Dance is suitable if you wish to explore a variety of dance styles.



BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 First Award

SPORT

Exam Board: Edexcel (qualifications.pearson.com)

Course outline

The BTEC Sport course gives you a sound understanding of fitness principles, training methods and testing in Unit 1 as part of an externally-assessed exam. Unit 5 builds on this through controlled assessment enabling you to plan and complete a six-week training programme. Unit 4 builds on the first two units, helping you gain an understanding of the short and long term effects of exercise. Lastly, you will study Unit 2, a practically-assessed unit that teaches you how to develop skills and performance in two sports.

Assessment details

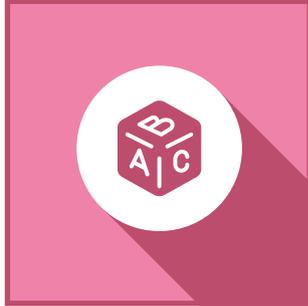
75% controlled assessment, 25% examination. The controlled assessment comprises of three controlled assessment based units, two starting in Year 9 and one in Year 10.

Additional information

BTEC Sport offers a practical, interactive and interesting approach to study. There is less exam pressure as three quarters of the qualification is controlled assessment based.

You will develop key skills that colleges and universities look for such as communication, leadership, self-organisation, teamwork and self-confidence.

A BTEC Sport qualification can lead to possible careers in the leisure industry, fitness instructing, sports massage and PE teaching.



Cambridge National Level 1 / Level 2 Certificate

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Exam Board: OCR (www.ocr.org.uk)

Course outline

This qualification is designed for students aged 14–16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in child development. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in Child Care, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology.

There are three mandatory topics:

- Health and well-being for child development
- Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years
- Understand the development norms of a child from birth to five years

This course gives you the opportunity to:

- Prepare for a career in nursing or teaching in a school, day care or preschool.

- Lead into CACHE courses such as a Diploma in Childcare and Education. These are acceptable qualifications for employment in nurseries and schools or for going to university (DCE is equivalent to three A Levels).

Assessment details

50% examination
50% coursework tasks

Additional information

The third unit called 'R020' involves you conducting observations of a 0–5-year-old to investigate the developmental norms. You will therefore need to have access to child aged between 0 and 5 for this piece of coursework.



WJEC Level 1 / Level 2 Award

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Exam Board: WJEC (www.wjec.co.uk)

Course outline

This structure has been designed to develop your knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations.

In this qualification, you will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem-solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

Through the two units, you will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist you in making choices about progression. Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering.

Assessment details

Unit 1: **Hospitality and Catering Industry** (externally-assessed)

Unit 2: **Hospitality and Catering in Action** (internally-assessed)

Additional information

Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering, such as:

- Level 1 Certificate in Introduction to Professional Food and Beverage Service Skills
- Level 2 Certificate in Professional Food and Beverage Service Skills
- Level 1 or Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Professional Cookery



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