

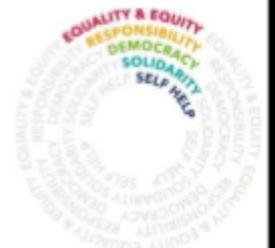


THE HIGHFIELD  
SCHOOL

# Key Stage 4 Options Information



Letchworth Garden City  
Educational Partnership





Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Year 9 Options process**

Choosing GCSE options is an important and exciting time. We take this process very seriously as we want to ensure that students choose the right options for them and their future. In due course, we will be uploading a presentation to the website which will fully explain the Options process accompanied with this Information Booklet and Options Form to complete.

Subject teachers will have prepared information including what topics they will cover in their respective courses, and give an overall outline of what it will be like to study their subject – including feedback from current Year 10 and 11 students.

What happens over the next coming months will be pivotal in the decisions that your child picks for their options. The support programme for your child will include:

- Options assembly week beginning **10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.
- Tutor time activities/discussions dedicated to the options process in early January.
- Year 9 Options and Information Evening - **20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**
- Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening - **10<sup>th</sup> February 2022** - this will give you the opportunity to talk with prospective subject teachers.
- Year 9 interviews with the Head of Year or a member of the Leadership Team to discuss options – **week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Your child will have until **21<sup>st</sup> February 2022** to select their options. More details about the options process will be shared during the Options and Information Evening. A letter will be sent home confirming subject option choices the week beginning **13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**.

In the meantime, please speak with your child and ask them to talk to their subject teachers if they need any further support with their choices or email [year9options@highfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:year9options@highfield.herts.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Mr Pike

**Assistant Headteacher**

Mr Worstead

**Head of Year 9**

# CONTENTS

Page(s)	Description
5	Options timeline
6	Parental Support
7	Core Subjects:
8	English
9	Geography
10	History
11	Mathematics
12	Modern Foreign Languages
13	Physical Education
14	Religious and Personal Studies
15	Science
16	Option Subjects:
17	Art and Design
18	Business
19	Business BTEC Technical Award in Enterprise
20	Cambridge Nationals - Sport Studies
21	Catering
22	Computer Science
23	Design Technology - Resistant Materials
24	Drama
25	Fashion and Textiles
26	Graphics
27	ICT
28	Media Studies
29	Music
30	Physical Education
31-32	Religious Studies - Philosophy and Ethics
33	Sociology



# OPTIONS TIMELINE

## STEP 1

Year 9 Options assembly week beginning **10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## STEP 2

Tutor time activities/discussions dedicated to the option process

## STEP 3

Year 9 Options and Information Evening – **20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

A presentation detailing the options process for Parents/Carers and students

## STEP 4

Virtual Parents' Evening on **10<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

## STEP 5

Deadline for Options form return – **21<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

Your child's option choices must be returned to Reception by this date.

## STEP 6

Interviews during the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 by appointment

Every student will be interviewed either by a member of the Leadership Team or Mr Worstead to confirm choices and suitability of the options.

## STEP 7

A letter sent home confirming subject option choices during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022



# PARENTAL SUPPORT

## What can I do to help as a parent?

### Share and Discuss

As much as the choices are for the student, it is essential that they discuss their decisions with you and as many other people as possible. It is important that students must be encouraged to take subjects which they enjoy and which they will be successful in. Whilst it is good to consider choices in relation to future careers, it shouldn't dictate every decision at this stage.

### Seek Advice From The Schools Careers Advisor and Teachers

If your child would like further advice on any career, we will arrange for a careers advisor from Connexions to be available.

### Equipment and Environment

Apart from helping to guide your child to make the right choice, you can also help by ensuring that they have the necessary equipment for Years 10 and 11. This will include:

- a scientific calculator
- revision books to work from at home (you will be advised which books you will require)
- access to the internet at home (also available in school).

A full equipment list can be found on the school website:

<https://www.highfield.herts.sch.uk/uniform>

Aside from providing the necessary equipment, ensuring that they have a suitable learning environment at home, where they can study without disruptions, is vital.

### Monitor homework

'Show My Homework ' will support you by showing what homework your child has been set and when it needs to be handed in to the subject teacher.

### Useful Websites

[www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

[www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org/careers](http://www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org/careers)





# The Highfield School

## CORE SUBJECTS

All students are examined in Maths, English Language and English Literature, either Combined Science (a double award covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics) or Triple Science (a GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and either Geography, History or a Modern Foreign Language.

Students also study Physical Education and Religious and Personal Studies, although these are not GCSE examinations.



# ENGLISH

## **What is GCSE English all about?**

English is at the heart of the curriculum; many of the critical and functional skills learned in this subject will be directly transferred to other areas of learning and are fundamental for application to the world of work.

Students will study for two GCSEs in English. One is AQA GCSE English Language and the other is the AQA GCSE English Literature. Throughout the two years of the course, students continue to develop the full range of reading, writing and speaking and listening skills introduced to them at Key Stage 3.

Variety in activity and a range of teaching and learning styles are central to developing engaged and independent learners in English.

## **What topics will I cover?**

English Language

- Descriptive, informative and persuasive writing
- Analysis of non-fiction and media texts
- Analysis of fiction texts
- Speaking and Listening skills

English Literature

- A Shakespeare play
- A novel from the 19th century
- Modern prose/drama
- A range of poetry

## **How am I assessed?**

English Language:

100% exam

Separately endorsed Spoken Language assessment

English Literature:

100% exam

## **What examination board will I follow?**

Both qualifications will be following the AQA Exam board. English Language 8700 and English Literature 8702

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Further information about the course can be found on the AQA website.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mrs Hutton, Head of English



# GEOGRAPHY

## **What is GCSE Geography all about?**

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future”. Michael Palin.

GCSE Geography is a subject for students who:

- have an interest in the world around them
- are interested in current affairs
- enjoy a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences.

In GCSE Geography we look at a wide range of current topics from both physical and human geography, ranging from ecosystems where we look at tropical rainforest and hot deserts, to exploring the challenges of living in an expanding urban world which includes looking at the problems of squatter settlements and if they should be demolished or improved.

## **What topics will I cover?**

The course explores the topics below:

- how natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes and climate change impact the world around us
- ecosystems around the world, including an in-depth study of tropical rainforests and hot deserts
- how coasts and glaciers change our landscapes
- the challenges of living in an increasingly urban world
- the development gap and what we can do to help reduce it
- how resources such as food, water and energy are vital to our everyday life and why it is a problem that people do not have equal access to these essential resources.

## **How am I assessed?**

100% exam

Paper 1: Physical Paper: 1 hour 30 mins (35% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Human Paper: 1 hour 30 mins (35% of GCSE)

Paper 3: Geographical Applications: 1 hour 15 mins (30% of GCSE)

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA 8035

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

You can find examples of exam papers and information about the content of the course on the AQA website. Additionally, you will complete a compulsory fieldwork trip to Cromer. This will be undertaken in the Autumn Term of Year 11 to complete paper 3.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Hobbs and Miss Mason



# HISTORY

## **What is GCSE History all about?**

You will start GCSE History with a study of the most notorious political regime in history: Hitler's Germany. Following this, you will explore how Europe, and then the world, were divided along communist and capitalist lines in the Cold War, nearly bringing us to a nuclear apocalypse. The British history paper tells the story of how the government of England grew from an all-powerful autocracy to the democracy that we have today, followed by an in-depth study on the reign of Elizabeth I. This GCSE allows you to investigate different perspectives of British, European and world history across the last millennium.

Work in lessons involves a wide variety of activities, including discussion and debate, use of historical sources, role play and group work. The course is perfect for anyone who is interested in culture, the nature of conflict and discovering how our past has shaped our present. In addition, we provide students with the opportunity to expand on their subject knowledge by providing suggestions for independent work, such as watching documentaries or films. A prime example being Robert Carlyle's chilling performance in 'Hitler: The Rise of Evil'.

Work at home will build on ideas introduced in lessons and is likely to include research, revision and practising questions. You can expect to be set a piece of homework at least every fortnight. In addition we would expect that our students are willing to read around the subject and take an interest in building their subject knowledge independently (e.g. by watching documentaries and films).

## **What topics will I cover?**

The course involves a broad study of world history, including:

- The rise and fall of Nazi Germany
- The early years of the Cold War
- The changing nature of power and protest in Britain
- Elizabeth I's reign

## **How am I assessed?**

You will be assessed via two written exam papers at the end of Year 11. Across the two papers you will answer a range of questions on sources, interpretations and knowledge.

Paper 1 (50%) - Germany 1890-1945 and the Cold War, 1945-1972

Paper 2 (50%) - Power and Protest, c.1170-present and Elizabeth I, 1568-1603

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA 8145

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

You will be invited to take part in our optional three day residential trip to Berlin in Germany. This is intended to give you the opportunity to see first-hand what life was like under the Nazis regime and how the city was divided during the Cold War. This visit is for enrichment purposes, it will enhance your understanding and is a fantastic way to learn about the past.



# MATHEMATICS

## **What is GCSE Mathematics all about?**

Mathematics is a vital, compulsory subject for all students up to GCSE. Not only is it viewed as a necessary subject by most employers, colleges and universities; studying mathematics has substantial benefits.

We all use mathematics every day, most of the time without realising. We check our change in the shops, work out how expensive a new car or our next holiday is going to be, decide when we need to leave the house to get to school or work.

At the more advanced end of a mathematical career, we have scientists using their mathematics to design faster computers, provide a more responsive Internet, gaming consoles and mobile phones. Financial mathematicians are able to create more efficient pension schemes, mortgages and saving schemes.

## **What topics will I cover?**

Maths GCSE is split into six core areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measure
- Probability
- Statistics

Functionality will be embedded into the course. All students will be following the linear course with three written papers and there is no coursework.

## **How am I assessed?**

The linear course includes two calculator exams and one non calculator exam, in the Summer of Year 11. We follow a spiral curriculum where content taught in each year will be revisited and developed further. Therefore the assessments at the end of Year 11 may cover any of the curriculum content that students have been taught in their mathematics lessons from Year 7 through to Year 11. Students will be entered for either the Higher Tier or the Foundation Tier.

- Higher tier: grades 4 to 9
- Foundation tier: grades 1 to 5

## **What examination board will I follow?**

Edexcel 1MA1 F/H

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

More information about the subject and the exam can be found on the school and Edexcel websites.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Miss Ranford, Head of Maths or your mathematics teacher.



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## **What is GCSE Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) all about?**

It is about enjoying communication with other people who speak the language; learning about life in their countries and finding out more about how their language works. It is also about improving your communication skills, equipping you better to talk to people from different countries and for the world of work.

## **What can I do next with GCSE Modern Foreign Languages?**

- Communicate effectively in real life situations abroad and with native speakers of the language
- Study subjects or take up careers for which having a foreign language GCSE background is relevant
- Many employers and universities value very highly the skills acquired when studying a modern language (the ability to listen, to communicate and to make sense of written information effectively)
- Take up Post -16 study in Modern Foreign Languages

## **What topics will I cover?**

There are 3 themes covered for the new GCSE:

- Identity and Culture (family and friends, marriage/partnership, social media, mobile technology, music, cinema and TV, food and eating out, sport, customs and festivals)
- Local, national, international and global areas of interests (home, town, neighbourhood and region, charity/voluntary work, healthy/unhealthy living, environment, poverty/homelessness, travel and tourism)
- Current and future study and employment (studies, life at school/ college, education Post -16, jobs, career choices and ambitions)

## **How am I assessed?**

Examinations all happen at the end of the course. There are four papers, each covering one skill: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. These are all set and marked by the exam board, AQA. They all have an equal weighting of 25%. Students can sit either Foundation or Higher papers. They will be graded from 1- 9.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA for all languages and there is further information on the AQA website. French 8658 and German 8668.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Wright, Head of MFL or your MFL teachers: Mrs Hollman or Mrs Boross-Toby



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## **What is Core PE all about?**

In Year 10 students will continue to participate in three hours of physical activity a fortnight. This is slightly less than PE lessons experienced at Key Stage 3, however at Key Stage 4 the curriculum introduces more variety, giving students an opportunity to enjoy a wider range of activities.

There is also an alternative route at Key Stage 4. Students have the opportunity to complete an additional qualification in Dance Leaders (Level 2). This will replace core PE lessons for students that have a passion for Dance.

If you would like further information about Dance Leaders (Level 2) please speak to Mr Kemp, Miss Alderman or Mrs Foster.

## **What topics will I cover?**

These are some of the activities on offer to students: fitness, trampolining, five-a-side football, rugby, aerobics/dance, basketball, rugby, netball, volleyball, badminton and dodgeball.

## **How am I assessed?**

Please note this is not a GCSE qualification.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Kemp, Head of Physical Education.



# RELIGIOUS AND PERSONAL STUDIES

## **What is Religious and Personal Studies all about?**

This is a non-examined course that combines religious education and personal and social studies. It provides an opportunity to explore issues of concern at both a personal and world wide level. Some parts of the course will develop skills while others will examine the values we hold alongside those of worldwide religions.

## **What topics will I cover?**

Year 10:

- Wealth and Poverty
- War and Peace
- Philosophy through the media

Year 11:

- The world of work
- Sex and Relationships education
- Study skills

## **How am I assessed?**

Throughout Year 10 students will be writing three pieces of assessed writing (using the OCR mark scheme for Religious Studies). This will earn each student a certificate in RPS at the end of Year 10. Please note this is not a GCSE qualification.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Ms Pawlaczek, Head of RPS or Miss Laycock



# SCIENCE

## **What is GCSE Science all about?**

All students will start their Key Stage 4 Science course in Year 9. In the Autumn term of Year 9 students will complete the final 2 modules of the Key Stage 3 curriculum. GCSE Science will start in the spring term. Initially all Year 9 students will follow the same course and at the end of Year 9, based on performance throughout the year, students will be selected for one of two routes through the rest of GCSE Science.

The two routes are:

- Combined Science
- Triple Science

All students should achieve at least two science GCSEs at the end of Year 11.

All Science courses will be examined in terminal exams in May and June of Year 11.

Combined Science: This course combines Biology, Physics and Chemistry in two GCSE qualifications.

Triple Sciences: This course allows students to complete separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## **What topics will I cover?**

You will be covering a mixture of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics including applications of science in everyday life.

## **How am I assessed?**

All routes are examined by final exams in Year 11. There is no coursework requirement for GCSE Science.

There are two tiers of entry for Combined Science - Foundation and Higher. The tier at which you will be entered for the exam will depend upon your progress and success in each module during the course.

AQA Combined Sciences - for both Foundation and Higher, there are two papers each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes.

AQA Separate (Triple) Sciences - are Higher papers only. There are two papers each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA Combined Science (trilogy) 8464 AQA Separate (Triple) Sciences - Biology 8461, Chemistry 8462 and Physics 8463.

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

More information is available on [AQA.org.uk](http://AQA.org.uk)

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Miss Brennan, Head of Science or your science teacher





**The Highfield School**

**OPTION SUBJECTS**



# ART AND DESIGN

## **What is GCSE Art and Design all about?**

All students are encouraged to develop personal, independent work and can select from a range of media including paint, pencil, collage, print, clay, pastel, inks, photography, IT, film making and many others. You will choose, with guidance from your teacher, the work that will suit your interests and abilities. Finding out about the work of other artists and designers and making use of new ideas are an integral part of this course.

## **What can I do next with GCSE Art and Design?**

- take up Post-16 study in art and design
- study subjects or take up careers for which an art and design background is relevant or perhaps just enjoy the subject but do not intend to study beyond GCSE.

## **What topics will I cover?**

- figure/landscape/still life/portraits
- artwork from other cultures
- colour and pattern/surrealism/pop art/sculpture
- identity
- drawing and printmaking from natural objects
- Tate Modern visit

## **How am I assessed?**

You will be assessed on all your work throughout Year 10 and Year 11, this will create a portfolio of work. All work produced in the portfolio will contribute to your coursework grade (60% of overall GCSE grade).

Your final exam is externally set, lasting ten hours, with six weeks' preparation time. You will submit your final pieces and your preparatory work for assessment which will count towards the final 40% of your grade.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA 8202.

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Visit [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) or you can talk to your Art teachers and older students about the course.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Burton or your Art teacher



# BUSINESS

## **What is GCSE Business all about?**

You will learn more about how small businesses are developed and discover how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy. In addition, you will learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them. You will also learn how to be a creative thinker, how to make decisions and about the world of business through research and investigation, as well as through practical tasks.

## **What topics will I cover?**

Theme 1: Investigating small business

Theme 2: Building a business

## **How am I assessed?**

Paper 1 (Theme 1): 1 hour 30 mins - 90 marks

Combined written responses on case study material and multiple choice questions for examination at the end of Year 11 (worth 50%)

Paper 2 (Theme 2) 1 hour 30 mins - 90 marks

Combined written responses on case study material and multiple choice questions for examination at the end of Year 11 (worth 50%)

## **What examination board will I follow?**

Edexcel 1BS0

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

There are opportunities to visit local businesses and national businesses such as Coca-Cola, as well as participating in projects within school such as Junior Apprentice and showing evidence of enterprise.

You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data and communicating and working as part of a team. Even if you do not want to go on to study business further you will have benefited from studying a GCSE Business course because many jobs you do will involve working for a business. However, a GCSE Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as Accountancy, Law, Marketing or the Leisure and Tourism industry.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Clark, Head of Business



# BUSINESS - BTEC AWARD IN ENTERPRISE

## **What is the course about?**

The BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise gives students the practical skills and applied knowledge they will need in business. Practical elements build on theoretical knowledge so that students can put their learning into practice, whilst also developing valuable transferable skills.

The coursework element will be based around students interviewing local entrepreneurs of small-medium enterprises (SMEs), this is to help enhance their understanding of the curriculum and to build on their vocational or employability skills in the future.

## **What topics will I cover and how will I be assessed?**

60% coursework (internal assessment)

40% exam (external assessment)

The course is made up of three components: two internally assessed and one externally assessed

Component 1 – Exploring Enterprises – Internally assessed – 30% of the qualification

Component 2 – Planning for and pitching an enterprise activity – Internally assessed – 30% of the qualification

Component 3 – Promotion and Finance for Enterprise – Externally assessed – 40% of the qualification. It is worth noting that the financial, or numerical element does account for 40% of the whole qualification and covers topics such as cash flow, break even and sources of finance.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

Edexcel BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise

## **Is there any additional information about these courses?**

BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise -

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/enterprise-2022.html>

## **Who should I speak to about further information?**

Mr Clark, Head of Business



# CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL – SPORTS STUDIES

## **What is Sports Studies all about?**

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core Sport/Physical Education themes. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance.

## **What topics will I cover and how am I assessed?**

- Contemporary issues in sport - Students explore a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, such as participation levels and barriers, promoting values and ethical behaviour, and how sport contributes to society as a whole beyond simply providing entertainment. (Written exam - 1 hour)
- Developing sports skills - Students try out a range of sports-related skills and techniques including different practice methods for improving both their own performance in both individual and team sporting activities. (Centre-assessed tasks)
- Sports Leadership - Students learn about some of the knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to be an effective sport leader. They put their knowledge into practice by planning and delivering safe and effective sporting activity sessions. (Centre-assessed tasks)
- Sport and the media - Students explore the relationship between sports and the media: how sport uses the media to promote itself and the media uses sport to expand and maintain uptake of its products. (Centre-assessed tasks)

## **What examination board will I follow?**

OCR J813

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

This course is less reliant on practical ability but you will still be required to take part in practical PE sessions each week. The course is heavily reliant on coursework and therefore requires you to stay organised and on top of your workload. This course is not just about being good at sport, it is about you trying a range of new activities and researching the sports industry. You need to be prepared to take part in lessons both physically and mentally and also give up your time for extra-curricular clubs and assist in inter-house sporting competitions. Through this course you will gain lots of key skills. Sports Studies is not an easy subject. You will have to work extremely hard at ALL times if you are to succeed.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Ms Cheal, Second in PE



# CATERING

## **What is Catering all about?**

You will build upon your knowledge and skills from Key Stage 3 and develop your practical skills using new cooking skills and equipment, learning a variety of ways to present your work and working with a variety of ingredients.

You will also learn about the Hospitality and Catering industry, discovering all areas of what it takes to work within this industry.

You will have a mixture of both theory and practical lessons and you will cook a variety of foods that will increase in skill over time.

## **What topics will I cover?**

### Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

The purpose of this unit is for you to gain knowledge and an understanding of the hospitality and catering industry. You will learn about the different providers within the industry, understand how hospitality and catering provision operates, understand health and safety requirements and discover how food can cause ill health. This unit is taught throughout Year 10 and Year 11 and assessed with an Exam, which is 40% of your GCSE in the Summer term of Year 11.

### Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

The purpose of this unit is for you to safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. The unit is a controlled assessment, which is worth 60% of your GCSE. You will gain knowledge of nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for you to plan a menu. You will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes. This unit is taught alongside Unit 1, with your controlled assessment taking place in Year 11.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

Eduqas Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering 5569QA

This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE grade.

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

You will cook every double lesson and potentially during single lessons.

Students are expected to buy their own ingredients (unless you are free school meals and/or require additional support), so choosing this option would require a high level of commitment, organisation and financial outlay from both the student and their parents or carers to ensure all ingredients are purchased and brought to school for all practical lessons.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Miss Barnard or Miss Burnham



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## **What is GCSE Computer Science all about?**

GCSE computer science is not the same as ICT! Computer science is about learning the theory of computers, how to program them, how they work, how games are created and how software is produced. GCSE Computer Science will offer you the opportunity to acquire and apply creative and technical skills. You will gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts around creating software applications. You will develop an understanding of the use of algorithms and be able to create computer programs to solve problems. In short, you will learn how to adapt from being an 'end-user' of computer systems, to someone who is able to create those same systems.

## **What topics will I cover?**

Examples of topics studied:

- Programming
- Algorithms
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Systems architecture
- Network topologies
- Systems security
- Wired and wireless networks

## **How am I assessed?**

You will be assessed through completing two exam papers.

Exam paper 1 (50%) - Computer Systems.

Exam paper 2 (50%) - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

We will be following the OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science specification J277.

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Information on the specification and the topics which are covered can be found on the OCR website ([www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)).

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Holmes or Mrs Knowles



# DESIGN TECHNOLOGY – RESISTANT MATERIALS

## **What is Resistant Materials all about?**

Resistant Materials will encourage students to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality.

You will be challenged by a range of practical activities to gain a working knowledge of a wide variety of materials and processes including the use of CAD/ CAM.

## **What topics will I cover?**

The specification content is divided into three sections

- Core Technical Principles
- Specialist Technical Principles
- Designing and Making Principles

Within the course you will learn about specialist Resistant Materials theory and a small section of core design and technology materials. The course is also heavily based on designing and making. You will be given a contextual theme, which you will research, design and make from.

## **How am I assessed?**

NEA Task - Coursework project, you will be given a contextual theme to work from and research, design and make an outcome of your choice. This is 50% of your GCSE.

Exam - Written paper that is split into the three sections of Core, Specialist and Designing and Making principles. The exam is a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and one extended response question. The exam is 50% of your GCSE.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA 8552

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Much of the equipment will be provided by the school however, you will be asked for a £15 voluntary contribution towards materials and resources.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Miss Barnard



# DRAMA

## What is GCSE Drama all about?

- Learning through play and practice
- Developing outstanding leadership skills/team coordination strategies
- Learning how to plan effectively, create schedules, cope with high pressure situations
- Innovating and making change
- Understand the business/theatre industry
- Presenting knowledge of history, society, politics and culture through theatre
- Practically developing exam analysis and evaluation skills (similar to English)
- Applying the science of technical theatre (e.g. sound and lighting management)

## What topics will I cover?

We will look at a variety of naturalistic and non-naturalistic theatrical styles, including amazing scripted plays from professional playwrights and theatre makers (such as “DNA”, “Blood Brothers” and “An Inspector Calls”). In Component 1, students will explore the world of the play of “Blood Brothers”, thinking as an Actor, Director and Designer; analyse a live theatre production as a critical audience member, and understand the roles and responsibilities of those in the Theatre. In Component 2, students will work in groups to direct and act in their own original piece of Theatre, based on a stimulus, which will be performed in front of the class. They will also create a portfolio to document their devising journey. In Component 3, students will explore the challenges of performing script, working with others or individually, to create a character, learn lines and showcase their performance in a filmed assessment.

## How am I assessed?

Component 1: Written Exam (40%)

- Becoming a Theatre Maker
- Understanding Plays
- Elements of Theatre in Live Production

Component 2: Devising Theatre (40%)

- Producing your Own Play (as an actor or designer)

Component 3: Scripted Plays (20%)

- Performing an Extract of a Published Play (This will be a monologue, duologue and/or a group performance for a visiting examiner)

## What examination board will I follow?

AQA - GCSE Drama 8261

## Is there any additional information about this course?

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261>

## Who should I speak to for further information?

Mrs Read, Head of Drama



# FASHION AND TEXTILES

## **What is Fashion and Textiles all about?**

The Fashion and Textiles specification is designed to give students an opportunity to extend and apply their skills, knowledge and understanding of fashion and textiles across a range of project and exam work. Students will gain an understanding of not just practical skills and construction but also influences of current fashion and textile trends. You can design and create items from research that inspires you, giving a personal approach to a subject. You will make a variety of items, whether they are Fashion, Accessory or Interior Textile items, you can decide.

## **What topics will I cover?**

- Researching past and current designers
- Designing and illustrations
- Observational drawings
- Decorative Textile Techniques
- Construction Techniques
- Working towards given briefs
- Creating final outcomes
- Fashion, Accessories, Interior and Textiles.

## **How am I assessed?**

You will be assessed on all your work throughout Year 10 and Year 11, this will create a portfolio of work. All work produced in the portfolio will contribute to your coursework grade (60% of overall GCSE grade).

Your final exam is externally set, lasting ten hours, with six weeks' preparation time. You will submit your final pieces and your preparatory work for assessment which will count towards the final 40% of your grade.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA 8204

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Much of the equipment will be provided by the school however, you will be asked for a £15 voluntary contribution towards materials and resources.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Miss Barnard or Miss Burnham



# GRAPHICS

## **What is Graphics all about?**

Graphics will give you the opportunity to explore a range of Graphic Communication methods using a variety of media, processes and techniques. You will design and develop ideas with creativity, flare and originality, bringing them to fruition.

Graphics will give you the chance to develop and refine design skills, experimenting and being creative with a purpose; what are you creating, who for and why?

You will be challenged by a range of practical activities and will be encouraged to learn to use, understand and apply colour and design through the key design elements, in both traditional and new media.

## **What topics will I cover?**

Some of the topics you will study include the exploration of key design elements; Image and Typography as a brief.

You will broaden your design skills through hand generated and digital techniques, including Photoshop.

You will study the work of artists and designers, working in an investigative manner, using and being influenced by different styles, genres and cultures.

You will consider work in the fields of advertising, package design, illustration, design for print, branding, motion graphics and beyond.

## **How am I assessed?**

You will be assessed on four units of coursework which combine to create a portfolio of work. All work produced in the portfolio will contribute to your coursework grade (60% of overall GCSE grade).

Your final exam is externally set, lasting ten hours with six weeks' preparation time. You will submit your final pieces and your preparatory work for assessment which will count towards the final 40% of your grade.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA 8203

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Visit [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) or you can talk to your Graphic teachers and older students about the course.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Miss Gentry or Mr Burton



# BTEC AWARD IN MEDIA CREATION

## **What is the BTEC Tech Award in Media Creation?**

This course is an alternative to GCSE Computer Science. The course has been designed to engage and enthuse students with an interest in media creation using ICT. Students will investigate different media products – e.g. audio/moving image, publishing, interactive design and learn about creative media production processes. Students will also develop digital media production skills in a variety of software applications.

The BTEC Tech Award is more coursework based than GCSE Computer Science and would suit students who prefer this approach to assessment over exams.

## **What topics will I cover?**

There are three main topics which will be covered:

- Exploring media products
- Developing digital media production skills
- Creating a media product in response to a brief

## **How am I assessed?**

You will be assessed through completing two extended pieces of coursework. You will also be assessed by completing a 15 hour controlled assessment which draws on the skills you have developed over the duration of the course.

Extended coursework = 60% (30% for each piece of coursework)

Controlled assessment = 40%

## **What examination board will I follow?**

BTEC is provided by Pearson Education.

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Information on the specification and the topics which are covered can be found on the Pearson BTEC website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/creative-media-production.html>

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Holmes, Head of ICT



# MEDIA STUDIES

## **What is GCSE Media Studies all about?**

Media Studies is the study of different media platforms including television, magazines, newspapers, radio, video games, the music industry, web-based technologies and advertising and marketing. For each media platform you study you will look at four key concepts, media language, representation, institution and audience and complete a mixture of analytical and production tasks.

## **What topics will I cover?**

For this course you will take a series of units which will assess your media skills in:

- Exploring the media
- Understanding media forms and products
- Creating media products These units include:
  - Comparing magazine front covers, print adverts and newspapers.
  - Exploring the industries behind and the audiences for film, radio, newspapers and video games
  - Understanding television and music, both videos and online
  - Creating your own media product to a set brief

## **How am I assessed?**

Media Studies is a single award GCSE. The units attract the following values - Exploring the media (40%), Understanding media forms and products (30%) and Creating media products (30%).

In Year 10 you will cover some of the set products for the final exams and you will complete an extended coursework project. All coursework at GCSE Media is controlled assessment.

In Year 11, you will complete studying the set products and sit two final written exams of 90 minutes.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

Eduqas C680QS

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Media Studies gives you the opportunity to learn more about the world around you and the way in which we interact with it, as well as being creative and producing media products of your own.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Wilcox or Mrs Kench



# MUSIC

## **What is GCSE Music all about?**

Performing, composing, listening to and analysing a wide range of musical styles. You will develop self-discipline, confidence, creativity and collaborative skills.

## **What topics will I cover?**

Component 1: Performing. Developing confidence and ability as a solo and ensemble performer.

Component 2: Composing. Developing musical ideas; learning compositional techniques and strategies; understanding how to record and write down music.

Component 3: Appraising. Exploring set works from the following areas of study:

- Instrumental Music 1700 - 1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen (including the Star Wars theme)
- Fusions

## **How am I assessed?**

- A performance of one or several pieces lasting at least 4 minutes. The performance must comprise at least one minute of solo playing and one minute of ensemble playing (30%).
- Two compositions, of at least three minutes combined duration. One composition to a brief set by the exam board; one free composition set by the student (30%).
- A listening exam at the end of Year 11 (40%).

## **What examination board will I follow?**

Edexcel 1MU0

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

Practical instrumental or vocal skills are essential; being able to read music would be a great help, but will be taught as part of the course. The most important thing is to want to play your instrument and enjoy the music making process. The students who work the hardest and put the time into their instrument will always make the best progress.

It is recommended that GCSE music students have individual music lessons either in school or with an approved, qualified private teacher. Ideally these lessons will be started during Year 9.

Individual music lessons for GCSE Music students are subsidised at a 40% rate to a maximum of one instrument.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Nichol or Mrs Manning



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## **What is GCSE PE all about?**

GCSE Physical Education allows you to extend your core skills and values learnt during physical education lessons at Key Stage 3. For those of you who have excelled in PE lessons and enjoy improving your knowledge of health and fitness GCSE PE will be the next step to a career in sport, leisure or the fitness industry. GCSE PE is a great knowledge base for A-Level study, or a step into the sporting industry. The course will develop key skills, improve knowledge of health and fitness and the human body.

## **What topics will I cover?**

The topics you will study for the exam include health, participation, injury, training, biomechanics, media and sponsorship, leisure and the human body.

For the three practical assessments you can choose from sports you participate in (either in or outside of school), but within school you will directly examine football, basketball, netball, volleyball and badminton. You must however cover one team sport, one individual sport and one of your choice.

## **How am I assessed?**

You will be assessed in the form of Summer examinations at the end of Year 11. There are two 1 hour 15 minute exams and these will test all the theory elements of the course. Each exam is worth 30% of your final grade (60% total). The other 40% is an assessment of your practical ability across three different sporting activities and your coursework which analyses sporting performance. The sports you choose to be assessed in must be on the practical specification.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA 8582

## **Is there any additional information about this course?**

This course is not just about being good at sport, it is about you trying a range of new activities and learning all about the sporting industry. The new specification content is very scientific based and students will be expected to complete more theory than they do practical lessons.

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Mr Kemp, Head of Physical Education



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## **What is GCSE Religious Studies all about?**

Do you enjoy learning about what different people believe?

Are you curious as to how Islam is linked to but differs from Christianity?

Do you like asking and discussing BIG questions such as:

- Does God exist?
- What happens when we die?
- Why does the universe exist?
- Should people of the same gender be allowed to get married?
- Can we justify the death penalty?
- Do we have the right to decide when we end our own lives?

If so, this course may be for you! Philosophy literally means 'love of wisdom' - in this subject we ask the big questions and consider our own and religious responses to these questions. You do not have to be religious/become religious to enjoy this course!

## **What topics will I cover?**

Learners are required to study two religions - Christianity and Islam. The topics that are to be covered in Year 10 are:

- Christian and Muslim Beliefs
- Christian and Muslims Practices

During Year 11 learners are required to apply the beliefs and practices that they have learnt about to issues in the modern world. The topics covered are:

- Relationships and families (what is marriage? Should same sex couples be allowed to marry? What roles exist in families? Should divorce be allowed?)
- Crime and punishment (How/why are people punished? Why should we forgive? Should the death penalty exist?)
- Religion and life (Where did the universe come from? How should we treat the environment? Should abortion/euthanasia be allowed?)
- The existence of God and revelation (is it possible to prove that God exists through argument? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? How do people claim to have experienced God?)

## **How am I assessed?**

There are two components. Component paper one will be on Christianity and Islam and paper two is made up of the four Philosophical and Ethical themes. Each paper is worth 50%.

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA Religious Studies Specification A 8062

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>



**Is there any additional information about this course?**

Please discuss this option choice during Parents' Evening and during lessons/the school day.

**Who should I speak to for further information?**

Ms Pawlaczek, Head of RPS



# SOCIOLOGY

## **What is GCSE Sociology all about?**

Sociology is about developing an understanding of society and human behaviour. Sociologists study society by asking questions and conducting research. It is an engaging subject that is relevant to your life now and in the future. It will interest students who enjoy 'contemporary history' because you have to study the very recent past as well as current day society. You will study crime, education, power and the family. Sociology is at the root of every business, every campaign, every news story and every political movement, it is therefore a fascinating and extremely useful subject.

## **What topics will I cover?**

- Social Stratification - Who has the power in society? Who are the underclass? How do the rich and powerful impact society?
- Crime and deviance - Why do men commit more crimes than women? Do prisons work? Why has there been a rise in gangs? What are the causes of crime? Do governments commit crime? Does prison work?
- Family - Why do men and women behave differently in families? Who has the power in families? Why are some families dysfunctional? Who is most likely to be a victim of domestic violence? Why? Has childhood changed?
- Education - What are educational subcultures and why do some ethnic groups do better than others at school? Do teachers discriminate against some groups of students? What is the hidden curriculum?

In both Years 10 and 11 you will study Sociological theory and methods. This includes:

- Approaches to sociological research and research methods
- Key Classical Sociologists - Durkheim, Parsons, Marx and Weber
- Marxism, Functionalism, Feminism, Interactionism, the New Right

## **How am I assessed?**

Two exam papers each worth 50% at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1 - Family, Education, theory and methods (1 hour 45 mins)

Paper 2 - Crime, Social Stratification, theory and methods (1 hour 45 mins)

## **What examination board will I follow?**

AQA 8192

## **Who should I speak to for further information?**

Miss Cosgrove, Head of Sociology

