



KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS HANDBOOK 2024-26



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Key Stage 4

Options Handbook 2023 - 2025

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Introduction to Year 10 Courses

Dear Parents and Carers

We offer a broad curriculum at KS4 with a good choice of academic, applied and vocational options.

All our students follow a “core” curriculum of Mathematics, English language, English Literature, Science, PE, Ethics, PSHCE (including the statutory elements of Careers Education & Guidance, Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education).

Students who are selecting options subjects from those outlined in this booklet will normally choose **three** courses. We will then do our best to timetable these choices. It is not always possible to timetable every combination and so some students may be asked to make an alternative choice. Similarly, if too many or too few students choose a particular course, an alternative choice may also be required.

Students who select to continue with a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish) and either History or Geography will qualify for the English Baccalaureate.

Your child will need to be in either full-time education, an apprenticeship, or part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering full-time up until they are 18. We advise that you should plan for the whole of that time, not just the next two years. Make sure that they keep their career options open by choosing a broad range of subjects.

The reality of the rapidly changing world we now live in is that people will change careers throughout their working lives, so it is important at this stage to develop a broad base of knowledge and skills and to become flexible and adaptable.

Students should play to their strengths and choose subjects they are good at and enjoy. Choosing a subject because their friends have, or because they like their current teacher, is not likely to lead to success.

We will support you and your child throughout the process. There is an advice evening scheduled for **Wednesday 14th February** where you will be able to find out more about individual courses. In the meantime, this handbook will give you an overview of what is on offer. All completed option forms will be reviewed by the senior leadership team. If there are concerns about the appropriateness of your child’s course selection, then you will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the choices made. Our careers team (careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk), is always available to discuss any specific questions that your child may have. Finally, if it is not possible to offer your child’s individual choices, you will be offered a further opportunity to discuss suitable alternatives.

This is an important time for your child and with co-operation between home and school, I am confident we will arrive at the best curriculum programme for each student.

Alan Henshall

Headteacher

January 2024

Key Stage 4

Compulsory Subjects

All students in Years 10 and 11 study the following subjects:

- English Language and English Literature (4 hours per week)
- Mathematics (4 hours per week)
- Combined or Separate Science (5 hours in Year 10, 6 hours in Year 11)
- Ethics (1 hour per week)
- Core Physical Education - Games (2 hours per week)
- Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), (taught in activity days spread throughout the two years)

English Baccalaureate

The government introduced the EBACC as a performance measure in 2010. It is not a qualification in itself but instead recognises where students have achieved a good pass across a set of traditional academic subjects. These must include: Mathematics, English Language, 2 x Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History. **We expect that all students who are capable of achieving a good pass in a Modern Foreign Language should select GCSE French, German or Spanish as one of their options.** In addition, students are encouraged to consider studying either Geography or History as one of their options.

Science

Year 9 Science curriculum builds on the knowledge and skills gained during Years 7 and 8 and is a transition year covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics taught to GCSE standard. Each school term contains elements of each of the three sciences with an assessment test at the end of each section. The topics chosen, along with the assessments, give the faculty a good indication of each student's suitability for either the Combined Science or Separate Science courses at KS4. Those who achieve high grades in their Year 9 units and end of year assessment are guided towards the Separate Science pathway (GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics) in Years 10-11. All other students are guided towards the Combined Science qualification, which is worth the equivalent of 2 x GCSEs.

Please note students are able to study A Level Sciences through both of these routes.

Ethics

All students are provided with the opportunity to continue studying Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) at Key Stage 4 in one of the following ways:

- GCSE PRE as one of their options
- Ethics for one hour a week (non-examined)

Option Subjects

If a student has opted to study a Modern Foreign Language, then they will have two free choices from the subjects in the options list. If a student has not chosen a Modern Foreign Language, then their first option is constrained (students must select one option from Computer Science, Geography or History). The remaining two options can be selected from any of the subjects in the options list.

Careers Support

Students at Roundwood Park School are given a free subscription to 'Unifrog'. www.unifrog.org

The username should be their school email address. If the student has forgotten the password there is a password reset link on the sign in page. Any difficulties, please contact careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Unifrog is a one-stop-shop where students can easily explore their interests, search careers by subjects and also find and successfully apply for their next best step after school whether that be college, apprenticeship or University. Students can also record their interests and competencies and get help with applications and CVs. It is a phenomenal resource and should be used regularly.

During Key Stage 4, students will also benefit from careers education and guidance delivered through PSHCE days, tutor time sessions and extra-curricular events.

1 to 1 guidance appointments are offered to all year 11 students during the autumn term to provide an opportunity to discuss post-16 options. However, careers guidance appointments can be requested at any time by contacting careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk.

General Advice

The success of your child in the upcoming two years hinges significantly on their approach to schoolwork and the establishment of a systematic and consistent study routine, both within the school environment and at home. Parents/Carers play a pivotal role in supporting their child to attain success during these critical years, especially considering the concurrent challenges associated with the onset of adolescence. By actively engaging in their child's academic journey and fostering a positive and disciplined study environment, parents can contribute significantly to their child's achievements during this pivotal period.

Students should cultivate a sense of purpose, maintain a positive and persistent attitude, and be ready to confront the challenges that come with their studies. Parents/Carers play a crucial role by offering support, encouragement and ensuring that students have a suitable and quiet space for their work, as well as a consistent study routine. It's important to note that the demands of GCSE should not necessitate the suspension of normal family life for two years. Striking a balance between academic commitments and family life is key to fostering a healthy and conducive environment for both personal development and academic success.

What is required above all is balance, a sense of proportion and a reliable and efficient routine. This should consider time for study, for out of school interests and family activities, while leaving some space for socialising, exercise and leisure. Time taken for watching television, playing computer games and social networking are the usual areas which can be cut back to aid time management.

We will continue the regular cycle of reporting to parents/carers to ensure that you are made aware of the progress that your child is making. If at any time, however, you have concerns about work or progress, please do not hesitate to contact the Subject Teacher, Head of Department, Form Tutor or myself as appropriate.

Finally, please keep this booklet available for the duration of your child's progress through Key Stage 4. There is information here which is of relevance for coursework, home learning and general guidance.

Mrs Wilkins

Head of Year 9

Summary of the Options Process

How do I complete my Options Form?

Following the Key Stage 4 options advice evening, parents/carers will be sent a link to an online form where students must enter their options choices. Students should discuss their options with their parent/carer. Below is a summary of the Options choices.

CORE SUBJECTS (Compulsory)

English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, Ethics, Core PE.
In addition, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) will be taught in activity days spread throughout the two years.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

If students wish to qualify for the English Baccalaureate they must gain a grade 5 (or higher) in English, Maths AND Science (Combined/Separate Science or Computer Science), Geography OR History AND a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish).

Modern Foreign Language Option

We expect that all students who are capable of achieving a good pass in a Modern Foreign Language should select GCSE French, German or Spanish as one of their options.



Students who select a Modern Foreign language will then choose:

2 OPTIONS

+

2 RESERVE options

from the Additional Option Choices (listed on page 7 of this handbook).

Choices are made in order of preference.

Students who do not select a Modern Foreign Language will then choose:

3 OPTIONS*

+

2 RESERVE options

* OPTION 1 is a restricted choice (from Computer Science, Geography or History). OPTIONS 2 & 3 are from the Additional Option Choices (listed on page 7 of this handbook).

Choices are made in order of preference.



Science Choice

Students will select the Science course they would like to be considered for – either Separate Science GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) or Combined Science. Please note that this choice will be guided by their science teacher.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR FORM CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING

Have you chosen subjects you are good at?
Have you chosen subjects you enjoy?
Did you put your choices in preference order?

List of GCSE Subjects

Core Subjects

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Core PE

Ethics

PSHCE

Science (see information regarding combined / separate science)

Additional Subject Option Choices

Art and Design

Art and Design Textiles

Business

Computer Science

Design and Technology

Digital Information Technology (BTEC)

Drama

Economics

Food Preparation and Nutrition

French

Geography

German

Health & Social Care (BTEC)

History

Music

PE

PRE

Combined Sciences

Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Spanish

Core (Compulsory) Subjects



English Language

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA 8700 - English Language

What will I learn?

Students will develop skills to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st century, both individually and in group work. The understanding and analysis skills will prepare students to write in detail, using appropriate terminology. Examination tasks will require students to write in an academic voice; adapting their form and style to meet the assessment. Students will develop their writing skills so they can use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures in wide-ranging and interesting ways for different purposes.

What is the structure of the course?

This course is a separate entry from English Literature but the two subjects are timetabled together. Each unit of work is identified separately as English Language or English Literature. There is no coursework or controlled assessment work in this specification. Work is developed for the exams which cover writing and reading. Throughout the course students will develop skills with regular practice exam style questions.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

There is no coursework for reading or writing. Spoken language is assessed by the teacher. It is a separate endorsement testing students' ability to present, respond to questions and feedback and the use of Standard English. This does not contribute to the final GCSE grade but must be completed.

How will I be assessed?

The two exam papers at the end of the two-year course test Reading and Writing. There are no separate tiers of entry; all students sit the same exam. Grades will be awarded on a 9 - 1 scale. All texts in the examination will be unseen.

- **Paper 1: Explorations in Creative reading and writing (80 marks - 50% of GCSE)**
 - This paper looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers.
 - Section A: Reading - one literature fiction text (40 marks)
 - Section B: Writing - descriptive or narrative writing. 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) (40 marks)
- **Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (80 marks - 50% of GCSE)**
 - This paper looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time.
 - Section A: Reading - two linked texts; one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text (40 marks)
 - Section B: Writing - writing to present a viewpoint. 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy). (40 marks)

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students will need to be open to new ideas and be prepared to examine what they read in detail. They should be willing to share ideas in class and express opinions. Students will need to respond to advice and guidance in order to develop and improve their writing skills based on examples and guidance. Students will need to be prepared to contribute orally as they prepare and practise the skills for analysis of texts and for the Spoken Language assessment. Students will need to do plenty of reading, particularly of newspaper articles and of nineteenth century texts. This will ensure they can access the extracts and can give thoughtful opinions in their own writing.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Copywriting (Advertising), Journalism, Publishing, Marketing, Human Resources and Teaching.

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA 8702 – English Literature

What will I learn?

Students will take both GCSEs - English Language and English Literature. They will develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of different texts (novels, plays and poetry) by different authors. Students will be expected to analyse the writing style. They will find out more about the way writers are influenced by the times they live in and the ideas of readers in society at the time. Students will also develop the essay writing skills needed to present their ideas clearly. Examination tasks will require students to write in an academic voice; demonstrating a thorough understanding of the text studied.

What is the structure of the course?

The course includes preparation for two exams which test understanding and responses to a range of texts from specified lists as follows: Shakespeare; a 19th century novel; modern texts (post 1914, either prose or drama); Poetry Anthology and unseen poetry. The full texts are studied. Students will study one cluster of poems taken from the AQA poetry anthology. They will study all 15 poems from the 'Power and Conflict' cluster and be prepared to write about any of them in the examination. Students will also study other poetry in preparation for the unseen section. Students will also compare methods used in two unseen poems.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

There is no coursework in the new specification.

How will I be assessed?

There are two Literature exams. There are no separate tiers of entry. All assessments are closed book so students will need to learn quotations and ideas from the text: any extracts required will be provided as part of the assessment.

- **Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (64 marks - 40% of GCSE)**
 - Students will answer one question on their prepared play. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole, including the way it is written and the ideas from the time.
 - The 19th-century novel - Students will answer one question on the novel selected from a prescribed list. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.
- **Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (96 marks - 60% of GCSE)**
 - Modern prose or drama texts - Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on the studied modern prose or drama text.
 - The poetry anthology, Poems Past and Present - Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the chosen anthology cluster
 - Unseen poetry - Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Accuracy of spelling and grammar is also assessed in the modern text and Shakespeare responses.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students will need to be open to new ideas and be prepared to explore what they read in detail. Students should be willing to share ideas in class and express opinions based on what they have read. They should have a critical view of what they are reading. Students should also be prepared to explain ideas and plan and redraft writing carefully using clear English and appropriate technical vocabulary. Students need to show independence, thoroughly revising the texts at home and especially where there is no extract given, learning quotations to use as evidence.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Copywriting (Advertising), Journalism, Publishing, Marketing, Human Resources and Teaching.

Core – Ethics

What will I learn?

Core Ethics is not a GCSE but is a core subject. Students will learn about ethical and philosophical theories and how these are applied to modern day ethical issues, such as crime and punishment, matters of life and death, relationships in the 21st century and poverty. Students will be actively encouraged to assess the value of religious beliefs today and reflect on their own views.

The subject is important for any job that involves working with people, problem solving and leading others. It engages actively with the challenges and diversity of a modern and global society and enables students to articulate their own views while understanding and evaluating other points of view.

Students will develop their skills of analysis, evaluation, interpretation and essay writing. There are many cross-curricular links such as Biology, Geography, History, Psychology and English Language.

What is the structure of the course?

There are three main units: Crime and Punishment, Matters of Life and Death and Relationships.

- Crime and Punishment will cover topics such as - the death penalty, free will and determinism, where does morality come from, how to make moral decisions and punishment.
- Matters of Life and Death will cover topics such as – the moral and ethical arguments on organ donation, genetic engineering, abortion, drugs and alcohol.
- Relationships will cover topics such as – love, types of relationships, marriage, the law and evaluating different viewpoints and beliefs.

And

- Philosophy/Ethics and films.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

The course does not require coursework and we will not set home learning.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be based on the three key areas of knowledge, understanding and critical evaluation. These assessments will take different forms from written to spoken assessments.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

The ability to engage in current affairs, to work hard and to show independent thought. Students will need to develop excellent critical thinking skills and an openness to understand others' views.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: working in the Civil Service, Law, International Aid, Teaching, Barrister, Charitable Fundraiser.

Mathematics

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

The exam board for GCSE Mathematics is Pearson (Edexcel) and the specification code is 1MA1.

What will I learn?

All mathematics courses follow the Key Stage 4 Mathematics Programme of Study and build upon techniques covered during Key Stage 3 in the core areas of Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures, and Statistics and Probability, as well as applying them to a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Specific topics are too numerous to mention in a handbook of this size and are dependent upon the progress made during Years 7 – 9, but parents and students can be directed to the relevant sections of the programme of study.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is broken down into roughly 20 topic modules of varying length, normally between 5 and 9 lessons. Students will study either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier Mathematics. There is a greater emphasis on number, ratio, proportion and rates of change at the Foundation Tier, while in the Higher Tier, the emphasis is on Algebra as this is the vehicle for progression to A-Level Mathematics.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

There is no coursework to be completed in GCSE Mathematics.

How will I be assessed?

Informal assessment is made throughout the course via written exercises and online tasks set as class work and home learning. Additionally, students are tested on a number of topics on a termly basis throughout Year 10 and Year 11.

On completing the GCSE course, all students will sit three written examinations of equal weighting: two calculator papers and one non-calculator paper. These examinations form the final GCSE grade for Mathematics. A feature of the new GCSE Mathematics examination is an emphasis on open-ended or multi-step questions, often set in a real-life context.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students can make the most of their mathematical talents by making a sustained effort in class over the two years. Most students will find some aspects of the course challenging from time to time; the students who face up to the difficulties they encounter and seek assistance to overcome them are those who succeed.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Actuary, Accountancy & Finance, Engineering, IT Programming, Management Consultancy, Tax Consultant, Audit and Assurance, Pensions Manager, Investment Analyst, Stockbroker and Financial Advisor.

Physical Education (PE) (Core)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

There is no examination for this subject, however we hope Key Stage 4 PE will create good exercise habits for life-long learning and provide opportunity for skills to be improved.

What will I learn?

A greater depth of tactics and strategies of the sports students covered in Key Stage 3. The focus of the lessons is lifelong learning. We want students to experience activities that they may take up outside school to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

What is the structure of the course?

In Year 10, each student will spend four weeks on each activity module throughout the year. Activities covered at school include basketball, badminton, dance, table tennis, football, rugby, rounders and use of the fitness suite.

In Year 11, there may also an opportunity to participate in swimming off-site (depending on pool availability), although payment would be required for this. An off-site parental consent form also needs to be signed. Students will also work through a rotation of on-site activities, similar to those covered in Year 10, where they will be encouraged to develop their performance to a higher level.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

None.

How will I be assessed?

Each module will be assessed in line with the PE Department policy. A sheet will be given to students in years 10 and 11 which will look at targets for improvement and how much progress has been made through the unit.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Enthusiasm, commitment and organisation are essential in order to gain the most benefit from these sessions. This is an opportunity for students to continue to engage with sport and exercise alongside their studies.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers with direct links to PE include: Sports Nutrition, Sports Development, Fitness Training, Sport Technology, PE Teaching, Sport Journalism, Sports Physiology, Sports Psychology, Physiotherapy. If looking towards a PE related career, students should certainly be looking to take GCSE Physical Education, as core PE lessons are all practical.

Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

PSHCE is not a GCSE examinable subject.

What will I learn?

PSHCE gives students the skills to deal with life beyond the classroom. There are four main areas of learning:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Living in the wider world
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- Citizenship is also covered, where students explore being an active citizen in the modern world.

What is the structure of the course?

PSHCE will be delivered through a series of tutor time sessions and collapsed timetable days, covering different topics and activities. Some of these will involve outside speakers or visiting theatre companies. These activities will be a vital part of the curriculum and attendance and involvement is compulsory.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

There is no coursework element in PSHCE studies.

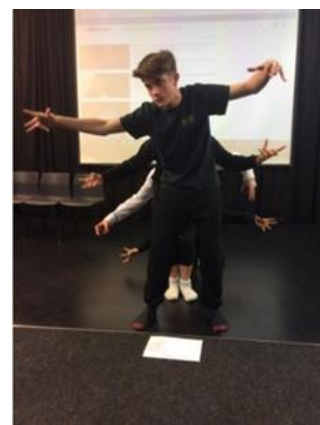
How will I be assessed?

There are no assessments in PSHE.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

To be successful in PSHCE studies, students will need to be willing to debate and discuss moral issues and listen and engage with different views respectfully. Students need to be able to consider life as a citizen, both locally and internationally and be able to understand the factors that contribute to maintaining positive relationships, healthy lifestyles and keeping themselves safe.

Additional Subjects: Option Choices



Art & Design (Fine Art)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel 1FA0 Art and Design: Fine Art

What will I learn?

Students will develop skills in a range of drawing and painting media, as well as lino printing, etching, sculpture, clay and digital imaging using Photoshop. Through these processes, they will express their thoughts, emotions, ideas and observations. The course allows students to take risks, experiment and develop their creative thinking. Students will also learn to analyse the work of the other artists and use this to develop their own ideas.

What is the structure of the course?

Coursework

During the course, students will complete a portfolio of coursework consisting of several outcomes and final pieces. Students will be given themes and starting points from which to work.

Timed Assignment

The exam board gives students a title or theme, e.g. “Ordinary and/or Extraordinary”. They give students a range of ideas based on this theme. Students have the spring term in Year 11 to prepare and plan their work and two days to produce a finished piece at the end of this preparation period.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

The coursework portfolio consists of a selection of work produced throughout the course, including the Year 10 exam and Year 11 Mock exam. Sketch books are included as part of the coursework.

How will I be assessed?

Work will be assessed throughout the course and feedback is given so that students can make improvements. Coursework and the timed assignment are marked by the Art teachers at the end of the course. Students work will then be exhibited for the external moderation by the exam board.

The coursework makes up 60% of the final mark.

The externally set assignment makes up 40% of the final mark.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Enthusiasm, motivation and a willingness to be expressive in ideas and take risks in the use of materials.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Illustrator, Architecture, Graphic Design, Animation, Fashion Design, Fashion Buying, Digital Art, Interior Design, Product Design, Art Therapy, Museum Curator, Arts Administration, Art Conservation, Photography and Film.

Art & Design (Textiles)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel 1TE0 Art & Design: Textiles

What will I learn?

Looking for shape, pattern and texture through observation drawing and photography. Students will learn to develop their designs and experiment with a wide variety of media and techniques, including screen printing, stencilling, batik, weaving, silk painting, hand and machine embroidery, as well as 3D construction techniques. By researching artists, craftsmen and fashion designers, students will learn to analyse the work of others.

What is the structure of the course?

Coursework

During the course students will complete a portfolio of coursework consisting of several outcomes and final pieces. Students will be given themes and starting points from which to work.

Timed Assignment

The exam board gives students a title or theme, e.g. “adorn, decorate, embellish”. They give students a range of ideas based on this theme and students have the Spring term in Year 11 to prepare and plan their work, then two days to produce a finished final piece at the end of this preparation period.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

The coursework portfolio consists of a selection of work produced throughout the course, including the Year 10 exam and Year 11 mock exam. Sketch books are included as part of the coursework.

How will I be assessed?

Work will be assessed throughout the course and feedback given to make improvements.

Coursework and the timed assignment are marked by the Art teachers. Students' work will then be exhibited for the external moderation by the exam board.

The coursework makes up 60% of the final mark.

The externally set assignment makes up 40% of the final mark.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Enthusiasm and motivation. Interest in working with fibres and fabrics and experimenting with different processes.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Fashion Design, Textiles Technologist, Interior Design, Costume Design, Film & TV Wardrobe Assistant, Textiles Production Manager, Sports Technologist Designer, Upholsterer and Model Maker.

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: GCSE (9-1) Business

What will I learn?

In Business students will study a wide range of topics such as starting a business, marketing, finance, human resources and operations management. Students will learn models and skills that help managers run a business effectively and study the use of these in real businesses. There is a large component of business finance which requires mathematical ability, as well as developing skills to write essays throughout the course.

What is the structure of the course?

In Year 10 we study the setup of a business, financial management and marketing. In Year 11 we study operations, human resources and factors that influence a business. Throughout, we study real business case studies and develop skills to perform well in the exam.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

None

How will I be assessed?

There are two 1hr 45-minute written exam papers taken at the end of Year 11:

- Unit 1: Investigating a Business
- Unit 2: Building a Business

Both contribute 50% to the overall grade.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students will need to have the ability to critically analyse, weigh up possible solutions and make independent decisions on the best course of action to take. Students must have an interest in current business affairs and be prepared to discuss issues. Proficiency in maths is needed for the financial units and there are some longer answer 'essay' questions that require in depth written communication skills.

The aims of this qualification are to enable students to know and understand business concepts, business terminology, business objectives, the integrated nature of business activity and the impact of business on individuals and wider society; to enable students to apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues and to different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global contexts. This will then develop students into entrepreneurial individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively. Students will also develop quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include those in HR, marketing and operations management, accounting, banking and finance and international business. The skills and knowledge are applicable to any career where you work with people or independently; this includes those wanting to run their own business as an entrepreneur.

Computer Science

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Pearson Edexcel 1CP2 GCSE in Computer Science

What will I learn?

Throughout this GCSE course students will work with real-world practical programming techniques that give students a good understanding of what makes technology work. Within the ever-changing world of digital technology, this course is committed to preparing students for the world of tomorrow. Students will develop their problem solving and logical thinking skills, along with their collaboration, team work and self-discipline. The Computer Science course allows students to explore the world of technology in areas such as programming, networks, computer systems and issues and impacts to name a few.

It is important to note the practical element of this GCSE - programming. Students will need to be a keen programmer and spend time developing this skill, both at home and in lessons as part of the course. Having said this, this course is not exclusively programming and lots of the marks come from examinations on a range of topics. Unlike other exam boards, this GCSE provides an onscreen examination practical paper, requiring students to design, write, test and refine programs.

What is the structure of the course?

Two units of work:

- Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science
 - Written exam (1 hour 30 minutes)
 - 75 marks
 - 50% of GCSE
- Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking
 - Onscreen Examination (2 hours)
 - 75 marks
 - 50% of GCSE

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

For this course students will need to be problem solvers who think logically, question often, make use of all available resources and have the self-discipline, determination and resilience to achieve. This course is based on a foundation of “who dares, wins” so students will need to be risk takers with an eye for fine detail. Student’s should not be afraid to get things wrong but see failure as part of the learning process instead of a barrier to their success. Students will also need to be able to work alone as well as be an individual who can work as part of a team, someone who can step up and take the lead but also play a supportive role when needed.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Digital Technology, Cyber Security Specialist, Artificial Intelligence Analyst, Network Engineer, Digital Media, Educational Technologist.

Design & Technology

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

OCR Design & Technology J310

What will I learn?

- To develop an awareness and understanding of real-life experiences in designing and in the developments and opportunities seen in creative, manufacturing and engineering industries.
- To develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing your own project work.
- To develop a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes.
- To become independent and critical thinkers who can adapt their technical knowledge and understanding to different design solutions.
- To be ambitious and open to exploring and taking risks in order to stretch their development of design proposals, avoiding clichéd or stereotypical responses.
- To demonstrate safe working practices in design and technology.
- To use key design and technology terminology including those related to: designing, innovation and communication; materials and technologies; making; manufacture and production; critiquing, values and ethics.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is made up of two units:

- **50% of mark - Principles of Design and Technology – Written paper (2 hours) – 100 marks**
- **50% of mark - Iterative Design Challenge – Non-exam assessment (NEA) – 100 marks**

What coursework will I be expected to do?

Iterative Design Challenge

Students produce a chronological portfolio and final prototype(s). This demonstrates their understanding and independent management of and skills in iterative designing.

How will I be assessed?

- A single design-and-make project chosen by the student based on a context provided by the exam board
 - Roughly 24 pages of A3 sized work (digitally recorded).
- 2 hour exam paper made up of two sections
 - Section A: Core Principles of Design and Technology
 - Section B: In-Depth Principles of Design & Technology

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students should have an interest in designing products and working creatively in a variety of media including electronic and digital. They should be able to work to deadlines and have a disciplined attitude, as well as having the ability to use ICT techniques to produce A3 pages that are well laid out, creative and imaginative.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Product design, aerospace engineering, civil engineering, graphic design, stage/set design, product marketing and many more.

Digital Information Technology BTEC

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology (603/7050/6)

What will I learn?

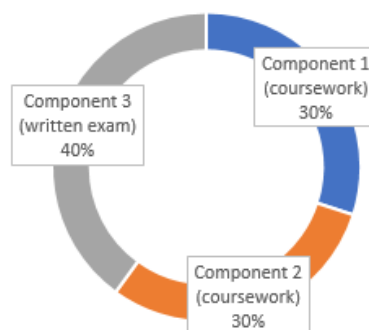
- You will learn how to design and create a **Graphical User Interface (GUI)** for a **theme park's Digital Information Point**. As part of this, you will become aware of how GUIs are used, how they are developed and how they cater for a range of needs and accessibility options. You will also learn how and why testing and obtaining feedback is an important part in the development process of **designing digital based solutions**. (Component 1 coursework assignment)
- You will find out about and experience **how data is collected** by an organisation. You will discover the different methods of data collection and see how **Social Media** can play an important part in how data can be gathered. Building upon this, you will experience how data is used and how it can be presented as **useful information in different visual formats**. (Component 2 coursework assignment)
- Finally, you will discover how **current technologies** have an impact on lives. Exploring how technology is used in many different environments in **business, leisure, safety, retail, Internet, health and education**. You will also find out why and how **cyber security** plays a role in our digital world. (Component 3 exam)

What is the structure of the course?

Three units of work:

- Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
 - Coursework assignment
 - 60 marks
 - 30% of the final mark
- Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
 - Coursework assignment
 - 60 marks
 - 30% of the final mark
- Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices
 - Written exam of 90 minutes
 - 60 marks
 - 40% of the final mark

BTEC Digital Information Technology



What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

For this course students will need to be creative thinkers; creative artists; creative problem solvers. You will also need to show that you can provide a range of alternative ideas to those that exist and those that are given to you. You will need to demonstrate that you can manage your time effectively and adapt to a range of creative situations.

What careers can I do with this subject?

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Despite a turbulent economy in 2020 the Digital sector in the UK advertised 90,000 jobs per week during this time. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. The UK Tech industry as a whole employs over 2.93 million people and has seen 40% growth between 2017-2019. The UK has positioned itself to be the 'Digital capital of Europe' as it continues to invest billions every year in digital skills and commerce.

Drama

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel 1DR0

What will I learn?

GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is to create theatre from a director's, designer's and performer's point of view. Students will have fun developing their performance techniques and awareness, using published and performed scripts as well as creating and documenting their own performance work. Students will practically and theoretically develop their skills in communication, analysis, group work, creativity, problem solving and reasoning - all of which will be related to theatre and life beyond it. Our aim is that students will also relish the opportunity to develop their resilience, perseverance and self-confidence through the challenges we will help them overcome in completing the course.

What is the structure of the course?

There is no formal assessment in Year 10. The work studied will prepare students and bring awareness of the requirements of the assessments which take place during Year 11. The examined work follows a similar thread as that completed in Year 10, but with a deeper level of ownership and analysis. During the exam year students will take part in 3 components. The first will be a devising unit, where students and their group will plan and develop a piece based on a piece of stimulus material. The second component is a performance exam of 2 key extracts from a script which students can choose to do as monologues, duologues or group performance. Component 3 is a written exam exploring how students would direct and perform scenes from a studied play and answer questions on a live play they have seen. Throughout the course, students can either be examined on their acting skills or on their design and technical skills (stage design, costume, masks and makeup, lighting or sound).

What coursework will I be expected to do?

A 1500 to 2000 word portfolio of how students created their devised performance. Don't worry if the student struggles with written work though, as we will be helping them create it as we go through the process. This written work includes a process and performance evaluation.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed on the quality of their devised performance in component 1, as well as their extract performances for component 2. This will be supported by a written mark for their portfolio and makes up 60% of the course total. The final 40% is from the written exam.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students with good communication skills, enthusiasm, focus, dedication, energy and a willingness to work with others always do well in drama. Students should have an analytical mind and the ability to communicate well both in performance and in written work. Don't worry if a student doesn't feel like the complete package yet, as we are very good at helping students develop these skills and habits throughout Year 10, ready for assessment in Year 11.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Drama is a subject for ALL career choices but typical career areas directly linked are: Actor, TV Production, Lighting Technician, Set Designer, Video Editor, Camera Technician, Entertainment Agent, Make-Up Artist, Screen Writer.

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE (9-1) Economics

What will I learn?

Economics is relevant and impacts upon everyone's daily lives: it answers the questions of how we should use our planet's scarce resources and who should benefit. The study of economics starts with an exploration of personal finances: earning, borrowing and exchanging money. It subsequently develops an understanding of the commercial world and how finance is raised and used by the government and firms. It explores the theories and concepts in the context of events in the news and the decisions that politicians and business leaders have to make. It is an excellent complement to humanities subjects and offers a pathway to study at A-Level and many careers in industry and government.

What is the structure of the course?

The subject content looks at economic activity through the lens of the consumers, producers, government and the workings of the global economy. As students go through the course they are presented with opportunities to focus on real-world issues. Students should consider and reflect upon moral, ethical and sustainable issues that arise as a result of the impact of economic activity. Students should use their economic knowledge and skills to investigate national and global economic situations and issues from the last 15 years. Students should also be aware of the policies that governments have used to attempt to manage these situations and issues.

Students will develop quantitative skills relevant to the subject content. They should be able to make relevant calculations from economic data and be able to interpret data presented in the form of graphs and charts. Students should be able to recognise the possible limitations of both quantitative and qualitative data.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

None

How will I be assessed?

There are two 1 hour 45-minute written exam papers sat at the end of Year 11.

- Paper 1: How markets work
- Paper 2: How the economy works

Both units are worth 50% of the available marks.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students should show an interest in the world around them! Most people find economics stimulating as it is relevant and changing every day. Students will need a curious mind and a desire to understand the world more fully and explain the consequences of choices. They must have an interest in current news stories and be prepared to discuss current issues. Proficiency in Maths is required. Much of the course will require the ability to construct an argument in the form of a short essay or debate and therefore in depth written/communication skills will be required.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Economist, Finance and Accounting, Management Consultancy, Investment Analyst, Stockbroker, Actuary, Pensions Manager, Data Analyst, Statistician, Tax Adviser, Banking, Teaching.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition 8585

What will I learn?

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

Food preparation skills are integrated into the following core topics: Food, Nutrition and Health, Food Science, Food Safety, Food Choice and Food Provenance.

What is the structure of this course?

Year 10: Working through the exam specification content, cooking every week to gain valuable skills.

Year 11: Completion of the NEA assessed tasks.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

Coursework is based on the Non-exam assessment (NEA). See below.

How will I be assessed?

- **NEA 1: Food investigation (30 marks)**

Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical elements are a compulsory element of this NEA task.

- **NEA 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks)**

Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than 3 hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

50% of the total marks

- **Paper 1:** One 1 hour 45 minutes paper with two sections and 100 marks available:

- Section A: Multiple choice questions (20 marks)
- Section B: 5 questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

50% of the total marks

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students need a real enthusiasm for cooking and preparing food and a willingness to try new tastes. Students will need to be interested in creating their own recipes and have a desire to gain new cooking skills and to reach high standards in both the practical and theory elements of the subject. Students will need to be well organised in their work and will be expected to bring ingredients for practical lessons.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Public Health Officer, Chef, Dietician, Nutritionist, Catering Manager, Food Scientist, Patisserie Chef.

French

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel 1FR0

What will I learn?

You will finish the GCSE course with a sound working knowledge of French that can be used in many practical situations when visiting a French-speaking country and also in the workplace. The course will further develop your skills in speaking, reading, writing, translating and listening to French across a variety of interesting topics. You will also gain a fuller understanding of French-speaking culture as well as develop your general communication skills and self-confidence. On completion of this GCSE course you will also have gained the experience and skills necessary for learning any other foreign language in the future.

What is the structure of the course?

Over the two years leading to the GCSE exams you will work through a variety of topics which emphasise a practical use of the language. It is possible to combine the study of French with another foreign language.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

There is no coursework to complete for French GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

There are 4 exams taken at the end of the 2-year course:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading (and translation into English)
- Writing (and translation into French)

Each paper is worth 25% of the final grade (9-1).

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Successful language learners build up their knowledge gradually. Language learning therefore requires self-motivation and commitment. It is also crucial that you are resilient and do not worry about making mistakes, especially when speaking, as this is a natural part of the language-learning process. Also helpful is curiosity about how language works and a desire to learn more about French-speaking culture.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Languages combine excellently with any career involving global employers as you will be competing with multilingual candidates from other countries for jobs and/or dealing with clients from around the world. In particular, languages can be an asset in the scientific, engineering, sports and legal industries.

Other relevant careers include: European Civil Administration, Foreign Commonwealth Office, MI5, Banking and Finance, Law, Journalism, Publishing, Travel Agent, Tour Operator, Teaching, Translation and Interpreting.

Geography

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA Specification (8035)

What will I learn?

The course covers many different aspects of Human and Physical Geography which will provide students with a thorough understanding of many topical issues which affect the UK and the planet as a whole, such as tectonic landscapes, coastal zones, water insecurity, population and development studies. During the GCSE course students will also develop a range of transferable skills such as critical thinking, analysis, evaluation, decision making, numerical and interpreting sources. Students will be assessed on geographical skills fieldwork, as well as basic spelling and grammar as part of this new specification. It is an engaging curriculum which will suit students who are interested in understanding the physical and human processes at work and how they interconnect.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is divided into two sections that link to two written exams at the end of Year 11. In Year 10 the topics covered are the challenge of natural hazards, physical landscapes in the UK and urban issues and challenges. In Year 11 the Living World unit will be taught along with the remaining Human Geography units – the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management. Key skills such as analysis, extended writing and interpreting maps are integral to all units and the capabilities of students in this regard will be assessed in the third exam paper. The course will also involve a third exam which assesses students on fieldwork knowledge and their appreciation of how Human and Physical topics link together through the completion of a decision-making task. Year 11 will therefore also involve time spent tackling synoptic questions that reflect their understanding of geographical issues. Fieldwork will be completed in the summer term of year 10 in order to complete the challenging questions in this third exam.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

There is no longer any controlled assessment at GCSE Geography, though write-up tasks based on the fieldwork will be completed internally for use when revising for paper 3.

How will I be assessed?

There are three written exams:

- **Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (1½ hours)**
3 physical Geography questions worth 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, terminology and grammar).
This accounts for 35% of the GCSE marks.
- **Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (1½ hours)**
3 Human Geography questions worth 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, terminology and grammar).
This accounts for 35% of the GCSE marks.
- **Paper 3: Geographical applications (1 hour)**
76 marks (including 6 marks for spelling, terminology and grammar).
This accounts for 30% of the GCSE marks.

All three exams contain a range of questions from multiple-choice answers, short list answers and a mixture of short and longer extended prose.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

All students will need a conscientious and enthusiastic approach to their work. This course contains a lot of technical terminology and requires focus and attention to detail in order to achieve the highest grades. Students will need to be keen to develop their skills of description, analysis and explanation. They should be confident in tackling text based as well as geographical information from maps and photographs. During fieldwork they will need to work as a team to ensure that they organise, collect, and present a range of data to support their own investigations. Above all, students need to be interested in the modern world around them and how human beings interact with their environment in both positive and negative ways. Many of the themes discussed in the exam relate to topical issues and students would benefit from some knowledge of current affairs.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Meteorologist, Cartographer, Environmental Consultant, Town Planner, Geo-Scientist, Environmental Health Officer, Teacher, Conservation officer, Geographical Information Systems Operator.

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel 1GN0

What will I learn?

Students finish the GCSE course with a sound working knowledge of German that can be used in practical situations when visiting a German-speaking country and also in the workplace. The course will further develop students' skills in speaking, reading, writing, translating and listening to German across a variety of interesting topics. Students will also gain a fuller understanding of German-speaking culture through music and literature, as well as develop their general communication skills and self-confidence. On completion of this GCSE course students will have gained the experience and skills necessary for learning any other foreign language in the future.

What is the structure of the course?

Over the two years leading to the GCSE exams students will work through a variety of topics which emphasise a practical use of the language.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

There is no coursework to complete for German GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

There are 4 exams taken at the end of the 2-year course: Speaking, Listening, Reading (and translation into English) and Writing (and translation into German). Each paper is worth 25% of the final grade (9-1).

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

To be a successful language learner student's need to build up their knowledge gradually. This is done through regularly learning vocabulary, practising their listening, reading and translation skills and adapting grammar to produce their own sentences, all of which require self-motivation and commitment. It is also crucial that students do not worry about making mistakes, especially when speaking, as this is a natural part of the language-learning process. Also helpful is curiosity about how language works and a desire to learn more about German-speaking culture.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Translator and Interpreter, European Civil Administration, Foreign Commonwealth Office, Banking and Finance, Teaching, Broadcast Journalist, Publishing, Travel Agent, Tour Operator. However, knowledge of another language is seen as a great asset for any career path.

Health and Social Care (BTEC)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care. This course is broadly equivalent to 1 GCSE. Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4. Level 1 is equivalent to GCSE grades 3 and below.

What will I learn?

A range of topics and skills that are important for working in the health and social care sector.

In Component 1, students will study how people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to old age and investigate how, in real situations, human development is affected by a range of different life factors and events. In Component 2, students' study and practically explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of real service users and develop skills in applying care values. In Component 3, students will study the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators and how to design and implement a health and wellbeing improvement plan. They will develop skills in analysing information and communicating for a specific purpose, which will support their progression to Level 2 or 3 vocational or academic qualifications.

Learning will be mainly classroom-based activities and will include group work, studying real life case studies and internet research. There will also be some trips and guest speakers.

What is the structure of the course?

There are three components to be completed over the 2 years:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Health and Social Care Values
- Health and Wellbeing

What coursework will I be expected to do?

Assessment is ongoing throughout the 2-year course through the completion of written tasks set and assessed by teaching staff based on Components 1 and 2 content. The final grade will be mainly dependent on these assignments which are completed in the classroom and are assessed internally but which are then externally moderated. The type of assignment will vary depending on the needs of each component, but could include creating posters, leaflets, typed reports or making a presentation.

How will I be assessed?

In addition to assignments, there is one external assessment, Component 3, which will consist of a 2-hour written exam. This provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 3 builds directly on 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation. Students will be required to assess an individual's health and wellbeing and use this to create a health and wellbeing improvement plan. The design of this external assessment ensures that there is sufficient stretch and challenge, enabling the assessment of knowledge and understanding at the end of the learning period.

Each unit will be graded as pass, merit or distinction and given unit points. The total number of unit points will determine the overall grading, also based on a pass, merit or distinction.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

An interest in working with people, enthusiasm to participate in group discussion and an organised approach to written and learning tasks are essential.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Social Worker, Nurse, Paramedic, Midwife, Community Worker, Social Worker, Teacher, Elderly Care Manager.

History

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel 1H10

What will I learn?

The GCSE history course is fascinating and we are sure students will be engaged from the beginning with the wide range of historical events and countries covered.

Students will delve into the bloody world of disease and gory medical treatments as they study how medicine has developed over time. They will have the opportunity to develop their Key Stage 3 knowledge of Britain's Tudor history by exploring Elizabethan England, studying the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots and the threatened invasion of the Spanish Armada. Then students will learn about the turmoil Germany faced after World War 1 and how Hitler was able to become Führer and create a dictatorship. They will finish their course by investigating how World War 2 allies, America and Russia, became peace time enemies and how this plunged the world into a Cold War, leading to the building and then collapse of the iconic Berlin Wall.

As well as gaining a wealth of historical knowledge, students will also learn important skills such as essay writing, analysis of interpretations, analysis of sources and how to communicate their knowledge effectively.

What is the structure of the course?

- **Paper 1** is the thematic study and historic environment paper.
 - Students will learn about “Medicine in Britain 1250 - present” with a special focus on the British sector of the Western Front 1914-1918 focusing on injuries, treatment and the trenches. The exam is 1hr 15 mins.
- **Paper 2** is the period study and British depth study.
 - Students will learn about “Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91” as well as “Early Elizabethan England 1558-88”. The exam is 1hr 45 mins.
- **Paper 3** is the modern depth study.
 - Students will learn about “Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39”. The exam is 1hr 15 mins.

What controlled assessment will I be expected to do?

There is no controlled assessment.

How will I be assessed?

This course is 100% exam based.

- Paper 1 is worth 30%
- Paper 2 is worth 40%
- Paper 3 is worth 30%

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students must have a passion for history and be willing to get involved in lessons. They must be willing to learn and to try hard at all times. Students must also be willing to listen and to practise the skills they will be taught during the course.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Law, Barrister, Politician, Civil Servant, Archivist, Librarian, Antique Dealer, Journalist, Curator.

Music

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

GCSE (OCR) J536

What will I learn?

This course provides an accessible and creative musical education, integrating the three main components: performing, composing and appraising. Students broaden their musical horizons within five areas of study as they explore musical context, language, performance and composition. Students submit two recordings for their Performing component: one solo, and one ensemble (typically a duet); these can be on an instrument or voice. The Composition component is taught in academic lesson time and there is no necessity for any composing experience prior to taking the course.

This qualification also supports the development of musical fluency and provides access to further study of music at A Level.

What is the structure of the course?

The OCR Music GCSE (9-1) has three components:

- Integrated Portfolio: A solo performance and a composition set by the student.
- Practical Component: An ensemble performance (typically a duet) and a composition to an OCR set brief.
- Listening exam with questions based on the Areas of Study (My Music, Conventions of Pop, Film Music, Rhythms of the World, Concerto Through Time).

What coursework will I be expected to do?

- 2 compositions (30%) in the style of their choice.
- 2 performances - one must be a solo and one must be an ensemble performance (30%) from any genre.

How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into 3 parts for assessment:

- Students' Performance assessment is worth 30% for the two performances.
- Students' Composing assessment is worth 30% for the two compositions.
- Students' Listening assessment is worth 40% taking the form of a written exam.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

The type of student who will succeed on this course will be creative, dedicated and enthusiastic. Typically, students taking this course enjoy listening to a broad range of musical styles and possess an open and receptive outlook towards unfamiliar musical genres. An elementary knowledge and understanding of Music Theory will be an advantage for students taking this course.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Musician, Composer, Radio and Television Production Assistant, Sound Engineer, Acoustics Consultant, Music Therapist, Orchestral Player, Music Teacher.

Physical Education (GCSE Option)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

OCR: J587 (Full course)

What will I learn?

In theory lessons, students will focus on a full range of sport and exercise related theory spanning physiological, psychological and socio-cultural aspects. In practical sessions they will study a number of sporting activities offered in school, improving their understanding, developing techniques and gaining an appreciation of tactics.

What is the structure of the course?

- **Theory:** These lessons will take place in classrooms or in practical settings depending on the topics being covered. Areas on the specification include: the human body and functions during physical activity, physiological adaptations, diet and training, principles of training, lever systems and planes of movement, acquiring movement skills, participation, media and sponsorship, sport psychology, drugs, violence in sport and the prevention of injury.
- **Practical:** Practical activities delivered in lessons are mainly those experienced through Key Stage 3, allowing students to build on their work there, as well as in their clubs and teams. All activities taught are on the OCR approved list. Lessons involve development through drills and practices as well as conditioning and full games.
- **Written coursework:** There is one piece on 'Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP)' which will have lesson time devoted to it. This requires the analysis of performance in a practical activity of the students' choice.

How will I be assessed?

- **Theory: 60% of overall grade**
 - **Paper 1 (J587/01):** Physical factors affecting performance. 1-hour exam paper worth 60 marks.
 - **Paper 2 (J587/02):** Social cultural issues and sports psychology. 1 hour exam paper worth 60 marks.
- **Practical: 30% of overall grade**

Students carry their three highest scoring practical marks (worth 10% each). These must be one individual activity, one team and once choice (either individual or team). Students can submit video evidence of activities performed outside of school, which will be assessed by school staff. Following the submission of marks, a sample of students will be selected by the exam board to attend moderation at another school.
- **Written coursework: 10% of overall grade**

Under controlled assessment conditions, students analyse an activity, then complete an action plan developing any major weaknesses. This work is marked against six criteria producing a final mark for the piece.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

Students should be passionate about PE and sport, which will usually mean that they're involved in clubs in and outside of school. They must be dedicated to improving their knowledge and techniques in each of the activities covered and certainly shouldn't take GCSE PE if they're hoping it'll be about playing games with their friends. Students will need to be determined to maximise their ability and conscientious with regard to personal organisation. If they love sport, understand that the course is academic as well as practical and are prepared to work hard, then they stand a good chance of achieving their GCSE goals in PE.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers with direct links to PE include: Sports Nutrition, Sports Development, Fitness Training, Sport Technology, PE Teaching, Sport Journalism, Sports Physiology, Sports Psychology, Physiotherapy. This said, many students take PE in order to gather a good grade and move to the next stage of their lives - not all anticipate the PE course leading directly to a career, it is simply the right choice for them at this stage.

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel

Christianity – Religious Studies B Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Religion and Ethics

Islam - Religious Studies B Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict

What will I learn?

Students will be studying the key beliefs and values of Christianity and Islam and seeing how these beliefs impact their lives and behaviour. Students will get the chance to explore and discuss ethical and theoretical concepts that surround these belief systems and engage in thought provoking debates on topical issues. Part of the course is studying moral and ethical issues and seeing how different people respond to them. The course offers insight in to topics such as the aims of punishment, the death penalty, war, euthanasia, gender and equality. The different groups that we look at are humanism and atheism and comparing and contrasting their views and responses to religious views. Students will not only learn key information that is related to our society but will be able to develop their own ethical thinking on ultimate questions. The course aims to allow students to develop their skills of reasoned argument and be confident to justify an opinion while still respecting the views of others.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is broken up into the two religion and the ethical and moral issues:

- Christianity units:
Christian Beliefs, Marriage and the Family, Living the Christian Life and Matters of Life and Death.
- Islam units:
Muslim Beliefs, Crime and Punishment, Living the Muslim Life and Peace and Conflict.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

The course does not require coursework

How will I be assessed?

There are 2 exam papers each 1 hour 45 mins long. One exam paper is on Christianity and the other on Islam. There are 4 units in each paper and each unit consists of 4 styles of question.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

If students like to engage in current and topical issues and like to think deeply, they will enjoy the course.

If students are open to debate and thinking critically about issues they will like the course.

If students enjoy exploring moral and ethical issues and want to understand why society thinks differently, this is the course for them.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: working in the Civil Service, Law, International Aid, Teaching, Barrister, Government Lobbyist, Archivist, Broadcast Journalist, Doctor, Police, Army.

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

What will I learn?

GCSE Combined Science offers students:

- A good knowledge of science, by studying the main concepts from GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics.
- A firm foundation to go on to study A Level or vocational Science courses.
- The opportunity to gain a good understanding across important topics such as keeping healthy, elements and atoms and the transfer of energy.

What is the structure of the course?

Continuing on from the foundation work in Year 9 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, the units are completed with a similar structure over the following 2 years.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

In line with national GCSE reforms, there will be no controlled assessment – grades are awarded through examination at the end of Year 11 only.

How will I be assessed?

- Biology: 2 exams of length 1 hour and 15 minutes
- Chemistry: 2 exams of length 1 hour and 15 minutes
- Physics: 2 exams of length 1 hour and 15 minutes

All papers are weighted equally at 16.7% of the final grade.

How is the course graded?

Grading will be along a 9 - 1 scale. As the course is combined, students will receive 2 GCSE's but 1 overall grade based on their performance in all of the exams.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

This course is for all students. Students must gain a broad understanding of the main scientific concepts that enable us to make sense of the world. Students will also learn about the scientific practices that have led to this understanding of the world. Students will also study the issues that arise when scientific knowledge is put to practical use.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: working in the Civil Service, Law, International Aid, Scientists Technician, Biochemist, Pharmacologist, Biomedical Scientist, Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer (MLSO).

Separate Science GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

AQA GCSE Biology, AQA GCSE Chemistry, AQA GCSE Physics

What will I learn?

GCSE Separate Science offers students:

- The best foundation to go on to study A-level Biology, Chemistry or Physics. We strongly recommend this course for any student wishing to study an A-level Science subject.
- A good background to specialize in other sciences.
- The opportunity of being taught by subject specialists.

Biology provides a good understanding across a broad range of rich and relevant topics in: human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment.

Chemistry provides a good understanding across a broad range of rich and relevant topics in: the nature of substances and how they react together, how our knowledge of chemistry is used in business and industry, how our use of raw materials as fuels and in manufacturing can affect the local and global environment.

Physics provides a good understanding across a broad range of rich and relevant topics in: the use and transfer of energy, waves, radiation and space, the application of physics.

What is the structure of the course?

Continuing on from foundation work in Year 9 (which covers all 3 of the sciences), students will receive separate lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics by specialist teachers. Students therefore gain a separate GCSE qualification for each of the three sciences.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

In line with national GCSE reforms, there will be no controlled assessment – grades are awarded through examination at the end of Year 11 only.

How will I be assessed?

Each subject of Biology, Chemistry and Physics is assessed by the following:

- 2 exams of length 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Each paper is worth 50% of that GCSE.

How is the course graded?

Grading will be along a 9-1 scale, with 9 being the best. Students receive a separate grade for each of the three science subjects.

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

If students feel that they are likely to study one or more sciences at A-level, this course is highly recommended as it provides the grounding for further study.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Typical careers include: Medicine, Engineering, Biomedical Science, Neuroscience, Pharmacist, Optician, Radiographer.

Spanish

(This option can only be taken if Spanish was studied in Year 9)

What is the Examination Board and Specification of this course?

Edexcel 1SP0

What will I learn?

Students will further develop their skills of speaking, reading, writing, translating and listening using a range of engaging activities. They will address a variety of topics from school to cultural life in Spain to global issues, with a view to ultimately being able to have the confidence to use their Spanish for leisure when visiting a Spanish-speaking country or in the workplace when dealing with colleagues or clients. Students will also develop their communication skills as well as gain a fuller understanding of Spanish-speaking culture. On completion of this GCSE course students will have gained the experience and transferable skills necessary to learning another foreign language in the future.

What is the structure of the course?

Over the two years leading to the GCSE exams students will work through a variety of topics which emphasise a practical use of the language. These topics include Holidays, Local Area & Town, Family and Friends, Social and Global Issues, Free Time Activities and Work and Future Plans. Within the course we cover the four key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through a wide variety of both traditional and innovative teaching methods.

What coursework will I be expected to do?

There is no coursework to complete for Spanish GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

There are 4 exams taken at the end of the 2-year course: Speaking, Listening, Reading (and translation into English) and Writing (and translation into Spanish). Each paper is worth 25% of the final grade (9-1).

What personal qualities do I need to be successful in this course?

To be a successful language learner students' need to build up their knowledge gradually. This is done through regularly learning vocabulary, practising their listening, reading and translation skills and adapting grammar to produce their own sentences, all of which require self-motivation and commitment. It is also crucial that students have a "can do" attitude and do not overly worry about making mistakes, especially when speaking, as this is a natural part of the language-learning process. Also helpful is curiosity about how language works and a desire to learn more about Spanish-speaking culture.

What careers can I do with this subject?

Spanish is a rapidly growing language, being the fourth most spoken language in the world and the third most used language on the internet after English and Mandarin. Consequently, there are a huge range of career opportunities provided by learning Spanish, the most typical careers include Translator and Interpreter, European Civil Administrator, Foreign Commonwealth Office worker, Banker and Finance Advisor, Teacher, Broadcast Journalist, Publisher, Travel Agent and Tour Operator. However, the opportunities don't stop there; Spanish will also facilitate jobs such as footballers, Youtubers, bloggers and hotel workers - the list goes on.

Who to contact for further information

If you would any further information about any of these subjects, please contact the relevant member of staff.

Subject Leaders

Art and Design (Fine Art)	<i>Mrs E Ball</i>
Art and Design (Textiles)	<i>Mrs G Jenkins</i>
Business	<i>Mr M Desborough</i>
Computer Science	<i>Miss S Darby</i>
Design and Technology	<i>Mr A Libberton</i>
Digital Information Technology BTEC	<i>Mr M Desborough</i>
Drama	<i>Mr M Garbutt</i>
Economics	<i>Mr E Wilkinson</i>
English	<i>Mrs L McMahan</i>
Ethics	<i>Mrs G Harvey</i>
Food Preparation and Nutrition	<i>Miss C O’Coy</i>
French	<i>Mrs L Robinson</i>
Geography	<i>Ms S Mooney</i>
German	<i>Mrs L Davies</i>
Health & Social Care (BTEC)	<i>Mrs E Glennie</i>
History	<i>Mrs J Upton</i>
Maths	<i>Mrs C Davies</i>
Music	<i>Ms A Dale</i>
PE	<i>Mr M Hunter</i>
PRE	<i>Mrs G Harvey</i>
PSHCE	<i>Ms S Mooney/Mrs P Cunningham</i>
Science	<i>Mr P Hambridge, Mr M Connor, Ms H Budarkiewicz</i>
Spanish	<i>Miss L Harris</i>