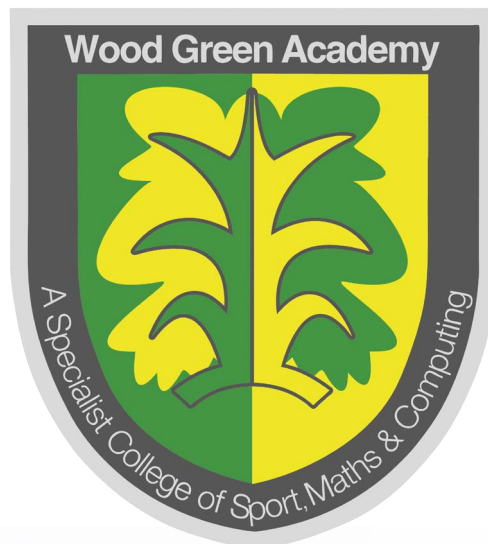


# Year 8 Options Booklet 2025





# Contents

## General Information

- 1 Introduction
- 3 Are there any subjects I must take?
- 4 What are the qualifications available?
- 4 What is the English Baccalaureate?
- 4 Who can help me?
- 5 Can I change my mind?
- 6 What will it cost?
- 6 Notes for completion of the option form

## Optional Subjects

- 16 Achieve Programme\*
- 17 Art and Design
- 18 Business Studies
- 19 Retail Business
- 20 Computer Science
- 21 Dance
- 22 Design and Technology
- 23 Drama
- 24 German
- 25 Geography
- 26 Health and Social Care
- 27 History

## Optional Subjects

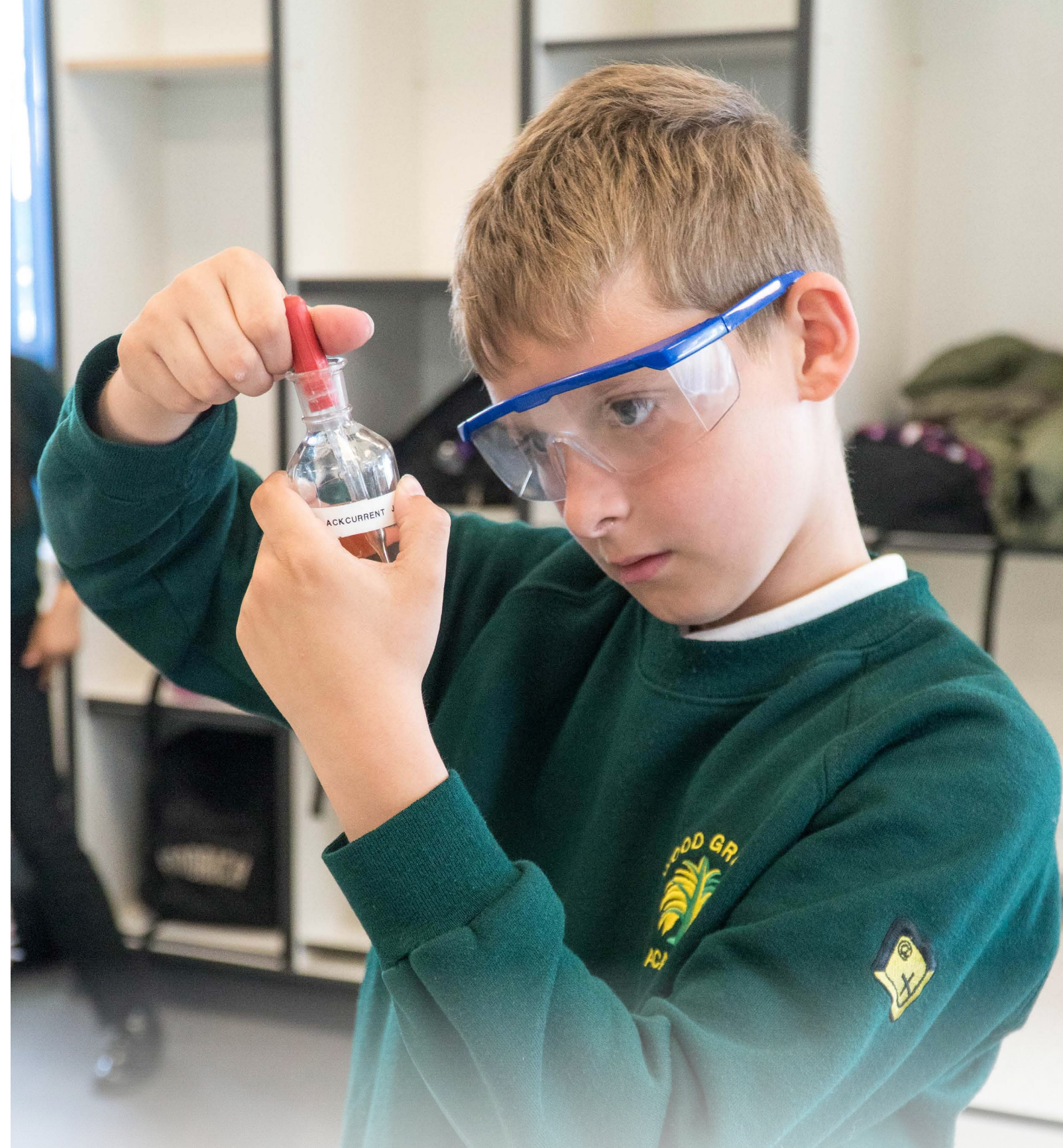
- 28 ICT
- 29 Media Studies
- 30 Music
- 31 Religious Studies (GCSE)
- 32 Physical Education
- 33 Psychology
- 34 Sociology
- 35 Triple Science (entry criteria applies)
- 36 Key Dates
- 37 Option Blocks

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\*Selected cohort of students

## Core Subjects

- 8 English Language
- 9 English Literature
- 10 Mathematics
- 11 Science
- 12 Core Physical Education
- 13 Core Computing
- 14 Core Religious Education



**We want our students to put in  
exceptional effort and act upon advice  
to improve further...**



# General Information



# General Information

Now is the time for you to request the four optional subjects you would like to study in Years 9, 10 and 11. Since the subjects you choose may affect your future career, it is important that these decisions are not taken lightly. We offer a high-quality range of options and all our courses offer excellent support to future routes into further study and careers.

## Are there any subjects I must take?

In Years 9, 10 and 11 all students will study GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Maths, GCSE Science and core PE. In Year 9 only all students also study core Computing and core Religious Education. Students will also receive their entitlement in terms of careers education, sex education, work-related learning and religious education during form time, personal development time and Step Up 4 Life days. This leaves four optional subjects to be requested to study in Years 9, 10 and 11. Each optional subject is studied for 5 hours per fortnight for three years. A small number of students with special educational needs may be selected for Skills Development if it is deemed appropriate by the SENCo. These targeted students will receive interventions in order to support their development in key areas of literacy and numeracy.

Where possible, if you have a goal to aim for, this can help focus your choice of courses. Having said that, we fully understand that many of you will either not have a career path planned out or may change your plans. Our curriculum has the flexibility to accommodate this, and we would encourage you to choose a broad range of courses to keep your options open. A good broad education is important whatever you are going to do. Therefore, choose a balanced course, including a wide range of subjects at which you are likely to do well.

There are several reasons for choosing a subject:

- Certain subject knowledge is needed for entry into particular fields of employment. In many cases specific grades will be required.
- Strong and weak subjects - you should choose your best subjects.
- Subject likes and dislikes are important but be careful that you do not choose or reject a subject because of your feelings towards a particular teacher who may not have a group next year. Ignore which subjects your friend requests - what suits him/her, may not suit you.

It is important to select options based on your ability and interest in subject areas, as well as any future career plans.





## What qualifications are available?

**GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)**  
The majority of courses in Key Stage 4 lead to GCSE qualifications. GCSE is nationally recognised and is used by employers and providers of further education as a yardstick for selection and recruitment. All GCSE courses have recently been reformed. Grades are now awarded in the range of 9 to 1 (with 9 being the top level). Assessment will be by external written exams. There are other forms of assessment, but only where it is necessary to assess essential subject skills, for example speaking in a foreign language.

**Vocational Courses e.g. BTEC and Cambridge Technical**  
These are courses which relate to the world of work, but the qualifications gained are equivalent to GCSE. The school has a very successful track record on vocational courses.

- BTEC Technical Award in Digital Information Technology
- BTEC Technical Award in Performing Arts (Dance)
- Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care

## What is the English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects that offer an important range of knowledge and skills. The Department of Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the EBacc, and help keep options open: English language, English literature, Mathematics, Science (two qualifications, which can include Computer science), a modern foreign language and History or Geography. They also recommend that every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time in school.

## Who can help me to choose?

Before making your final request, consult subject teachers who can tell you more about the individual courses and answer any questions you may have. Talk to your form tutor, Mr Brown, Mrs Whitehouse and parents/carers who can all advise you. For information about careers, consult Miss Birch or Mrs Holden and Ms Ellis (Connexions Personal Advisers).

## Who do I see to find out more information about the subjects offered?

Subject	Subject Leader
Achieve Programme	Miss Fox
Art and Design	Miss Measures
Business Studies	Mrs Ghag
Computer Science	Miss Rai
Dance	Miss Paskin
Design and Technology	Mrs Eccleston
Drama	Mrs Smith
Geography	Miss Veale
German	Miss Lascelles
Health and Social Care	Mrs Thornton
History	Miss Ford
ICT	Miss Rai
Media Studies	Ms Lyttle
Music	Ms Newman
Philosophy and Ethics	Miss Kooner
Physical Education	Miss McCurdy
Psychology	Mrs Williams
Retail Business	Mrs Ghag
Sociology	Mrs Williams
Triple Science	Mrs Harrison

Put aside plenty of time and talk about your choices – don't leave it until the last minute.

## Can I change my mind?

We always do our best to ensure that all students' requests can be matched but please bear in mind that if you return your options form after the deadline it may not be possible to be placed on your first-choice courses. As soon as your options form is returned, work begins on timetabling. Alterations to requests will not be possible from this point onwards.

Once a decision is made and a course begun, it is not possible to make any changes. It is therefore essential that time and thought is given to the courses to be taken.





## What will it cost?

Time and effort!

Qualifications can only be achieved by hard work and attending every lesson. To obtain good results in external examinations it is essential for all students to complete more work at home independently, become more self-motivated and take more responsibility for their own learning.

## Notes for the completion of the options form

Please read these instructions carefully before completing the form. The form will be available online from Monday 31st March 2025.

- All students will study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. All students will also study core Computing and core RE in Year 9 only.
- All students must have a minimum of two hours core PE per week.
- Follow the steps carefully on the options form and complete all the sections.
- Be able to give a valid reason for your choices.
- Remember to discuss your choices fully with your form tutor, teachers (where possible) and parents/carers before completing the form. The Year 8 Progress Evening is on Thursday 13th February 2025.
- Please note all optional courses are subject to enough student numbers so if there are only a few students who want to do a subject it may not run next year.

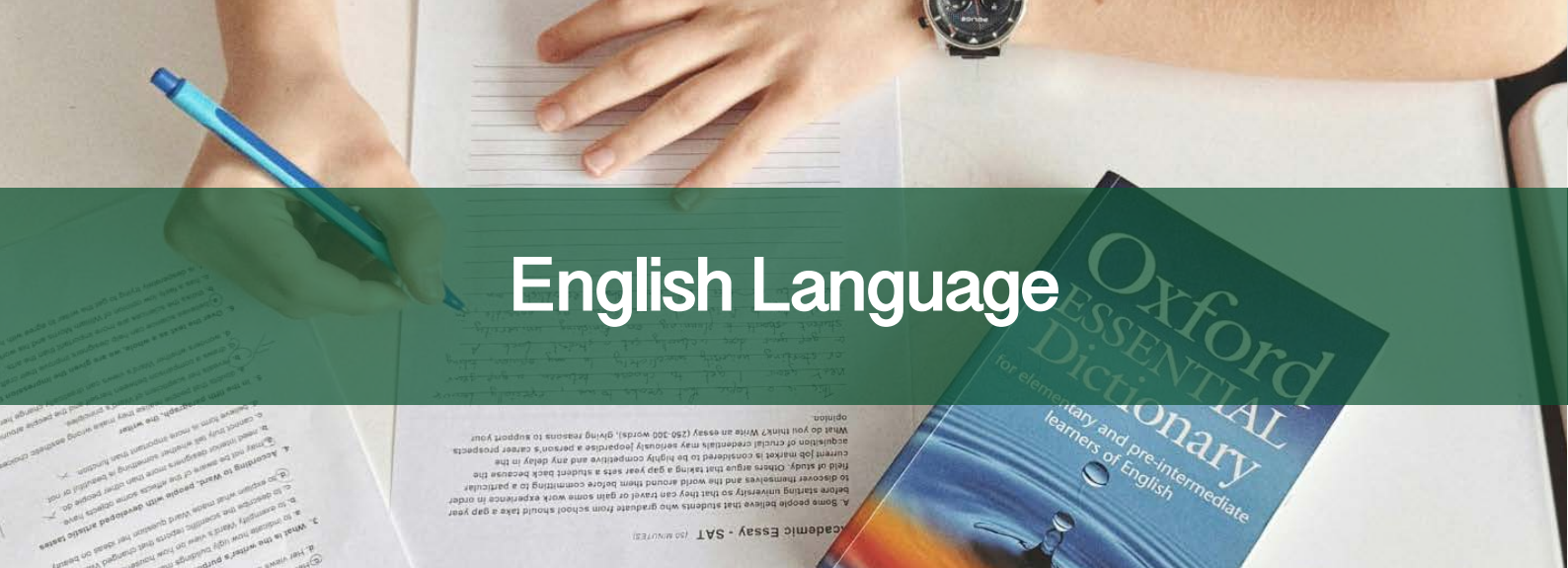
Online forms must be completed by:  
Wednesday 9th April 2025



# Core Subjects







# English Language



# English Literature

CURRICULUM

CORE SUBJECT

**How will my work be assessed?**  
GCSEs will be linear in design and students will sit 100% examinations for English Language. GCSE results will be reported on a 1-9 scale.

**Component 1**  
Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing  
Written examination - 50% of qualification  
Section A- Reading (25%)  
Section B- Writing (25%)

**Component 2**  
Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives  
Written examination - 50% of qualification  
Section A- Reading (25%)  
Section B - Writing (25%)

**Component 3**  
Spoken Language  
Non-examination Assessment  
This is a separate endorsement that has 0% weighting on the GCSE English Language qualification. It will be teacher set throughout the course.

Course Details

Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Mr Sturley

**Why should I study English Language?**  
All students will study English Language at GCSE Level. GCSE English Language provides a skills based approach in an untiered context. The course is designed to motivate and inspire students whilst engaging in high-quality texts, from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The curriculum is designed to prepare students with the skills needed for two equally-balanced papers and promote high standards of literacy by equipping students with a strong command of the written and spoken word, and to develop a toolkit of methods to engage with a range of non-fiction, literary non-fiction and literature fiction texts.

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	50%
The overarching aim of this paper is to engage students in creative texts, whilst inspiring them to hone their own skills as a creative writer. Students will explore a 20th or 21st century literature fiction text and consider how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage readers. Students will then demonstrate their own application of narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or image.	
Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives	50%
This paper offers students opportunities to explore how writers present particular viewpoints on a range of themes and issues. Students will engage with non-fiction and literary non-fiction texts from the 19th century and either the 20th or the 21st century. They will explore texts across a range of genres and be presented with the opportunity to produce their own text for a specified audience, purpose and form.	
Spoken Language	
In this assessment, students will develop their skills in speaking and listening through presentation and discussion, in formal contexts, using Standard English.	

CURRICULUM

CORE SUBJECT

**How will my work be assessed?**  
GCSEs will be linear in design and students will sit 100% examinations for English Literature. GCSE results will be reported on a 1-9 scale.

**Component 1**  
Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel  
Written examination - 40% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes  
Section A- Shakespeare (20%)  
Section B- The 19th-century novel (20%)

**Component 2**  
Modern Texts and Poetry  
Written examination - 60% of qualification  
Duration - 2 hours 15 minutes  
Section A- Modern Texts (20%)  
Section B - Poetry (20%)  
Section C - Unseen Poetry (20%)

Course Details

Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Mr Sturley

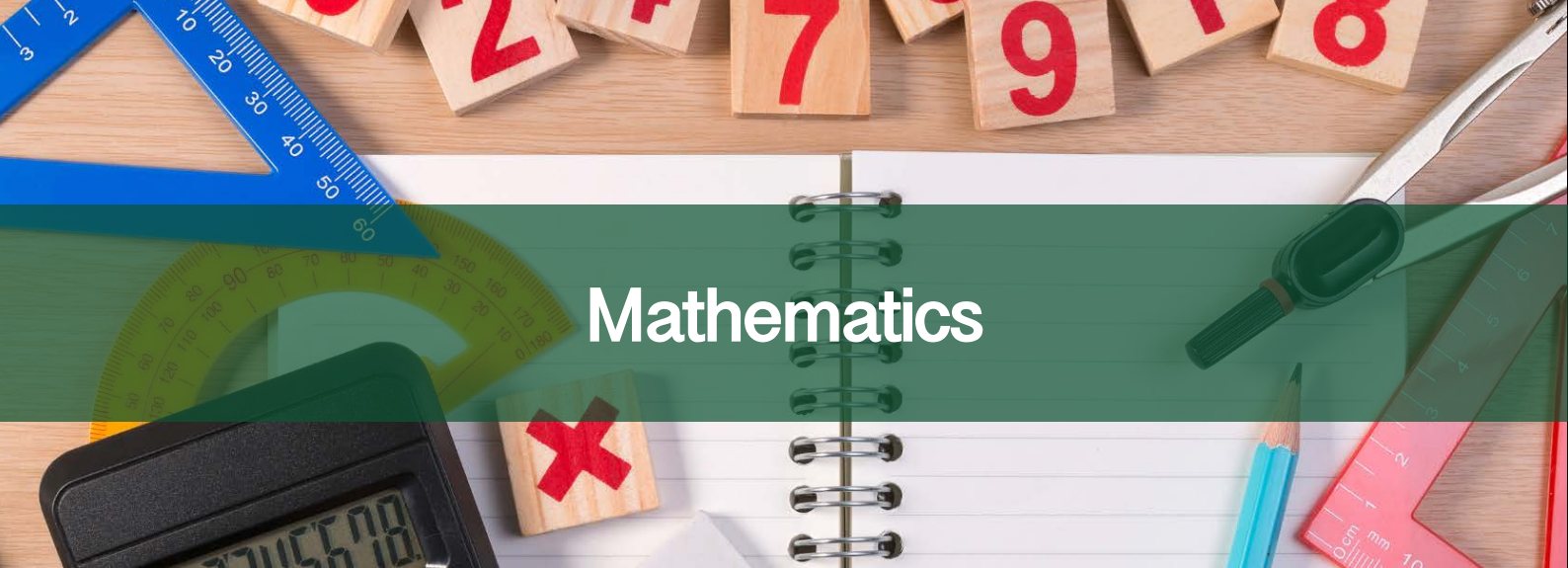
**Why should I study English Literature?**  
All students will study English Literature at GCSE Level. The course offers students a liberating exploration into a range of texts, including study of a Shakespeare play, a modern prose and a poetry anthology. GCSE English Literature will enlighten students’ critical and analytical skills and nurture a love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. The course is designed to inspire and challenge, whilst providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students. The curriculum aims to prepare students with the skills needed for all closed book assessments and hone students’ high skills in literacy.

Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel	40%
Students will study a whole Shakespeare play and a 19th century novel in order to explore aspects of plot, characterisation, events and setting. The aim of this course is to develop students’ literal and inferential comprehension, whilst recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text. Students will explore social, historical and cultural contexts surrounding texts and hone their own ability to create a personal response to a text informed by critical analysis.	
Modern Texts and Poetry	60%
This paper offers students an opportunity to further hone their skills in analysis and evaluation, whilst drawing comparisons across texts. Students will evaluate how language, form and structures are crafted for quality and impact, using linguistic and literary terminology. Through study of a poetry anthology, students will develop a toolkit of methods to respond confidently to the unseen element of the paper as part of their comparative evaluation.	

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
This course will prepare students for A Level English Language and A Level English Literature as well as a number of other Post-16 courses. All potential employers, in whatever career, will be looking for people who can communicate clearly and express themselves appropriately. Success in this course is essential for all students and for all career paths.

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
This course will prepare students for A Level English Language and A Level English Literature as well as a number of other Post-16 courses. All potential employers, in whatever career, will be looking for people who can communicate clearly and express themselves appropriately. Success in this course is essential for all students and for all career paths.





# Mathematics



# Combined Science

CURRICULUM

CORE SUBJECT

**How will my work be assessed?**  
The GCSE Mathematics course is 100% exam. There is no coursework.

Assessment is over three written exams that are sat in the summer of Year 11.

**Component 1**  
Non-Calculator  
Written examination  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes

**Component 2**  
Calculator  
Written examination  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes

**Component 3**  
Calculator  
Written examination  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes

Course Details

Examination Board	Pearson
Subject Leader	Mr Cherrington

**Why should I study Mathematics?**  
GCSE Mathematics is a Core subject that every student will study at Key Stage 4.

Mathematics is the universal language of numbers that is studied across the world. The concepts and ideas are vital for a wide range of jobs and career paths. From careers where strong number skills are required such as retail; banking and finance; accountancy; auditing etc. To those that require strong problem solving and application skills such as design and engineering; architecture; crime scene investigator; through to public service jobs such as nursing; doctors; police officers; and traffic and highways personnel.

The creative industries also require strong Mathematical skills to fill the high-tech and highly paid jobs in these fields, for example, computer game designers; web architects; and software engineers. Many more traditional industries such as oil exploration and transport logistics are now highly computerised and skilled environments where strong mathematical skills are a must.

Topics
Number
Algebra
Ratio
Proportion and rates of change
Geometry and measures
Probability and statistics

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
A good pass at GCSE Mathematics is required to continue with any course at college and students can expect to continue studying Mathematics beyond leaving school if they stay in education, regardless of their chosen course.

Students wishing to pursue Mathematics further can opt for A-Level Mathematics and A-Level Further Mathematics.

CURRICULUM

CORE SUBJECT

**How will my work be assessed?**

- Two papers for each science (6 total)
- Each paper is worth 60 marks
- Each paper is worth 16.7% of each GCSE

**Component 1**  
Biology  
Two examinations  
Duration - 1 hour 10 minutes per exam

**Component 2**  
Chemistry  
Two examinations  
Duration - 1 hour 10 minutes per exam

**Component 3**  
Physics  
Two examinations  
Duration - 1 hour 10 minutes per exam

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
A good GCSE pass in Combined Science can lead to many Further Education courses including the Sciences, Health and Social and Engineering, to name a few.

Below are a small range of science-based careers: Agriculture, Clinical Research, Medicine, Nursing, Astronomy Education, Microbiology, Pathology, Health, Clinical Medicine, Marine Science, Neuroscience and Veterinary Medicine.

Course Details

Examination Board	OCR A, Gateway
Subject Leader	Mrs Harrison

**Why should I study Combined Science?**  
This Combined Science course is an interesting and broad course covering all aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It also provides excellent preparation for A-level sciences and other further education courses. You will learn key skills and earn two GCSEs at the end of the course covering the three sciences:

Biology
1. Cell level systems 2. Scaling up 3. Organism level systems 4. Community-level systems 5. Genes, inheritance and selection 6. Global challenges 7. Practical skills
Chemistry
1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources
Physics
1. Forces 2. Energy 3. Waves 4. Electricity 5. Magnetism and electromagnetism 6. Particle model of matter 7. Atomic structure



# Physical Education



# Computing

## CURRICULUM

## CORE SUBJECT

### The Curriculum

In Year 9, 10 and 11 our pupils follow a similar curriculum to that of Year 8.

A unit of work is studied for approximately 6 weeks and a range of sports/physical activities are chosen to enhance and progress levels of competence giving the opportunity to practice, develop and perform in a sport or physical activity recreationally and competitively and perform at the highest level.

Pupils are set depending on ability.

Each pupil is assessed at the end of each unit of work.

### Course Details

Subject Leader	Miss McCurdy
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### Why should I study Physical Education?

Each pupil will continue to study Physical Education throughout Key Stage 4 for two hours per week. We encourage all our young people to enjoy, succeed and excel in sport recreationally and competitively. We provide opportunities for all pupils to become physically confident and competent to inspire them to follow a healthy and active lifestyle. We provide a range of opportunities for them to compete in sport and other activities that help build character and embed values such as fairness and respect.

This will enable our pupils to;

- Develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- Be physically active for sustained periods of time
- Engage in competitive sports and activities
- Lead healthy, active lives – enhancing their social, physical and mental well-being
- Enjoy sport and physical activity at school and in their free time

We will teach all of this through a variety of sports.  
This may include:

Athletics	Badminton	Basketball
Football	Gymnastics	Handball
Cricket	Netball	Dance
Rounders	Fitness	Table Tennis

## CURRICULUM

## CORE SUBJECT

### How will my work be assessed?

Each unit comprises of a practical element and an end of unit test. How well you do on these will be reflected on your flight path and progression for the course.

Unit 1 - Text Based Programming in Python  
Section A- Practical element  
Section B- End of unit test

Unit 2 - Data management and manipulation using Spreadsheets  
Section A- Practical element  
Section B- End of unit test

Unit 3 - Microsoft Word Skills  
Section A- Practical element  
Section B- End of unit test

Unit 4 - Microsoft Powerpoint Skills  
Section A- Practical element  
Section B- End of unit test

Unit 5  
iDea Award - completing  
Modules - Awarded Certification

### What can I do at the end of this course?

You will be equipped with all the core skills you need in Computing. This will aid you in all your subjects.

### Course Details

Subject Leader	Miss Rai
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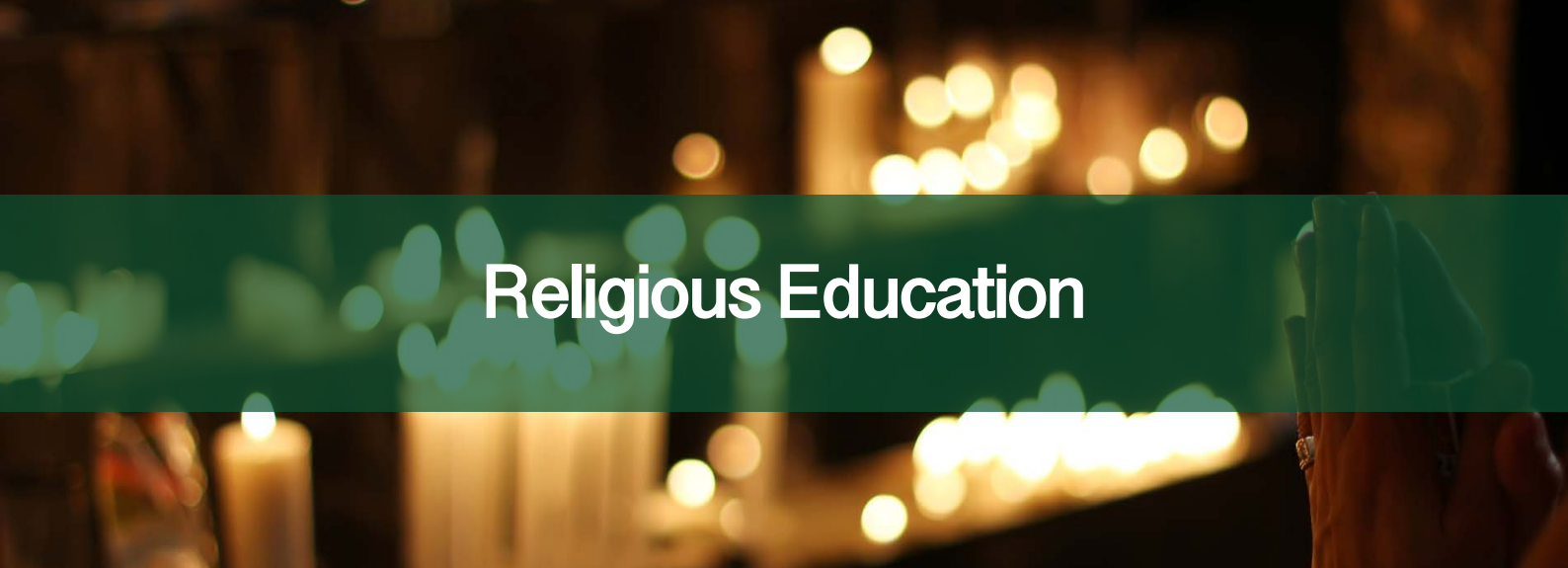
### Why should I study Computing?

Computing is a great subject that allows students to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills. These skills can be transferred to further learning and applied to everyday life.

Computer programmes have all but infiltrated every aspect of our lives. Computing allows you to theorise, design, develop, and apply the software and hardware for the programmes we use day in day out.

Unit	Topic
Unit 1	Text Based Programming in Python
Unit 2	Data management and manipulation using Spreadsheets
Unit 3	Microsoft Word Skills
Unit 4	Microsoft PowerPoint Skills
Unit 5	iDea Award





# Religious Education

## CURRICULUM

## CORE SUBJECT

**How will my work be assessed?**  
You will take written examination papers at the end of each topic.

The examination paper consists of answering five questions.

Four of the questions are short answer questions, but the fifth question has an essay style.

You will be expected to describe, explain, argue and compare.

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
Religious Education is about being able to understand people, this will help in any job where you work with other people. Religious Education helps you put your view across more convincingly.

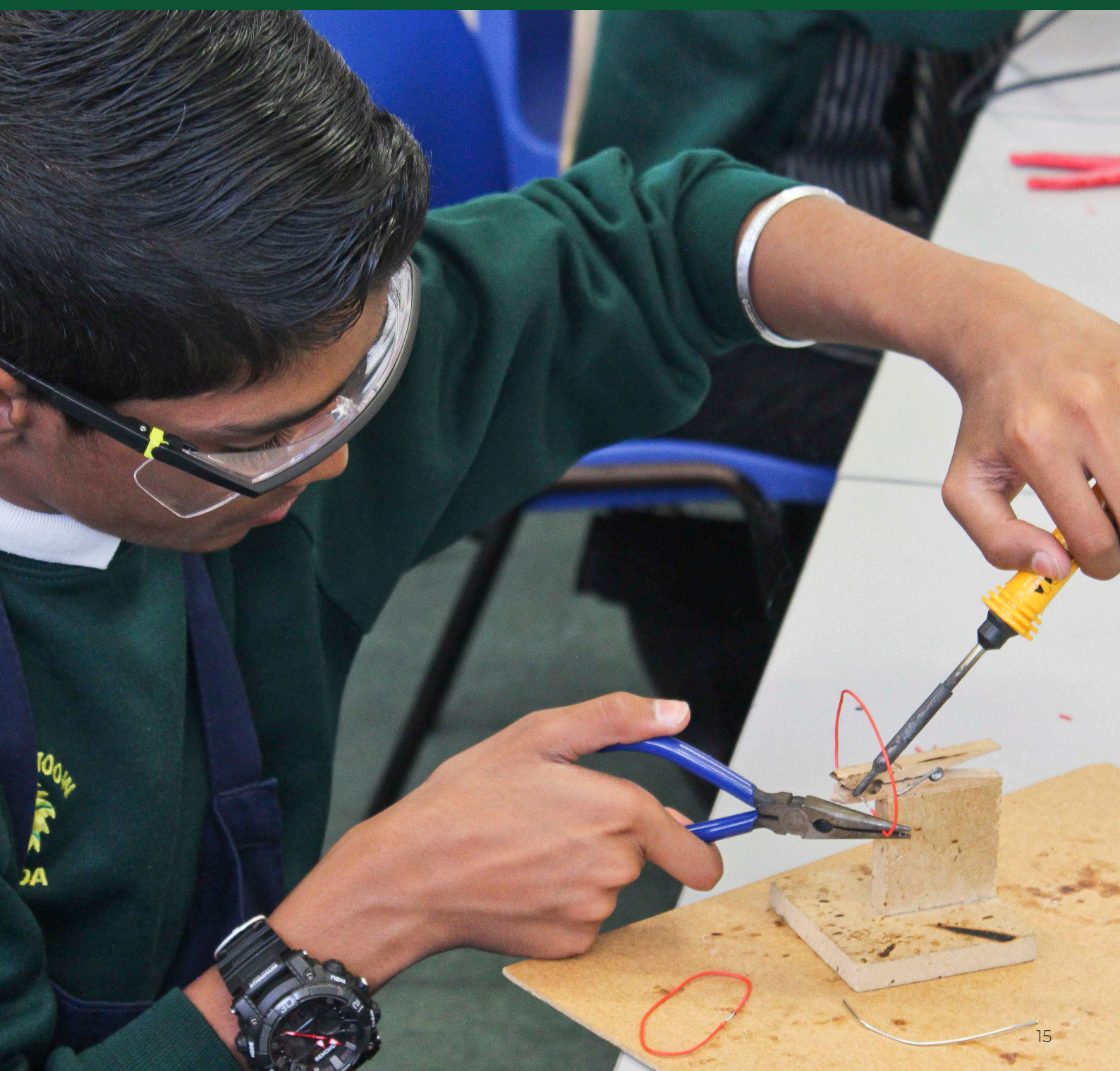
### Course Details

Subject Leader	Miss Kooner
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**Why should I study Religious Education?**  
Britain is a multi-faith state and in order for us to live together in peace, there needs to be an understanding between people. In Religious Education, you will understand teachings and how they influence the behaviour of people. You will also learn to express your own views logically, thoughtfully and clearly.

Topics
The law on ethical issues
Religious teachings on ethical issues
How the religious teachings influence peoples' views and behaviour

# Optional Subjects





# The Prince's Trust Programme

## Art & Design

### SUPPORT

### OPTIONAL

#### About the Programme

The Programme promotes a flexible approach, using relevant, experiential learning to support young people to achieve a range of personal and employability skills, as well as gaining a qualification.

#### Course Details

Subject Leader	Miss Fox
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#### Why should I study The Prince's Trust Programme?

This is not a GCSE, although you will receive recognised equivalent qualifications. The programme is aimed at students aged 13-19 who may be at risk of not achieving 5 or more GCSE qualifications, and who might benefit from an alternative style of learning.

#### Skills Covered

Personal and social development
By working in small groups, you'll be able to meet new people and make new friends.
Life Skills
Through fun and interactive sessions, you'll learn how to manage money, be healthy and stay safe.
Active citizenship
You'll work as part of a team to make a difference to your local community.
Enterprise project
This is a Dragons' Den style challenge. Ready to put your entrepreneurial skills to the test?
Preparation for work
Create a tip-top CV, practise for future interviews and explore your skills and talents.

### GCSE

### OPTIONAL

#### How will my work be assessed?

##### Component 1

NEA Portfolio - 60% of qualification

##### Component 2

NEA OCR Set Task  
Examination - 40% of qualification

##### Assessment Objectives

Both units are marked using 4 assessment objectives.

AO1 Develop ideas - 25% of qualification  
Develop your ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2 Refine ideas - 25% of qualification  
Refine your work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3 Record ideas - 25% of qualification  
Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to your intentions as work progresses.

AO4 Present a response - 25% of qualification  
Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

#### What can I do at the end of this course?

You have several choices at the end of this course. You could:

- Apply for sixth form and study A-Level Fine Art or Photography
- Apply to college and choose from a selection of specialist courses
- Apply for an apprenticeship

#### Course Details

Examination Board	OCR
Subject Leader	Miss Measures

#### Why should I study Art and Design?

Choose this course if you have a keen interest in this subject; you want to develop skills and knowledge further, you're thinking of a career in an area of the arts, you're good at it, you like painting, drawing and working with a variety of art and design materials, you would like to use digital media, you're willing to work hard in school and in your own time and you're keen to develop your skills further.

Furthermore, did you know that employment in the creative industries has seen a remarkable growth in the last few years and excellent, creative and imaginative job prospects are available in this subject?

#### What topics will I study?

You will learn to develop your initial ideas into a confident final personal outcome based upon a popular theme. You will have the opportunity to experiment and build skills in two or more of the following areas; drawing, painting, printmaking, digital media, card construction or clay.

##### NEA Portfolio

You will produce a portfolio of work developed from a project theme. The focus is on including work that shows exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills.

##### NEA OCR-Set Task

##### Exam

You select one question from a set paper to which you produce a personal response. You will be given a period of time in which to plan and prepare. You will then be given ten hours of supervised time in which to work on realising your idea to create a final outcome.



Prince's Trust





# Business Studies 9 - 1



## Level 1/2 Vocational Award Retail Business

GCSE

OPTIONAL

**How will my work be assessed?**  
Students will sit two external examinations that will consist of multiple-choice questions and three different synoptic case studies.

**Component 1**  
Business Activity, Marketing and People Examination  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes  
80 Marks

**Component 2**  
Operations, Finance and Influences on Business Examination  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes  
80 Marks

Course Details

Examination Board	OCR
Subject Leader	Mrs Ghag

**Why should I study Business Studies 9-1?**  
GCSE Business 9-1 will develop your subject knowledge on all aspects of Business. Students will study content that allows them to understand how a new business is set up and how businesses grow to become large and established businesses.

Choosing Business will help you develop the skills needed to manage or work in successful organisations. In Year 9 you will focus on the key skills needed for Year 10 and 11.

For example, how are products made, how do businesses make profit and how are workers kept motivated. Business GCSE will encourage you to make informed choices about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career options as well as develop life skills that enable you to become financially and commercially aware.

Topic	Area of Study
Business activity in the economy	Different types of businesses
Marketing	Persuading customers to buy products
Managing Employees	Accessing ways to make people produce better quality goods
Operations	How products are made
Finance	How to organise all the money coming in and going out of a business
Influences on businesses	How factors like the economy influence business
The interdependent nature of business	How businesses work with each other

LEVEL 1/2

OPTIONAL

**What will I study?**  
This qualification is made up of 3 units:

**Unit 1: The business of retail**  
You will:

Be introduced to the business of retail and will explore the dynamic and competitive nature of the retail industry.

Gain knowledge and understanding of different types of retail business and retail activity, as well as the impact of external factors on the industry e.g. growth in sustainability.

**Unit 2: Customer service for retail business**  
Develop your knowledge and understanding of the principles of customer service for retail business and have the opportunity to investigate the customer service experience across a retail organisation selected by you.

**Unit 3: Merchandising and marketing of retail products**  
Be introduced to the importance of visual merchandising and marketing retail products, and how retail businesses use visual merchandising and marketing to achieve their aims.

Apply your knowledge and understanding to design visual merchandising installations and promotional materials.

All three units will consider retailing in physical stores and online retailing.

**How will I be assessed?**  
You will be assessed through a mixture of exams and project work. Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification. The exam will last 1 hour and 30 minutes and will be made up of multiple-choice questions, and short and extended answers.

Course Details

Examination Board	WJEC/ Eduqas
Subject Leader	Mrs Ghag

Unit 2 will involve project work, where you will investigate the customer service of a selected retail business. This is worth 30% of your qualification, and will take 6 hours to complete.

For Unit 3, you will design visual merchandising and marketing materials in response to a given brief. This will take place over 8 hours, and will be worth 30% of your qualification.

**Why should I study Retail Business?**  
You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Learning independently
- Research
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management

**Careers with Retail business**  
Retail Business will give you good IT knowledge, great analytical skills, and excellent problem-solving skills. This means that when it comes to potential careers, there will be lots of choice. Specific retail business careers include:

Content writer, Customer service representative, E-commerce ,web developer, Logistics Marketing assistant, Marketing management, Retail buyer Retail management, Sales associate, Social media Team leader and Visual merchandiser.

**Aims of the Business Studies Department**  
Our aim is that we want our students to not only be academically confident at Retail Business Studies but also have the confidence to set up their own business if they want to. To prepare students for the wider business world we run a number of challenges at different points in the academic year.



# Computer Science

# Level 2 BTEC Technical Award Dance

GCSE

OPTIONAL

## How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1 and 2 is an external examination unit both units are worth 50% each. Theory will be taught in lessons and practice questions, mock tests, pop quizzes and homework will be used to assess and monitor students' progress in these units.

### Component 1

Computing Systems

Examination - 50% of qualification

### Component 2

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

Examination - 50% of qualification

## What can I do at the end of this course?

Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science will find it provides a superb stepping stone. Computer Science is a desired subject and is highly favoured by colleges and universities.

## Course Details

Examination Board	OCR
Subject Leader	Miss Rai

## Why should I study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a great subject that allows students to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills. These skills can be transferred to further learning and applied to everyday life. Computer Science is now part of the English Baccalaureate and is included as one of the qualifications that count towards students achieving the EBacc. EBacc has to be approved by BCS (The Chartered Institute for IT) – and GCSE Computer Science has been.

Computer Science is a very academic course, students who wish to study this need to have adequate skills in Mathematics and Physics. Computer Science is not the same as ICT; students must be clear about this when choosing Computer Science.

Unit 1: Computing Systems	50%
This unit covers the body of knowledge about Computer Systems. The topics you will study in this unit are System Architecture, Memory and Storage, Computer Networks, Network and System Security and Ethical issues. This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.	
Unit 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming	50%
This unit covers topics such as: Algorithms, Programming, Boolean Logic, Programming Languages and IDEs. Students will need to understand and use programming techniques to produce a coded solution to a problem. Students will be assessed on writing and refining algorithms in their exam. The computing language that we teach at GCSE level is Python.	

BTEC

OPTIONAL

## How will my work be assessed?

All components are graded on a six-point grade scale from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction. The qualification is graded over seven grades from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction\*.

### Component 1 and 2

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. The internal assessment for these components has been designed to demonstrate application of the conceptual knowledge underpinning the sector through realistic tasks and activities. These components are delivered through Pearson Set Assignments that are set by the exam board, marked internally and moderated by the exam board.

### Component 3

Component 3 provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification, it builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief requires learners to apply performance skills and techniques in response to a brief and stimulus, developing a workshop performance for a selected audience. This component is marked externally by the exam board.

All components require students to produce practical and written evidence. Students must perform in front of a live audience in order to meet the requirements of the course.

## What can I do at the end of this course?

A Levels such as A Level Dance Study a vocational qualification at Level 3 such as a BTEC National in Performing Arts.

## Course Details

Examination Board	Pearson
Subject Leader	Miss Paskin

## Why should I study BTEC Dance?

Do you want to be inspired and enthused by a career in the performing arts sector?

Would you like the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in the performing arts as a dancer?

This is a highly practical course that will cover a wide range of dance styles. You will explore practitioners work and look into the roles and responsibilities of those involved in creating a performance. You will even have the opportunity to learn some professional repertoire. You will learn about the creative process and how to choreograph movement. Through-out the course you will also be required to produce written evidence to support your practical performance both within rehearsal and live performance in front of an audience.

Component	Area of Study
1	Exploring the Performing Arts
2	Developing Skills and Techniques in Performing Arts
3	Responding to a Brief

**It is important to note that students are assessed for this course throughout both Year 10 and Year 11. Marks achieved for components studied in Year 10 go towards their overall grade achieved at the end of Year 11.**





# Design & Technology



# Drama

GCSE

OPTIONAL

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1

Examination - 50% of qualification

The paper consists of two sections.

Section A: Core

This section is 40 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 10 marks of calculation questions in Section A.

Section B: Material Categories

Section B is assessed on the material category, timbers. This section is 60 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 5 marks of calculation questions in Section B.

Component 2

Non Examined Component - 50% of qualification

- Students start to work on their portfolio in June of year 10 with submission at the end of year 11 (February).
- A single design and make activity selected from a context set by the examination board.
- There are four parts to the assessment: Investigate, Design, Make and Evaluate.
- Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by the examination board a year before certification.
- The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.
- Task will be internally assessed and externally moderated.
- Investigate (16 marks) Design (42 marks) Make (36 marks) Evaluate (6 marks)

Course Details

Examination Board	Pearson
Subject Leader	Mrs Eccleston

Why should I study Design & Technology?

"Design and technology is a phenomenally important subject. Logical, creative and practical, it's the only opportunity students have to apply what they learn in maths and science - directly preparing them for a career in engineering." (James Dyson 2022).

What topics will I study?

When studying Design and Technology at Wood Green Academy you will have the opportunity to learn about all of the different material areas including;

Systems (Electronics), Textiles, Timbers, Metals and Polymers (Resistant Materials), Paper and Board (Graphics)

To be able to design and make innovative products you need to be able to have a strong knowledge base and awareness of all of these design areas.

Topics
System (Electronics)
Textiles, Timbers, Metals and Polymers (Resistant Materials)
Paper and Board (Graphics)

To be able to design and make innovative products you need to be able to have a strong knowledge base and awareness of all of these design areas.

What can I do at the end of this course?

Design and Technology can be studied at A level at Wood Green Sixth Form, which could develop into a degree in a Design or Engineering related course. Design and Technology could also lead to apprenticeships in numerous practical and technical related careers.

GCSE

OPTIONAL

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1

Devising Drama

Written Assessment - 30% of qualification

The assessment for this unit will be marked by your teachers but moderated by the exam board. You will need to create a performance that is at least five and no more than fifteen minutes long. You will need to produce a portfolio (16 pages of A4 including pictures and diagrams or five minutes of video or 2000 words of continuous writing) to explain and evaluate how you developed your piece and what you intended to communicate.

Component 2

Presenting and Performing Texts

Examination - 30% of qualification

This work will be assessed by a visiting examiner. You will need to perform or do design work for two extracts from a published script. You can do a monologue (two – three minutes), duologue (three – five minutes) or group performance (five – fifteen minutes depending on group size). As a designer you must make or source two costumes, or one if it includes full hair and make-up or a scale model of the set with a ground plan. You would need to dress the set on the day of performance. All candidates will need to submit a concept proforma which will be assessed along with their practical work.

Component 3

Drama: Performance and Response

Written Examination - 40% of qualification

This is assessed in a written exam. You will study a set text and will explore it practically in the classroom to develop your understanding of all aspects of the text. You will need to answer questions in the exam on the text and on how you would perform it and why. In the second section of the exam, you will need to write an extended response in the form of a theatre review where you will need to write about a play that we will have been to see and then discussed in class.

### What can I do at the end of this course?

Drama GCSE is a subject that can lead to many professions as well as into further study of the arts. Drama is a useful GCSE for careers such as teaching, public relations, law or any job where presenting yourself well is important. The skills you develop throughout the course will make you a desirable candidate for further education or employment, as you will demonstrate that you can effectively work with others, reach deadlines and communicate with confidence.

Course Details

Examination Board	OCR
Subject Leader	Mrs Smith

Why should I study Drama?

The GCSE Drama course requires commitment and focus during lessons and a genuine enjoyment of all aspects of theatre. Much of the course is practical, allowing you to develop performance/design skills, create your own work and explore issues and the work of professional playwrights. The written elements are detailed, looking at all aspects of plays and how meaning is communicated to the audience. Drama is a subject that will help you develop many transferable skills which the world of work and further education require.

Through studying the Drama course you will develop:

- Understanding of how meaning is communicated both directly and through inference.
- Ways of communicating confidently and creatively.
- Co-operation skills and critical analysis.
- Discipline and working to deadlines.
- Greater self-awareness, analysis, and control of the way you present yourself as well as improved confidence.
- Powers of self-analysis, reflection and constructive criticism.
- Your acting skills, particularly use of voice and movement or design skills (e.g., costumes).

Devising Drama	30%
In this unit you will research and explore a piece of stimulus and work together in a group to create your own piece of Drama and write a detailed portfolio about the process.	
Presenting and Performing Texts	30%
In this unit you will apply your acting or design (set/costume) skills to presenting a performance of two extracts from a published play.	
Drama: Performance and Response	40%
In this unit you will practically explore a set text script which you will need to write about in exam conditions. You will also need to write a review of a piece of live theatre that you will have been to see as part of the course.	

22

23





# German

# Geography

GCSE

OPTIONAL

### How will my work be assessed?

Assessments- All using the set German vocabulary and grammar for each tier:

**Paper 1: Listening: 25% of GCSE**  
Understanding spoken extracts and answering listening comprehension questions in English.  
Transcribing short sentences when short extracts are read aloud.  
Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier) and 45 minutes (Higher tier).  
Each exam includes 5 minutes’ reading time at the start and 2 minutes’ checking time at the end of the recording.

**Paper 2: Speaking: 25% of GCSE**  
Speaking in German, using clear and comprehensible language to undertake:  
A role-play – 10 marks.  
A Reading aloud task and short, unprepared conversation – 15 marks.  
A photo card discussion and unprepared conversation – 25 marks.  
Non-exam Speaking assessment (NEA):  
7 – 9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes’ supervised preparation time.  
10 – 12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes’ supervised preparation time

**Paper 3: Reading: 25% of GCSE**  
Understanding written texts and answering reading comprehension questions in English.  
Inferring plausible meanings of single words.  
Translating from German into English.  
Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier) and 1 hour (Higher tier).

**Paper 4: Writing: 25% of GCSE**  
Writing short sentences, short pieces of writing and a longer piece of writing in German in a lexically and grammatically accurate way.  
Translating from English into German.  
Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier) and 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier).

### Course Details

Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Miss Lascelles

### Why should I study German?

- Learning German offers you many opportunities- It opens up the world and offers a fresh perspective of the history, people and identity of Germany and German-speaking communities.
- It builds your confidence and gives you the opportunity to communicate more confidently with other people who can speak German. This may even lead to you learning other languages in the future!
- It broadens your horizons- You can step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and better understand relationships between German and the English language, and even develop new ways of seeing the world.
- It enables you to gain a deeper understanding of how language works and an opportunity to enrich your level of vocabulary and grammar.

### What topics will I study?

Theme 1: People and lifestyle
Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle Topic 3: Education and work
Theme 2: Popular culture
Topic 1: Free-time activities Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations Topic 3: Celebrity culture
Theme 3: Communication and the world around us
Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest Topic 2: Media and technology Topic 3: The environment and where people live

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
ANYTHING! A language provides you with skills which can fit ANY future course or job. German seamlessly links up with other subjects, as we cover a variety of themes and topics.

GCSE

OPTIONAL

### How will my work be assessed?

The course is 100% examination - there are no tiered papers and no coursework. Three exams are sat at the end of Year 11 and final grades are awarded 9-1. Fieldwork is a compulsory part of the course and investigation skills are assessed in Paper 2.

We complete two field trips during the course; a local river study and an urban transect to meet the specification requirements.

**Component 1**  
Global Geographical Issues  
Examination - 37.5% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes

**Component 2**  
UK Geographical Issues  
Examination - 37.5% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes

**Component 3**  
People and Environment Issues  
Examination - 25% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
GCSE Geography is an EBacc subject that goes well with the Sciences and Mathematics as well as other Humanities, Languages and Arts. It is very flexible in terms of what it can be combined with both at GCSE and in the future at A-Level, being recognised as both a Science and an Art specialism. It offers many transferable skills that are thought of highly by employers such as IT, numeracy, problem solving and analysis as well as spatial and environmental awareness. This can lead to a wide range of future career pathways and is a great option when you are still unsure about what you might like to do.

### Course Details

Examination Board	Edexcel
Subject Leader	Miss Veale

### Why should I study Geography?

Geography is all about the world around us – the people, places, and environments - and helps you to make sense of an increasingly complex world. It illuminates the past, explains the present and helps us to prepare for the future. You will learn how to describe and explain the human and physical environments around you, understand global issues as well as explore different viewpoints and perspectives. Geography offers many transferrable skills and can contribute towards a wide range of career pathways in the future.

### What topics will I study?

We teach the Edexcel GCSE Geography (9-1) Geography B specification. The course covers both human and physical geography topics at a variety of scales – UK and Global. Within each topic there are geographical skills, as well as numeracy and literacy including extended writing. We also study a number of case studies within each topic.

Global Geographical Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hazardous Earth</li><li>• Development Dynamics</li><li>• Challenges of an Urbanising World</li></ul>
UK Geographical Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UK Physical Landscape</li><li>• UK Human Landscape</li><li>• Geographical Investigations</li></ul>
People and Environment Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People and the Biosphere</li><li>• Forests under Threat</li><li>• Consuming Energy Resources</li><li>• Making Geographical Decisions</li></ul>



# Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate Health & Social Care

## LEVEL 2

## OPTIONAL

### How will my work be assessed?

All students will complete one written examination and two pieces of coursework.

#### Component 1

Principles of care in health and social care  
Written Examination

In this unit you will learn about the key topics that are important when caring for and protecting people in health and social care.

#### Component 2

Supporting individuals through life events  
Coursework

In this unit you will learn about growth and development through the life stages. You will also learn how to understand the needs of individuals who have been affected by life events and how to recommend support to meet their needs.

#### Component 3

Health promotion campaigns  
Coursework

In this unit you will research health promotion campaigns and learn about their benefits to society. You will also plan and deliver your own health promotion campaign.

### What can I do at the end of this course?

This course leads onto the Health and Social Care Cambridge Technical at Level 3 in our Sixth Form. Health and Social Care can lead to a variety of employment opportunities both within and outside of the NHS. Nursing, midwifery, care assistant, nursery nurse, primary school teaching and social work are a few of the career choices of our past students.

### Course Details

Examination Board	OCR
Subject Leader	Mrs Thornton

### Why should I study Health & Social Care?

The Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care is aimed at students aged 14-16 years and will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in health and social care. You will study the key aspects of health and social care, and have the opportunity to apply what you learn through a number of practical experiences.

If you are interested in Health, Social Care or Early Years services or would like to work in one of these areas then this is the course for you. If you want to study a variety of new topics, if you are hardworking, motivated and organised then you will succeed in health and social care. This subject opens many doors and offers a wide variety of career choices. Therefore, it is also suitable for those pupils who have not yet decided on a career path.

R032	Principles of care in health and social care
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rights of service users in health and social care settings</li> <li>Person-centred values of care</li> <li>Effective communication in health and social care</li> <li>Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings</li> </ul>
R033	Supporting individuals through life events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life stages</li> <li>Impacts of life events</li> <li>Sources of support</li> </ul>
R035	Health promotion campaigns
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current public health issues and the impact on society</li> <li>Factors influencing health</li> <li>Plan and create a health promotion campaign</li> <li>Deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign</li> </ul>

# History

## GCSE

## OPTIONAL

### How will my work be assessed?

#### Component 1

Thematic Study and historic environment:  
Medicine in Britain c1250 to present and  
Western Front 1914-18

Exam Paper 1

Written Examination - 30% of qualification

Duration - 1 hour 20 minutes

#### Component 2

Period study and British Depth Study:  
The American West 1835-1895 and  
Elizabethan England 1558-88

Exam Paper 2

Written Examination - 40% of qualification

Duration - 1 hour 50 minutes

#### Component 3

Modern depth study: Weimar and Nazi  
Germany 1918-1939

Exam Paper 3

Written Examination - 30% of qualification

Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes

### What can I do at the end of this course?

- Management
- Business
- Law
- Accounting
- Tourism
- Journalism
- Computer programming
- Medicine
- Teaching
- Forensic Science

### Course Details

Examination Board	Pearson
Subject Leader	Miss Ford

### Why should I study History?

The skills learnt through History can be applied to other situations and jobs:

- Using evidence and report writing
- Communicate clearly to other people
- Research and analysis
- Handling data
- Reading different kinds of information
- Employers and universities value History very highly

Medicine in Britain c1250 to present and the British sector of the Western Front 1914-18	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Causes of disease and treatments from the Middle Ages to modern times</li> <li>Trench warfare- injuries and treatments</li> <li>The use of local and national sources</li> </ul>	
Early Elizabethan England 1558-88	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church Settlement</li> <li>Catholic threat</li> <li>Mary Queen of Scots &amp; Spanish Armada</li> <li>Sir Francis Drake</li> <li>Robert Dudley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sir Walter Raleigh</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Theatre</li> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Exploration</li> </ul>
Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treaty of Versailles</li> <li>Rebuilding Germany after the First World War</li> <li>Stresemann's achievements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rise of Hitler</li> <li>Creation of a dictatorship</li> <li>Life in Nazi Germany</li> </ul>
The American West 1835-1895	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How and why the USA expanded</li> <li>Lives of Indigenous People</li> <li>American Civil War</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mormons</li> <li>California gold rush</li> <li>Homesteaders and ranchers</li> <li>Conflict and wars</li> </ul>





BTEC

OPTIONAL

### How will my work be assessed?

**Component 1**  
Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques  
Internally Assessed Unit- 30% of qualification

Unit 1 is an internally assessed unit; students will explore user interface design and development principles.

Discover how to develop and review a digital user interface. Investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project

**Component 2**  
Collecting, presenting and interpreting data  
Internally Assessed Unit- 30% of qualification

Unit 2 is an internally assessed unit; students will explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations.

Develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools. Draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence.

**Component 3**  
Effective Digital Working Practices  
Written Exam- 40% of qualification

Unit 3 is an external exam; students will explore how modern information technology is evolving and consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing. Understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

### Course Details

Examination Board	Pearson Edexcel
Subject Leader	Miss Rai

**Why should I study ICT?**  
ICT will help students to gain a deeper understand and insight into how ICT is used in the world today. Students will gain practical skills that can be used across all subjects within the curriculum. ICT is a value subject to study as we are leaving in a digital world; keeping up with the latest developments in technology is vital.

Studying ICT will enable students to:

- Become independent and discerning users of ICT.
- Use technology and be aware of its implications for individuals, organisations and society.
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills to use a range of different software.
- Develop ICT-based solutions to solve real life problems.
- Develop an understanding of current and emerging technologies.
- Develop an understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental issues associated with ICT.
- Recognise potential risks when using ICT, and develop safe, secure and responsible.
- Evaluate and create ICT-based solutions.

Unit	Topic	
Unit 1	Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques	30%
Unit 2	Collecting, presenting and interpreting data	30%
Unit 3	Effective Digital Working Practices	40%

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
Students who excel in this course should also consider studying a Level 3 course in Cambridge Technicals IT or Computer Science at A-Level as this is the next progressive step after this course. Students can also progress onto ICT apprenticeships or work based placements.

GCSE

OPTIONAL

### How will my work be assessed?

Assessment is spread over two examinations and a piece of non-exam assessment. Multiple choice questions will assess breadth of knowledge. Short answer questions will assess in-depth knowledge. Stepped response questions will assess breadth of knowledge of media language. Extended response questions will assess in depth knowledge of all elements of the course.

**Component 1**  
Written examination - Exploring the Media  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes  
40% of qualification  
Section A assesses understanding of media language and representation. Section B assesses understanding of media industries and audiences.

**Component 2**  
Written examination - Understanding Media Forms and Products  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes  
30% of qualification  
This component assesses all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media in relation to television and music.

**Component 3**  
Non-exam assessment - 30% of qualification  
Creating a media product via application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical frameworks. Practical and creative skills will be applied to a choice of topics related to the over-arching (annually changing) theme. Students produce a statement of aims and a media product for an intended audience.

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
Transferable skills could help you gain an apprenticeship, or you could go on to study subjects such as: Media Studies , English Literature, Psychology etc.

### Course Details

Examination Board	EDUQAS
Subject Leader	Ms Lyttle

**Why should I study Media Studies?**  
Media Studies is a great choice because of its relevance to our daily lives and for the opportunities it provides for exploring contemporary issues such as representations, bias, or the influence of media on our values. Media Studies is an up-to-date and interactive subject which encourages students to develop their analytical, research, and communication skills, through exploring a range of media forms. There is also a small element of creativity to demonstrate understanding of production techniques.

Media Language
Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of how the media through their forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings. Students will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how media products reflect the social, cultural, historical and political contexts in which they are produced.
Media Representations
Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups. Students will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the processes of selection, construction, mediation and theoretical perspectives on gender and representation.
Media Industries
Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affects media forms and platforms.
Media Audiences
Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of how the media forms, reaches and addresses audiences, how audiences interpret and respond, and how members of the audience become producers themselves.





# Music



# Religious Studies (GCSE)

GCSE

OPTIONAL

How will my work be assessed?

**Component 1**  
Non - Exam Assessment - 60% of qualification

Solo Performance - 15% of qualification

Ensemble Performance - 15% of qualification  
Your performances can be on any instrument you wish, or you can sing. You can choose the pieces you want to play.

Composition 1 - 15% of qualification  
Brief set by exam board

Composition 2- 15% of qualification  
Brief set by student  
When composing you will be able to compose for any instrument you wish. You will also have the opportunity to use music software such as Cubase or Sibelius to complete your compositions.

**Component 2**  
Examination- 40% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes  
This will be based on all the topics listed.

Course Details

Examination Board	OCR
Subject Leader	Ms Newman

**Why should I study Music?**  
Music is a mainly practical course for students who are interested in music. You need to enjoy being creative, playing an instrument or singing and listening to new styles of music. There is also the opportunity to develop your knowledge of music technology. To be able to take the subject you need to be competent on an instrument or be a confident singer as all students must perform for at least four minutes.

**What topics will I study?**  
In lessons you will spend your time learning about new styles of music as well as developing your performance and composition skills. You will be able to choose what pieces you want to perform and what styles of music you want to compose. As part of the course you will need to perform two pieces and compose two pieces.

My Music
This is all about you and your favourite music. Choose whatever style of music you enjoy playing or singing, then research, perform and compose in this style.
The Concerto
Look at how the concerto developed from 1650 – 1910. This includes studying music by composers such as Mozart and Beethoven.
Rhythms of the World
Study the rhythmic roots of music from India, Africa and South America.
Film Music
Look at music that has been composed for films and the soundtracks of video games
Pop Music
Study a range of popular styles from the 1950's through to the present day.

GCSE

OPTIONAL

How will my work be assessed?

GCSE Religious Studies is an examination based subject. You will take two written examination papers at the end of Year 11.

**Component 1**  
Exam Paper 1  
Written Examination  
The first examination paper consists of answering two 5 part questions on Buddhism and two 5 part questions on Christianity.

**Component 2**  
Exam Paper 2  
Written Examination  
The second examination paper consists of answering a 5 part question on each of the four ethic topics. Four of the questions are short answer questions, but the fifth question has an essay style. You will be expected to explain, analyse, argue and finally evaluate.

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
Religious Studies is about being able to understand people, this will help in any job where you work with other people. Understanding people can affect how Doctors treat patients and how counsellors treat clients. Equality issues are important in all careers, especially those in the Public Services like the police and teachers. Religious Studies helps you put your view across more convincingly – this won't just help with your career, but it will help you to be taken seriously in life.

Course Details

Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Miss Kooner

**Why should I study Religious Studies?**  
Do you always have a view on something? Do you like discussions and debates? Do you wonder why people live differently to you? Do you like to question things? Then Religious Studies is for you!

Britain is a multi-faith state and an understanding of each other will help us live and work together in peace. We aim to develop an enthusiasm for the study of Religious Studies and the relation they have to the wider world. This course develops a wide range of skills such as: analysis, evaluation and application. It also allows you to express your feelings and views using reasoned arguments.

Ethics	
Religion and Life	Crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation:</li><li>Why are people arguing over these issues?</li><li>Should I value all life?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Should Britain start to use the death penalty?</li><li>Why do people have hatred? Why are people mentally ill? Are prisons working?</li><li>What causes poverty?</li></ul>
Relationships	Peace and Conflict
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Why do people get divorced?</li><li>Do I accept all types of relationships?</li><li>Is there still sexism?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Violence, weapons, war and terrorism versus peace-keeping and forgiveness.</li></ul>
Buddhism	
<p>Challenge your usual ideas about religion by studying Buddhism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How should we cope with suffering?</li><li>How can I be reborn when I don't actually exist?</li><li>Why does nothing last forever?</li><li>Why is receiving just as important as giving?</li><li>How can Buddhism have no God?</li></ul>	
Christianity	
<p>Question and challenge the beliefs Christianity holds to find their deeper significance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How can an all loving and powerful God exist, when there is so much evil in the world?</li><li>How did human beings come into existence and what will happen when we die?</li><li>How can Jesus be God and his own son?</li></ul>	



# Physical Education

# Psychology

GCSE

OPTIONAL

## How will my work be assessed?

### Component 1

The human body and movement in physical activity in sport  
Examination  
Exam paper - 30% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 15 minutes  
Total - 78 marks

### Component 2

Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity in sport  
Examination  
Exam paper - 30% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 15 minutes  
Total - 78 marks

### Component 3

Practical performance in physical activity and sport  
Internal assessment - 40% of qualification  
Total - 100 marks

## What can I do at the end of this course?

- Prepare for a sporting or coaching career.
- Gain a better understanding of sport and physical activity.
- Enrol on to A Level PE or BTEC Sport at 6th form
- Take further/higher qualifications to become a teacher, coach, physiotherapist, sports therapist, sport psychologist, sport development officer or fitness instructor.

## Course Details

Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Miss McCurdy

## Why should I study PE?

If you enjoy sport and recreation, developing your knowledge and understanding through practical involvement, learning about the benefits of sport and exercise, improving your own performance in a range of sports roles or if you are considering a sports-related career or an A Level/Higher Education course, then our Physical Education course is the right choice for you.

In Year 9 all students will follow the same curriculum that teaches students the knowledge needed to access the GCSE PE examination course in Years 10 and 11.

## What topics will I study?

You'll learn about a wide variety of topics from why athletes take performance-enhancing drugs to what constitutes a balanced diet. It's worth noting that the PE GCSE does contain a healthy dose of science: you'll be drawing on your biology knowledge to explain bodily systems (like the cardiovascular system and aerobic system) and human anatomy. You'll be applying your knowledge of physics to explain how we move and the stress this can put on our body, and you'll even have to consider chemistry when thinking about why athletes take performance-enhancing drugs.

The human body and movement in physical activity in sport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied anatomy and physiology</li> <li>• Movement analysis</li> <li>• Physical training</li> <li>• Use of data</li> </ul>
Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports psychology</li> <li>• Socio-cultural influences</li> <li>• Health, fitness and well-being</li> <li>• Use of data</li> </ul>
Practical performance in physical activity and sport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are assessed as a player/performer in three different activities</li> <li>• PLUS Written/verbal analysis and evaluation of performance</li> </ul>

GCSE

OPTIONAL

## How will my work be assessed?

The course will be exam based. It consists of two written papers, there is no coursework element. It is examined at the end of the course by 2 papers, each worth 50% and 1 hour 45 minutes in length. It consists of short answer and essay-based answers skills. You will be expected to learn and recall studies, theories and names of key Psychology studies

### Component 1

Exam Paper 1  
Examination- 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

### Component 2

Exam Paper 2  
Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

## What can I do at the end of this course?

Psychology is a highly recognised subject in many jobs and all further education courses. If you are considering an occupation where you will work with other people you will find Psychology incredibly useful.

Career areas favouring Psychology include: psychiatry, child psychology, psychotherapy, behaviour therapy, counselling, social work, the police force, nursing, nursery nurse, teaching, management, journalism. These careers all benefit from individuals who have studied Psychology.

## Course Details

Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Mrs Williams

## Why should I study Psychology?

Psychology is an exciting, successful and popular subject at GCSE. In Psychology we aim to make sense of the minds and behaviours of human beings so that we can understand the world we live in. Students of Psychology can, and do, apply psychology to their everyday lives.

If you are interested in people, how they think, why they follow certain behaviours, what impact other people have on our behaviour, then Psychology is for you. Students of Psychology like to ask questions and find information for themselves. Psychology will be of benefit in any area where you work with people. It involves learning about key theories, studies and explanations of human behaviour and requires written and thinking skills in order to answer examination questions.

Topic	Area of Study
Topic 1	Memory
Topic 2	Perception
Topic 3	Development
Topic 4	Research Methods
Topic 5	Social influence
Topic 6	Language, Thought, and Communication
Topic 7	The Brain and Neuropsychology
Topic 8	Psychological Problems





# Sociology



# Triple Science

GCSE

OPTIONAL

**How will my work be assessed?**  
GCSE Sociology is an exam-based subject. There is no coursework. It consists of two written papers to be sat at the end of the course each 1 hour and 45 minutes in length and worth 50% of the GCSE.

The type of skills examined ranges from short answer questions to two 12 mark essay answers per topic. So, it requires confidence in extended writing. You will be expected to learn and explain key concepts, as well as studies and research conducted by around 30 Sociologists.

**Component 1**  
Exam Paper 1  
Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

**Component 2**  
Exam Paper 2  
Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
Sociology is a valued subject both in the world of work and further/higher education. Sociology is useful for a wide range of occupations including: social work, the police, teaching, nursing, journalism, business management and the civil service.

In fact, Sociology is important for any area where you will be working with people as it helps us to understand people and differences in society.

You can even use GCSE Sociology to help you progress to study the course at A Level.

Course Details

Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Mrs Williams

**Why should I study Sociology?**  
Sociology is the study of the patterns of social life, how and why people behave in the ways they do and what makes us a society. We look at theories of life around us and begin to understand some of the inequalities that exist in our world and why groups are not all equal. Sociology helps us to understand the world in which we live and applies knowledge to real life events and news stories. It provides the ability to evaluate and analyse ideas and teaches the basic skills of research.

Unit 1
The Sociological Approach
Education
Families
Unit 2
Social Structures
Crime and Deviance
Social Stratification
Plus Research Methods in both papers.

GCSE

OPTIONAL

**How will my work be assessed?**  
We will be following the OCR specification which assesses as follows: two papers for each science.

**Component 1**  
Paper 1  
Biology  
Written Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

**Component 2**  
Paper 2  
Biology  
Written Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

**Component 3**  
Paper 3  
Chemistry  
Written Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

**Component 4**  
Paper 4  
Chemistry  
Written Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

**Component 5**  
Paper 5  
Physics  
Written Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

**Component 6**  
Paper 6  
Physics  
Written Examination - 50% of qualification  
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

**What can I do at the end of this course?**  
Most students who complete this course go on to do A-levels in the sciences.

Course Details

Examination Board	OCR A, Gateway
Subject Leader	Mrs Harrison

**Why should I study Triple Science?**  
This Triple Science course is through invitation only by means of a selection process and you will be notified via email. This will not guarantee a place on the course as a further selection process will take place. Students' tests, exams and progress will be considered in this process.

This Triple Science course provides an excellent opportunity for enthusiastic and motivated students who would like to have a career in science, medicine, healthcare, pharmacy and engineering (to name but a few). It is an interesting and broad course covering all aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It also provides excellent preparation for A-level sciences.

You will have three GCSEs at the end of the course in the three separate sciences listed below:

Biology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cell level systems</li><li>Scaling up</li><li>Organism level systems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community-level systems</li><li>Genes, inheritance and selection</li><li>Global challenges</li><li>Practical skills</li></ul>
Chemistry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Atomic structure and the periodic table</li><li>Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter</li><li>Quantitative chemistry</li><li>Chemical changes</li><li>Energy changes</li><li>The rate and extent of chemical change</li><li>Organic chemistry</li><li>Chemical analysis</li><li>Chemistry of the atmosphere</li><li>Using resources</li></ul>	
Physics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Forces</li><li>Energy</li><li>Waves</li><li>Electricity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Magnetism and electromagnetism</li><li>Particle model of matter</li><li>Atomic structure</li><li>Space physics</li></ul>



KEY DATES

THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY  
YEAR 8 PROGRESS EVENING

THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY  
YEAR 8 OPTIONS PRESENTATION (DURING SU4L DAY)

MONDAY 7TH APRIL  
YEAR 8 OPTIONS EVENING

WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL  
DEADLINE FOR OPTIONS FORM

TUESDAY 6TH- FRIDAY 9TH MAY  
YEAR 8 OPTIONS INTERVIEWS

MY SUBJECT CHOICES

BLOCK A	
BLOCK B	
BLOCK C	
BLOCK D	

RESERVE SUBJECT 1	
RESERVE SUBJECT 2	

Option Blocks

Students must select one subject from each block and two reserves from any block.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Achieve Programme #	Art and Design	Art and Design	Art and Design
Computer Science	Business Studies	Computer Science	Design and Technology
Geography	Design and Technology	Dance*	Drama
German	Geography	German	Geography
History	History	History	German
Triple Science #	Music	ICT*	Health and Social Care*
	PE	Media Studies	ICT*
	Psychology	PE	Media Studies
	Retail Business #	Religious Studies (GCSE)	Sociology

Draft 2025  
\* = Vocational Course.  
# = Entry requirements may apply.





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#### Our Socials



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