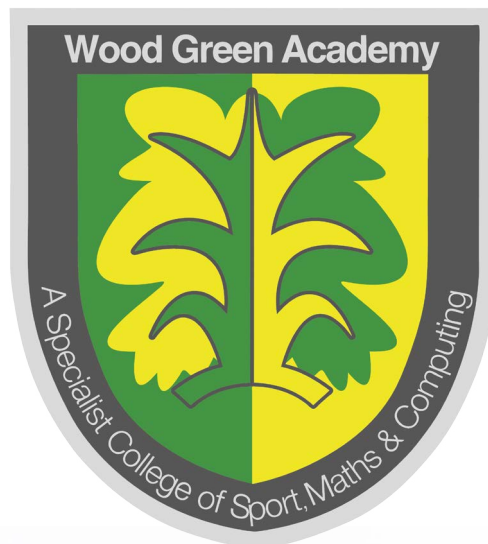


Year 8 Options Booklet 2026



Contents

General Information

- 1 Introduction
- 3 Are there any subjects I must take?
- 4 What are the qualifications available?
- 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 French
- 25 Geography
- 26 Health and Social Care
- 27 History

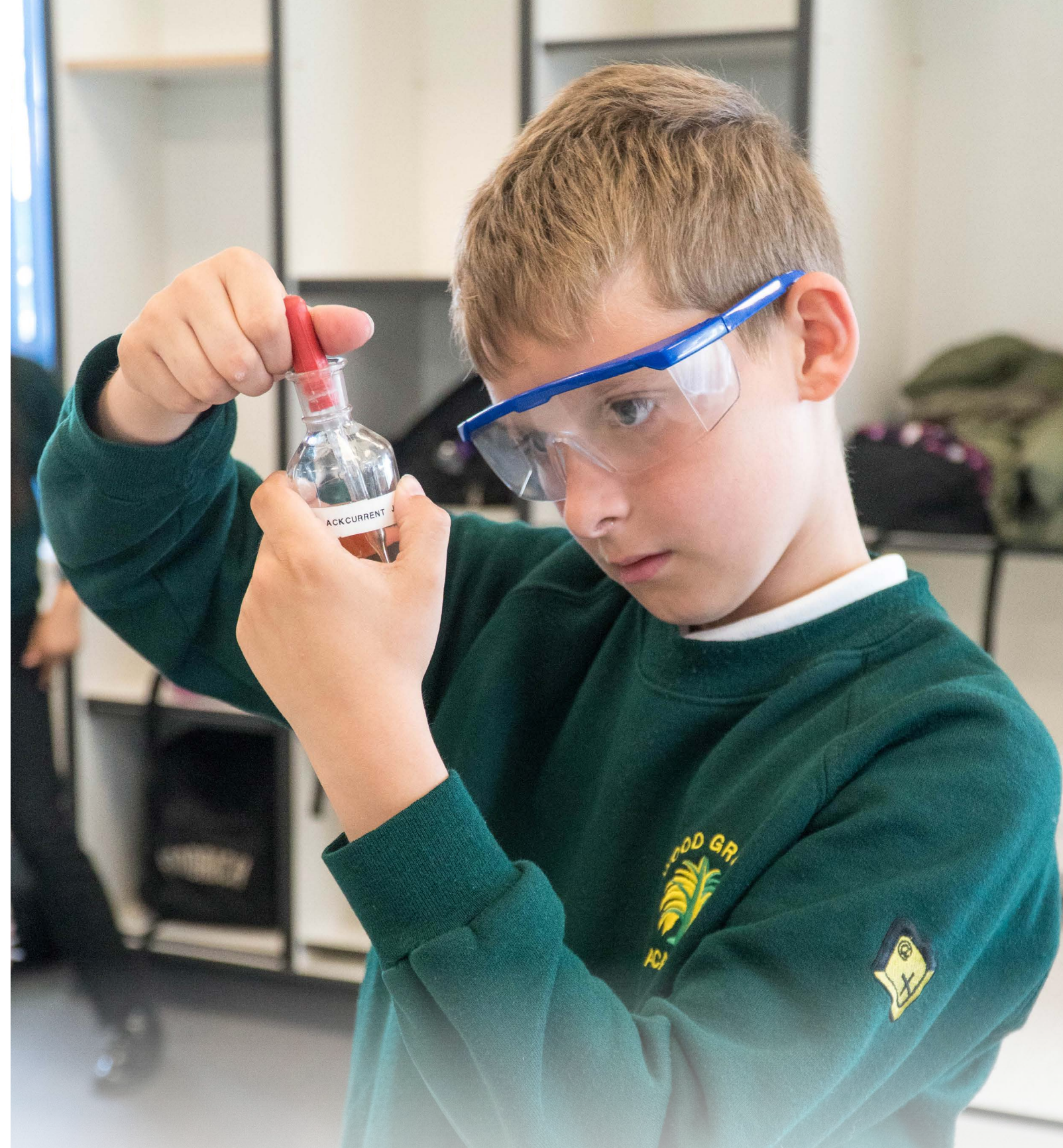
Optional Subjects

- 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

*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 or 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
- Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care

Why do I have to select some subjects from certain categories?

The Government believes in the importance of a curriculum that supports high standards that balances a strong academic core with breadth and student choice. They believe it is essential that all students retain this academic core and have subjects which strengthen our economy and society. When selecting their four option subjects students must select two subjects from the red, green and blue subjects. Students must also ensure they have two different coloured categories for example a red and blue or a blue and green or a red and green. The remaining 2 subjects can be any subject.

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 Perry, Mr Richards 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	Mrs Johnson
Art and Design	Miss Measures
Business Studies	Mrs Ghag
Computer Science	Miss Rai / Mr Raja
Dance	Miss Paskin
Design and Technology	Mrs Eccleston
Drama	Mrs Smith
French	Mrs Boddison
Geography	Miss Veale
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 / Miss Shaw
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 20th April 2026.

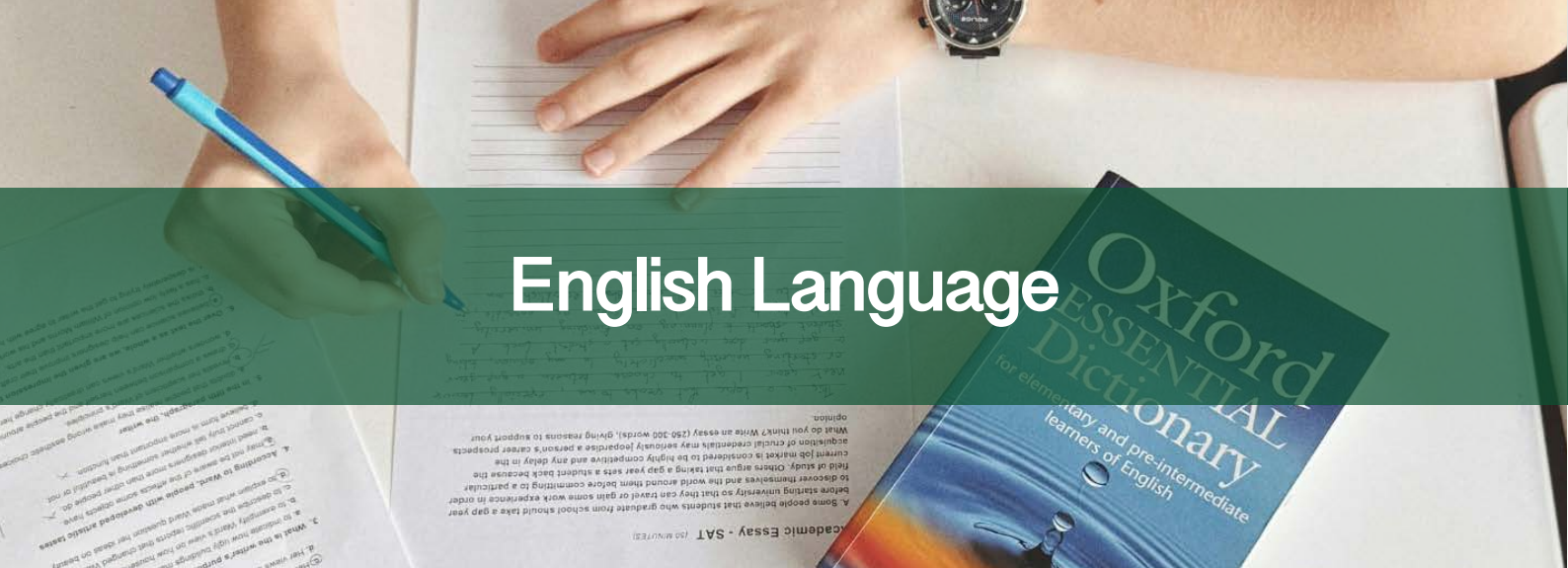
- All students will study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. All students will also study core Computing and core RE in Year 9 only.
- All students must have a minimum of two hours core PE per week.
- Follow the steps carefully on the options form and complete all the sections.
- 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 12th February 2026.
- 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:
Friday 24th April 2026



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 literary 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

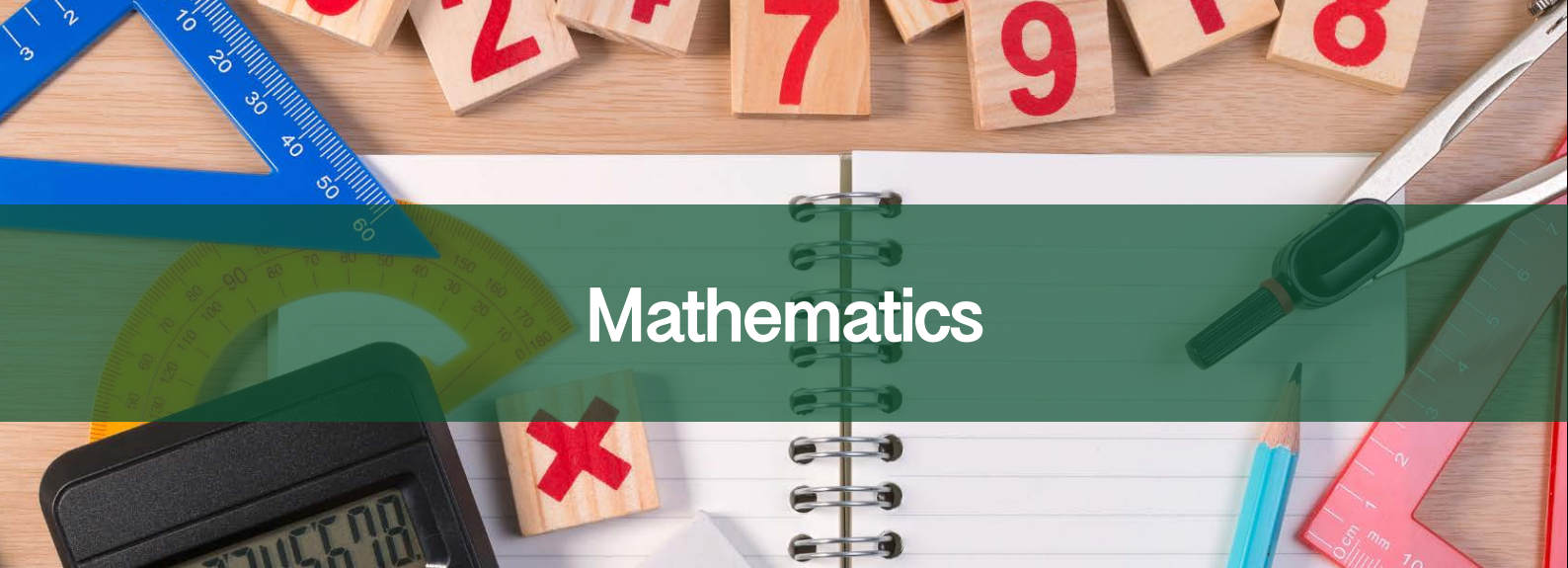
Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Mr Sturley

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

Unit 4
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.

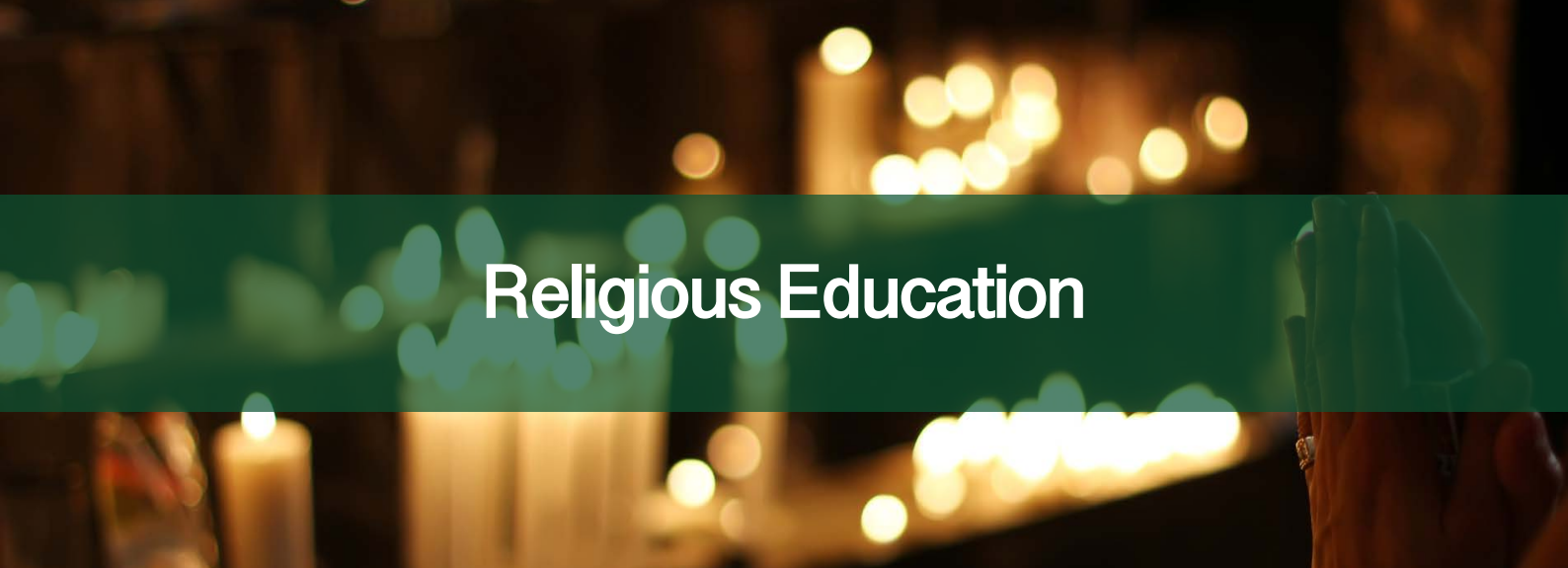
Course Details

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 Powerpoint Skills
Unit 4	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.

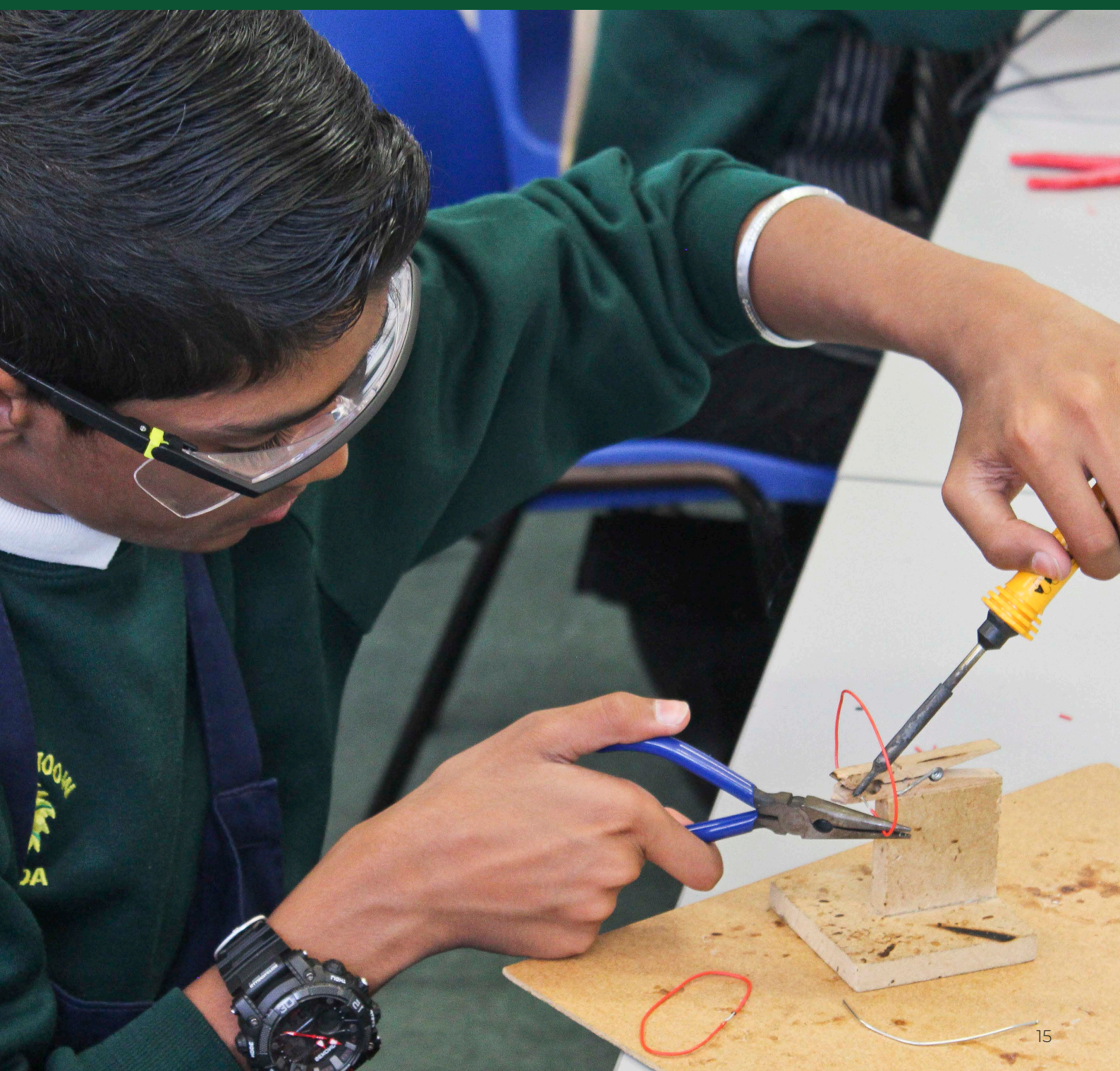
Course Details

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 King'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	Mrs Johnson
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Why should I study The King'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.



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

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.	

GCSE

OPTIONAL

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

This component is internally marked and externally moderated by the exam board.

Performance

Set phrases through a solo performance
Duet/Trio performance
30% of GCSE
40 marks

Choreography

Solo or group choreography.
30% of GCSE
40 marks

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

What is assessed in this component?

Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.
Critical appreciation
Critical appreciation of professional works

40% of GCSE
80 marks
Written exam paper .

Course Details

Examination Board	AQA
Subject Leader	Miss Paskin

Why should I study GCSE Dance?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which will provide you with the opportunity to develop your creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity.

You will study a range of dance styles and style fusions. Apart from the solo performance, you can choose any style in which to perform and choreograph, providing it meets the assessment criteria.

The study of the anthology of professional works will develop your ability to critically appraise professional dance works and provide a springboard for engaging in practical tasks.

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 BTEC National in Performing Arts.



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.	

French

Geography

GCSE

OPTIONAL

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1: Speaking 25% of qualification - 50 marks

Oral test (NEA):
7-9 minutes (foundation tier)
10-12 minutes (higher tier)
Preparation time: 15 minutes (both tiers)

- Read aloud a short written text and take part in a short conversation relating to the text
- One role play
- Photo card and unprepared conversation.

Paper 2: Listening 25% qualification - 50 marks

Written examination:
45 minutes (foundation tier)
60 minutes (higher tier)

- listening comprehension tasks with non-verbal and written responses
- dictation of short spoken extracts.

Paper 3: Reading 25% of qualification - 50 marks

Written examination:
45 minutes (foundation tier)
60 minutes (higher tier)

- reading comprehension tasks including inference
- translation from French into English.

Paper 4: Writing 25% of qualification - 50 marks

Written examination:
1 hour 15 minutes (foundation tier)
1 hour 20 minutes (higher tier)

- Writing tasks in response to simple and familiar stimuli
- Translation from English into French.

Course Details

Examination Board	Edexcel Pearson
Subject Leader	Mrs Boddison

Why should I study French?

- It will give you the opportunity to develop your ability to communicate confidently with other French speakers in speech and in writing.
- It will enable you to gain a deeper understanding about how language works and an opportunity to enrich your level and understanding of vocabulary and grammar in English.
- Learners will gain an awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of France and other French-speaking communities.
- It will often get you the job, over someone who doesn't know a language!

What topics will I study?

Year 9:
My personal world: describing myself, my family, my friends, relationships and celebrations.

Media and Technology: what I do online, advantages and disadvantages of technology.

Lifestyle and wellbeing: sports, free time activities, mental wellbeing, food and drink.

Year 10:
My neighbourhood: where I live, my house/home, my town and my dream house/home.

Travel and Tourism: holidays, transport and buying travel tickets.

Year 11:
Studying and my future: school subjects, school facilities, school rules and extracurricular clubs.

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.

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

Paper 2
UK Geographical Issues
Examination - 37.5% of qualification
Duration - 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 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 a subject that goes well with Science 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 B
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.

Paper 1 - Global Geographical Issues

- Hazardous Earth
- Development Dynamics
- Challenges of an Urbanising World

Paper 2 - UK Geographical Issues

- UK Physical Landscape
- UK Human Landscape
- Geographical Investigations

Paper 3 - People and Environment Issues

- People and the Biosphere
- Forests under Threat
- Consuming Energy Resources
- Making Geographical Decisions

What can I do at the end of this course?

Anything! A language provides skills that enhance your performance in any job

- “The UK trades with over 200 countries worldwide.”
- “In today's world, companies do a lot of business with foreign companies. They need to be able to communicate with them. They need people with languages.”

Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate Health & Social Care

History

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 Level 3 AAQ courses we offer in our Sixth Form. These include Level 3 AAQ Health and Social Care and Level 3 AAQ Mental Health: individuals and society. Health and Social Care can open up a wide range of employment opportunities both within and outside the NHS. Careers such as nursing, midwifery, care assistant, nursery nurse, primary school teacher, and social work are just a few examples of paths taken by 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"> The rights of service users in health and social care settings Person-centred values of care Effective communication in health and social care Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings
R033	Supporting individuals through life events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life stages Impacts of life events Sources of support
R035	Health promotion campaigns
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current public health issues and the impact on society Factors influencing health Plan and create a health promotion campaign Deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign

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



BTEC in ICT

Digital Information Technology



Media Studies

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 valuable subject to study as we are living 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.

What can I do at the end of this course?
Music GCSE is the first step if you wish to have a career in the music industry and means you can go on to study Music at a higher level. It is also useful for students who wish to have a career within the performing arts.

Even if you are not looking for a career within these industries, Music develops skills that are transferable to many different careers such as working in a team, communication, confidence, creativity and working independently.

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

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

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 evaluation points.

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 / Miss Shaw

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">Cell level systemsScaling upOrganism level systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community-level systemsGenes, inheritance and selectionGlobal challengesPractical skills
Chemistry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atomic structure and the periodic tableBonding, structure, and the properties of matterQuantitative chemistryChemical changesEnergy changesThe rate and extent of chemical changeOrganic chemistryChemical analysisChemistry of the atmosphereUsing resources	
Physics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ForcesEnergyWavesElectricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Magnetism and electromagnetismParticle model of matterAtomic structureSpace physics

KEY DATES

TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY
YEAR 8 OPTIONS PRESENTATION (DURING SU4L DAY)

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
YEAR 8 PROGRESS EVENING

THURSDAY 16TH APRIL
YEAR 8 OPTIONS EVENING

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL
DEADLINE FOR OPTIONS FORM

TUESDAY 5TH- FRIDAY 15TH MAY
YEAR 8 OPTIONS INTERVIEWS

MY SUBJECT CHOICES

BLOCK A	
BLOCK B	
BLOCK C	
BLOCK D	

RESERVE SUBJECT 1	
RESERVE SUBJECT 2	
RESERVE SUBJECT 3	

Option Blocks

Students must select one subject from each block

Students must also ensure they have selected at least
1 green and 1 red subject or 1 green and 1 blue subject or 1 red and 1 blue subject

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

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* = Vocational Course.

= Entry requirements may apply.





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Our Socials



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