



Key Stage 4 Subjects

Options 2014

Course Descriptions

Compulsory and Option Subjects

Option Request Information

For students parent and carers

This booklet is intended to help guide students in their option choices that will begin in year 9 by sharing course summary and links to more information on awarding body websites.

Teaching in all option subjects runs for three years until the end of year 11. A Head of Faculty will co-ordinate the timing and specific details for examination and controlled assessments and these are subject to change during the course. The academy allows students to request subjects from all on offer and their Head of House will work closely with you should you need further guidance to ensure that choices are most appropriate to skill and ability.

We hope you enjoy studying your chosen options subjects through Key Stage 4 and we wish you the best of luck through to 6th Form then university and employment.

Explaining the English Baccalaureate Award

The government currently awards students the English Baccalaureate, a separate award to their GCSE's when they attain 5 A*-C in the following:

English GCSE	Mathematics GCSE	Two Science GCSE	Language GCSE	History GCSE or Geography GCSE
To qualify for this in the academy students will have to select a language along with either History or Geography and achieve a C grade or above to obtain the English Baccalaureate.				

GCSE Subjects that are counted in this measure are termed '**EBacc**' subjects.

From 2016 this will change to 'Attainment 8' measure.

This averages the grades of 8 GCSE subjects:

- **English**
- **Maths**
- **Three Ebacc GCSE's**
- **Three other GCSE's or equivalent**

Students will have a free choice and make their selection from either GCSEs or BTECs.

The following pages detail all option subjects offered to students, along with the compulsory subjects they will be studying.

At the back of this book the Options Form can be found that will need to be completed and returned to your Head of House.

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Compulsory Subjects

GCSE English Language (Compulsory)

English Language is...

- the subject that underpins all other subjects that rely on reading, writing and communication skills.
- the key qualification employers and further education establishments require their staff and students to have.
- challenging, varied and fun. You will engage with stimulating world issues through fiction and non-fiction.
- the route to your successful future.

All students will study this course. You will:

- develop your skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening.
- read a wide range of novels, stories, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction texts.
- write in a variety of forms focusing on technical accuracy and demonstrating an understanding of the purpose of your written work.
- be assessed for your Speaking and Listening skills either as an individual, in pairs or groups. This will include activities that encourage you to explain, explore, discuss, analyse and persuade.
- be assessed in three ways. 40% of English Language is assessed through controlled assessment, 40% exam and 20% speaking and listening.

GCSE English Literature (Compulsory)

English Literature is...

- the study of the “best words in the best order” (Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s definition of poetry – it can relate to all good literature though)
- a way to appreciate the beauty of the written form
- a way to understand the social, historical and cultural contexts and influences in the texts you study
- an awareness of the ‘worlds’ presented in these texts
- a way of inspiring and developing your own written work.

All students will study this course. You will:

- develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts
- develop a sense of the people, places and times which produced the texts
- develop the ability to create and convey meaning in speech and writing, matching style to audience and purpose
- be assessed in two ways. 30% of English Literature is assessed through controlled assessment and 70% through examinations.

GCSE Mathematics (Compulsory)

Mathematics is...

- the subject that underpins all other subjects that rely on numeracy skills.
- the key qualification employers and further education establishments require their staff and students to have.
- challenging, varied and fun.
- the route to your successful future.

All students will study this course. You will:

- study the mathematical areas of number, algebra, shape, space, geometry and measures, handling data and using and applying Mathematics.
- learn about number and number systems, calculations, solving numerical problems, equations formulae and identities, sequences, functions and graphs.
- study geometrical reasoning, transformations and co-ordinates, measures and construction.
- learn about specifying the problem, planning, collecting data, processing and representing data, interpreting and discussing results.
- be assessed by two written examinations, one where a calculator may be used and one non-calculator. Each paper is worth 50%.

Some students will also have the opportunity to study statistics GCSE or Additional Mathematics GCSE depending on their progress.

ICT Subjects

OCR Cambridge Nationals in ICT (Compulsory)

ICT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education, and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. Cambridge Nationals deliver these skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things.

Units	Assessment Method	GLH	J800 Award 60GLH	J810 Certificate 120GLH	J820 Diploma 240GLH
Mandatory					
R001: Understanding computer systems	Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour – 60 marks (60 UMS) Learners answer all questions	30	M	M	M
R002: Using ICT to create business solutions	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	M	M	M
Business Information Systems Strand					
R003: Handling data using spreadsheets	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	S
R004: Handling data using databases	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	S
Creative Strand					
R005: Creating an interactive product using multimedia components	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	O
R006: Creating digital images	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	O
R007: Creating dynamic products using sound and vision	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	O
Technical Strand					
R008: Introduction to computer programming	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	O
R009: Exploring computer hardware and networks	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	O
R010: Developing control systems	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	O
Learner-initiated Project					
R011: Understanding technology – a project approach	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx 15 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)	30	n/a	O	O

Key: M = mandatory unit
 O = optional unit
 S = software – must choose one of the S units

These qualifications specifically aim to:

- develop candidates' knowledge and understanding of the Information and Communication Technology sector.
- develop candidates' skills, knowledge and understanding in contexts that are directly relevant to employment situations, thereby enhancing their employability within the Information and Communication Technology sector.
- develop candidates' ability to work autonomously and effectively in an Information and Communication Technology context.
- enable candidates to develop knowledge and understanding in specialist areas of Information and Communication Technology, and demonstrate the skills needed to participate in the operation and development of ICT specific or ICT non-specific business organisations.
- encourage progression by assisting in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that candidates will need to access further or higher education programmes or occupational training on a full-time or part-time basis.
- encourage progression by assisting in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that candidates will need to enter employment or enhance their current employment status.

GCSE Computing (Compulsory)

“The world is changing and we are using computers a lot more now. I thought it would be a relevant topic to learn about to help me in future life. I like GCSE Computing because it’s challenging. I most enjoyed the programming section of the course because it allowed us to write our own programs, such as calculators and conversion devices.” Kareem – Year 11 student

- The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving students a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course provides excellent preparation for students who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.
- The course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on ‘behind the scenes’, including computer programming, which many students find absorbing
- The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Students who’ve taken a GCSE in Computing and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an advantage over their colleagues who are picking up the subject at these levels.

Here’s a summary of the course details and the Assessment Objectives for GCSE Computing:

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Unit A451: Computer Systems and Programming		
This unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems on which the examination will be based.	1 hour 30 minutes Written paper 80 marks	40%
Unit A452: Practical Investigation		
An investigative computing task, chosen from a list provided by OCR, Controlled assessment which assesses the following: research, technical understanding, analysis of problem, historical perspective, use of technical writing skills, recommendations/evaluation.	Investigative task. OCR-set scenario with a choice of research tasks 45 marks	30%
Unit A453: Programming Project		
Students will need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand standard programming techniques • Be able to design a coded solution to a problem including the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop suitable algorithms • Design suitable input and output formats • Identify suitable variables and structures • Identify test procedures • Create a coded solution fully annotating the developed code to explain its function • Test their solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To show functionality • To show how it matches the design criteria • Identify successes and any limitations 	Controlled assessment Programming task. Design, develop and test a solution to a problem within the OCR-set scenario. 45 marks	30%

Science Subjects

GCSE Core Science (Compulsory)

Students that achieve a level 5 or above in KS3 will do Core Science AQA Specification A.

Science encourages you to:

- develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, science.
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society.
- acquire the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

What will be studied:

- Unit 1: Biology 1; Human body, Ecosystems and the environment and genetics.
- Unit 2: Chemistry 1; Materials and their properties (limestone, metals, oils and plants).
- Unit 3: Physics 1; Energy and Electricity.
- Unit 4: Controlled Assessment.

Each of these units is worth 25% of the final grade and has an exam paper which has written answers not multiple choice. All the exams will be in June there are no more module exams.

This course can be taken at Foundation or Higher levels and results in a single award GCSE. In Year 10/11 students will continue studying science. We try and provide suitable pathways for every student therefore some students go on to study GCSE Additional Science, some students will complete a BTEC Application of Science course and other students will have the opportunity to do separate sciences (formally known as triple science.) Students must achieve a B grade in Core and Additional Science to study A-level Sciences.

GCSE Additional Science (Compulsory)

The specification leads to a second single award GCSE Additional Science. It is taken in addition to GCSE Core Science. It is essential if students wish to study Science Post-16.

Whereas GCSE Core Science emphasises the evaluation of evidence and the implications of science for society, this course has a greater emphasis on explaining, theorising and modelling in science. It is a worthwhile course for students in terms of general education and lifelong learning. Additional Science forms a firm basis for courses in the sciences such as AS and A2 Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The content follows on from that of GCSE Science.

- Unit - Biology 2: Cells; movement in and out of cells; plant nutrition; ecology; excretion; enzymes; homeostasis; inheritance
- Unit - Chemistry 2: Structure of substances related to sub-atomic particles; structures, properties and uses of substances; industrial chemistry; rates of reaction; energy in reactions; using ions in solutions
- Unit - Physics 2: Movement; speed & acceleration; momentum; static & current electricity; power of electrical appliances; radioactive substances, nuclear fission and fusion.
- Unit 4: Controlled Assessment

Each of these units is worth 25% of the final grade and has an exam paper which has written answers not multiple choice. All the exams will be in June there are no more module exams.

GCSE Separate Sciences

This subject enables GCSE Core and Additional Science to be extended to three Science GCSEs it is depending on progression and replaces Core and Additional Science.

The 'Triple' Science option enables you to qualify in the three 'Separate' Sciences. You will be awarded three GCSE's: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, and GCSE Physics.

The 'Triple' Science option enables students with a particular interest in the Sciences to develop further their understanding and to extend their knowledge in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. As with the Additional science Unit 2 topics, the 'Triple' Unit 3 topics place greater emphasis on explaining, theorising and modelling in science enabling students to access AS/A2 Science and University degree courses in many scientific fields.

What will be studied:

- Unit - Biology 3: Diffusion, osmosis and active transport; blood; effect of exercise on the body; kidney and homeostasis; micro-organisms.
- Unit - Chemistry 3: development of the periodic table; chemical reactions; acids and alkalis; water; energy in reactions; chemical identification and analysis.
- Unit - Physics 3: turning effect of forces; circular motion; centripetal force – planets and satellites; mirrors and lenses; light; ultrasound; electricity – motion, generators, transformer; life history of stars

BTEC Applied Science First: Principle of Applied Science

Students that complete KS3 with below level 5 will study BTEC Science.

This Science Award delivers the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study by covering the key scientific principles vital for both scientists and citizens of the future. It develops and exemplifies these principles in applied and vocational contexts, leading to an understanding of how the principles are applied in practice. This helps students to develop their Science skills and a bridge between Key stage 3 and GCSE Science.

- Unit 1: Principles of Science (externally assessed)
- Unit 2: Chemistry and our Earth (Internally assessed)
- Unit 3: Energy and our Universe (Internally assessed)
- Unit 4: Biology and our Environment (Internally assessed)

This course is The Principles of Applied 75% internally assessed units (coursework) and the new BTEC Level 2 Firsts in Applied Science include externally assessed units comprising 25% of total assessment. This is an exam that can be done in November, March and June. It is equivalent to 1 Science GCSE.

Students will complete this course in Term 1 of Year 10 and then will have the option to study; Core Science GCSE, BTEC Applied Science First: Applications of Science, Additional Science GCSE or Additional Applied Science GCSE.

BTEC Applied Science First: Applications of Science

Students that have completed the BTEC Principles of Science and are not suitable candidates for the examined GCSEs will complete this course.

This follows the same format as BTEC Applied Science First: Principle of Applied Science, The Application of Science Award is suitable for students who have covered the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study. It develops students' understanding of key applications of science, and builds the skills required both for the scientific workplace and for further study.

- Unit 5: Application of Chemical Substances (internally assessed)
- Unit 6: Application of Physical Science (internally assessed)
- Unit 7: Health Applications of Life Science (internally assessed)
- Unit 8: Scientific Skills (externally assessed)

GCSE Additional Applied Science

Students that wish to continue studying Science in year 11 after completing BTEC Principles of Science and Applications of Science will be given the option to do this course. This will prepare them to do Level 3 Science BTEC.

Additional Applied Science integrates the study of biology, chemistry and physics. This specification concentrates on particular disciplines of science and those scientists that work with them. It also allows candidates to develop some of the knowledge and skills used in these disciplines. Following the specification will introduce candidates to work-related learning and equip them with some of the skills they will need in the workplace or in further education or training. It will also empower candidates to take charge of their own learning and provide a range of teaching, learning and assessment styles to motivate candidates to achieve the best they can.

It is assessed with one exam worth 40% and two coursework assignments 60%.

- Unit 1: Science at work; Forensics, Analysis, Food Science and Sports Science (exam 40%)
- Unit 2: How Scientists use practical techniques coursework assignments (60%)

Physical Education, Core PE (Compulsory)

PE is...

- challenging, varied and fun. You will engage in various activities that will make you a reflective and independent learner.
- essential in order for you to maintain a healthy, balanced lifestyle.
- a great way for you to improve your confidence and self-esteem.
- stimulating and will provide you with opportunities to evaluate and analyse.

All students will study this course. You will:

- develop your skills in many practical activities including rugby, netball and cricket.
- have the opportunity to enhance your literacy skills through class discussions, group work and question and answer activities.
- improve your personal qualities from:
 - Co-operation – working with others.
 - Competition – testing yourself against others.
 - Physical challenge – testing yourself against the environment or your best performances.
 - Aesthetic appreciation – recognizing quality of movement in a performance.
- be physically and mentally active, fit and healthy.
- learn about leadership qualities and communication skills.
- strengthen peer relationships through participating in team games.

Core PE has no formal route to GCSE PE. Please select GCSE PE as an option if you would like to study it.

Religious and Personal Studies - RPS (Compulsory)

RPS aims to develop students into not only having an awareness of the diversity of the world in which they live but also aims to develop them into responsible and conscientious citizens. Part of the RPS curriculum will be dealt with through the prism of world religion, examining attitudes of each major world faith towards issues that students will find relevant and help them make informed choices when they mature. In addition, RPS will contain the following elements of PSHCE and Citizenship:

- Sex and Relationships
- Financial Management
- Health and Safety
- E-Safety
- Bullying
- Prejudice and Injustice
- Careers and life after school

RPS has no formal route to GCSE Religious Education. Please select GCSE RE as an option if you would like to study it.

Option Subjects

Business Faculty

GCSE Business Studies

Business is an essential part of all our lives and an understanding of how business works is an excellent starting point for a range of further qualifications and careers. Achievement of this GCSE supports progression to:

- Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced General Certificate of Education in Business Studies and Economics.
- Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education in Business, and NVQs in Administration and in Accounting.

What will be studied:

Business Studies is exciting and innovative and comprising of enterprise-themed units. It seeks to actively engage the students in the study of business and economics to develop and to help develop independent students with the ability to be critical and reflective thinkers.

The students will focus on spotting a business opportunity; showing enterprise; putting a business idea into practice; making the start-up effective and understanding the economic context.

Students will also study topics like marketing, meeting customer needs, effective financial management, effective people management and the wider world affecting business.

The course consists of 3 units

- Unit 1: Introduction to Small Business
- Unit 2: Investigating Small Business
- Unit 3: Building a Business

Assessment:

2 external exams (75% of marks) and an internally assessed controlled investigation (25% of marks)

Other qualifications such as BTEC National Diplomas. Further Education options - Business Studies, Applied Business, Business & Administration, Law, Economics

Example of jobs available - Lawyer, Accountant, Marketing Executive, all branches of the business world

Level 2 Certificate in Enterprise and Employability

This Enterprise and Employability course has been specially designed to help students build the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to develop into confident individuals prior to entering the world of work.

Through an enterprise project that can be business or social orientated (making or organising and selling), students will acquire employability skills such as problem-solving, IT, effective communication, team work, literacy and numeracy skills. The course also invites students to adopt a can-do attitude and be innovative and creative whilst taking risks which will enable them become financially capable.

What will be studied?

This course seeks to actively engage the students through seven compulsory areas of study:

- What is enterprise capability?
- The enterprise process
- Enterprise and the World Wide Web
- Promoting personal employability
- Understanding and planning personal finance
- Understanding finance for enterprise
- Rights, responsibilities and ethical considerations of enterprise activities

Assessment:

1 external exam (40% of marks) and an internally assessed controlled investigation (60% of marks)

This Enterprise and Employability qualification is similar in size and demand to a full-course GCSE, and is suitable for all students from grades A*-G.

Progression:

Business is an essential part of all our lives and an understanding of how business works is an excellent starting point for a range of further qualifications and careers. Achievement of this GCSE supports progression to:

- Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced General Certificate of Education in Business Studies and Economics.
- Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education in Business, and NVQs in Administration and in Accounting.

Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

GCSE Art

- is both relaxing and challenging.
- develops creative thinking skills that you can use in other subject areas.
- encourages you to express your thoughts and ideas .
- could be the first step towards a highly rewarding career in graphic design, illustration, fashion design, animation, set or stage design, advertising, interior design, photography, film directing and even Art teaching!

Students will:

- build upon the experiences and knowledge gained from their KS3 course.
- work with different materials and techniques in both two and three dimensions, including painting, printing, drawing, sculpture, collage, digital media, video/film and ICT.
- study and research the work of artists and designers .
- participate in trips to art galleries and museums.
- have the opportunity to be involved in extracurricular clubs and activities.
- learn how to evaluate and research Art in its widest sense.

Further Education options - Art & Design, 3D Product Design, Applied Art & Design, Fine Art, Photography, Textiles

Example of jobs available - Illustrator, Print Maker, TV/Film Production Designer

GCSE Art Textiles

- is both relaxing and challenging.
- develops creative thinking skills that you can use in other subject areas.
- encourages you to express your thoughts and ideas.
- could be the first step towards a highly rewarding career in surface design, textile design, graphic design, illustration, fashion design, animation, set or stage design, advertising, interior design and even Art teaching!

Students will:

- Explore a range of images, artefacts and resources relating to art, design, fashion and textiles.
- Explore art, design, fashion and textiles from different time periods and cultures.
- Investigate a variety of traditional and contemporary textile techniques.
- Work with different materials and techniques in both two and three dimensions, including painting, drawing, printing, fabric printing, tie-dye, batik, fabric manipulation, embroidery, and felting.
- Participate in trips to art galleries and museums.
- Have the opportunity to be involved in extracurricular clubs and activities.

GCSE Drama

In Drama, you will learn how to research, investigate, empathise, plan, review, evaluate and present. You will increase your knowledge and understanding of the theatre, acting, lighting, costume, make-up, props and scenery.

Drama will help you to gain confidence in the way you communicate and present yourself to the world. By having the opportunity to practice 'stepping into other peoples shoes', you will make informed decisions about the way they relate to other people and the world around you.

The study of Drama encourages students to be more communicative and express yourself with more success. These interpersonal skills will prove to be extremely useful to you as you make your way through the education system and the workplace.

You will carry forward many transferable skills including the ability to present yourself well at interview, be clear in the way you speak, and be able to listen well and process information effectively.

What will be studied:

Students will spend the majority of their time in practical workshops. They will learn how to respond, develop and evaluate both their own work and that of others in their group.

Learning takes place through the examination of both current themes and chosen plays and students will create original drama inspired by their response to these.

Students are taught how physicality and voice effect characterisation and how they might use the rules of improvisation to create plays of their own. They are taught how to explore ideas and dramatic concepts using established strategies such as improvisation, freeze frame, thought-tracking and thought tunnel.

Students will need to have a high level of commitment and attendance as success on the course is dependent on their ability to work with others.

The course culminates in a final practical examination when students present their work to an invited audience including a visiting examiner.

Further Education options - Drama, Drama & Theatre Studies, Musical Theatre, Performing Arts

Example of jobs available - Actor, TV Presenter, Theatre Director, stage work

GCSE Media Studies

Media Studies will help you develop a critical understanding of media texts that are read and understood by different audiences.

It will develop a critical awareness of media representations of individuals, groups and issues.

It will develop an understanding of the relationship between media industries / institutions / technologies, products and audiences.

This course will encourage an awareness of the role of the media.

It will enable candidates to explore and represent their own ideas and experiences by developing practical production skills.

What will be studied:

- In this course, you will be exposed to different forms of Media and their impact on society as a whole.
- It is a course that looks at contemporary examples of Media, including advertising, television news and programming and film.
- During each term, you will have the opportunity to develop the practical skills associated with each media task.
- In the second year of this course, you will be expected to produce your own short documentary/film clip using modern technology and then evaluate this process.

Further Education options - Media Studies, Music & Media Technology, Film & TV Production, Fashion Design & Media, Creative Media

Example of jobs available - Film design, journalist, TV executive

GCSE Music

Music GCSE is a demanding course which encourages students to develop confident performance skills. You will gain an extensive knowledge of over eight centuries of music, a subject-specific vocabulary and creative expression. It is a GCSE which requires students to excel in a broad range of disciplines, a fact well-recognised by college and university admissions departments.

What will be studied:

- Students will study a wide variety of musical styles from classical through to popular, club dance remix and world music.
- You will attend workshops and performances to gain experience in as many different genres as possible.
- You will learn how to compose, perform, listen and appraise, all of which form part of the final exam.

Further Education options - Music Technology, Musical Theatre, Performing Arts, Music & Media Technology

Example of jobs available - Composer, Musician, Lyricist

Design and Technology Faculty

GCSE Catering (Cannot be studied with Food Technology)

The course provides progression opportunities both directly into employment and to further learning opportunities within employment, or to further study.

What will be studied:

The course is designed to give you an opportunity to extend and apply your skills and knowledge of the catering industry within a variety of contexts. It will concentrate on the main areas of food production and food service as an introduction to the catering industry.

Further Education options - Food Science, Food Technology, Home Economics, Hospitality, Professional Cookery

Example of jobs available - Catering Manager, Restaurant Manager

————— OR —————

GCSE Food Technology (Cannot be studied with Catering or Product Design)

Food Technology is a practical subject – if you like cooking and working with food then this is the subject for you. However, research, planning, and evaluation will also be key areas of study. It will develop your understanding of issues relating to all aspects of food and nutrition.

The study of this subject will develop knowledge and understanding of human needs within a diverse society and relevant technological and scientific developments. It covers areas that are essential for a career in the food industry, catering, consumer education, food hygiene and safety.

You can progress to the A Level Home Economics, Food, Nutrition and Health.

What will be studied:

You will be given the opportunity to work with a range of foods. This will help you gain an understanding of the processing techniques used when designing and making food products.

You will be taught to relate the workings and functions of a wide range of materials, food products and applications to the intended purpose and market of the product.

You will also study the design and making of quality food products through industrial and commercial practices.

Further Education options - Food Science, Food Technology, Home Economics, Hospitality, Professional Cookery

Example of jobs available - Chef, Nutritionist, Dietician

GCSE Product Design (Cannot be studied with Food Technology or Textile Design)

Design and Technology is a practical subject area which requires the application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing products and evaluating them. In Product Design pupils are encouraged to be innovative and creative problem solvers. Pupils work with a variety of materials including: card, wood, plastic, metal and electronic circuits to develop functional products. In year 9 pupils run through a series of projects, to gain further experience working with a range of materials and with a range of different tools. They will also develop drawing and presentation skills, research techniques and will use CAD/CAM to develop and create high quality products. The GCSE project, started in year 10, requires pupils to produce a folder of work and make a quality product. Current GCSE projects include: Storage solutions, lighting projects, docking stations and display.

What will be studied:

- A series of mini projects in which pupils will learn and develop a range of skills.
- Practical outcomes in card, wood, metal and plastic.
- The GCSE awarded is based on marks gained in the Controlled Assessment (60%) and written examination (40%)

Further Education options - Product Design, Resistant Materials, Electronics, Graphics, Engineering, Industrial Design

Example of jobs available – Engineer, Product Designer, Illustrator, Architect, Furniture Designer, Carpenter, Electrician, Packaging designer.

GCSE Textiles Design (Cannot be studied with Food Technology or Product Design)

Design and Technology is a practical subject area which requires the application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing products and evaluating them. In Product Design pupils develop the ability to work independently, and are encouraged to be innovative and creative problem solvers.

In Textiles Design pupils will work with a variety of materials to develop marketable textile products. In year 9 pupils run through a series of projects, to gain further experience working with a range of fabrics. They will learn new techniques and use a range of different textile equipment. Pupils will develop drawing and presentation skills, research techniques and will use their practical skills to create high quality products. The GCSE project started part way through year 10, requires pupils to produce a folder of work and make a quality product. Examples of GCSE projects could include: Clothing, soft toys, promotional items, fancy dress.

What will be studied:

- Pupils will work through a series of mini projects enabling them to learn and develop a range of skills.
- Pupils will complete an extended project in which they will identify a target market, conduct research, design a range of ideas, and develop a marketable solution that they manufacture to a high quality.
- The GCSE awarded is based on marks gained in the Controlled Assessment (60%) and written examination (40%)

Further Education options – Textiles Design, Art and Design, Fashion.

Example of jobs available – Costume Designer, Fashion designer, fashion assistant, stylist, Illustrator

Humanities Faculty

GCSE Geography

Geographers are highly regarded in the professional employment market. Whether it's international banking, leisure & tourism, town planning, engineering or architecture, you'll find that our syllabus has much to offer. As well as preparing you for work, we aim to make the course interesting and exciting.

What will be studied:

Dynamic Planet (Unit 1)

- Section A – Compulsory topics: Restless Earth, Changing Climate, and Battle for the Biosphere and Water World.
- Section B – Small-scale Dynamic Planet. Optional topics: complete one of either Coastal Change and Conflict or River Processes and Pressures.
- Section C – Large-scale Dynamic Planet. Optional topics: complete one of either Oceans on the Edge or Extreme Environments.

Overview of assessment:

This unit is assessed through a 1-hour 15-minute, tiered, written examination, which contains a mixture of question styles. 78 marks are available, with 48 marks in Section A, 15 marks in Section B and 15 marks in Section C. Of the 78 raw marks available, up to 6 marks are awarded for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG).

People and the Planet_(Unit 2)

- Section A – Compulsory topics: Population Dynamics, Consuming Resources, Globalisation and Development Dilemmas.
- Section B – Small-scale People and the Planet. Optional topics: complete one of either The Changing Economy of the UK or Changing Settlements in the UK.
- Section C – Large-scale People and the Planet. Optional topics: complete one of either The Challenges of an Urban World or The Challenges of a Rural World.

Overview of assessment:

Same as Unit 1

Making Geographical Decisions (Unit 3)

- This unit will assess students' ability to make decisions about geographical issues and justify them.
- The unit includes the pressures (conflicts), players and options that are involved in making geographical decisions and which are related to sustainable development and environmental issues.

Overview of assessment:

- This unit is assessed through a 1-hour 30-minute, tiered, written examination.
- 53 total marks are available, spread across three questions.
- Of the 53 raw marks available, up to 3 marks are awarded for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.
- A resource booklet will be available in the examination. The examination will relate to the material in the booklet.

Investigating Geography (Unit 4)

Overview of content

- For this unit students need to complete a fieldwork investigation and report. They must complete one of the tasks provided by Edexcel, on one of the following themes: coastal environments, river environments, rural/countryside environments, town/city environments.

Overview of assessment:

- This unit is internally assessed under controlled conditions. Students complete one of the fieldwork tasks from the list provided by Edexcel. They must write up the fieldwork task under controlled conditions.
- The task is marked out of a total of 50 marks across the following areas: planning, methods of data collection, data presentation and report production, analysis and conclusions, and evaluation.
- The task will be marked by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel using the assessment criteria on page 46.

All units are equally weighted at 25%.

Examinations; Units 1-3, will take place at the end of Year 11. Investigating Geography is a piece of controlled assessment and will be undertaken in Year 11.

Further Education options - Geography, Environmental Studies, Geology, Land based Studies, Leisure Studies and Travel & Tourism

Example of jobs available - Town Planner, Geologist, Climatologist

GCSE History

Studying GCSE History enables you to develop your knowledge and understanding of the past in order to interpret events that are happening today and put them into an historical context. It is held in especially high regard by employers as it covers the full range of academic skills and practice, as well as demonstrating extremely high levels of literacy and analytical thought.

- History will develop your ability to write descriptively, discuss analytically and present fluently. The course will also develop skills at extended writing and critical thinking, essential skills in the professional workplace and further academic study.
- You will develop a wide range of skills that are essential outside of the History classroom and will form the basis of many careers such as law, politics, journalism, business, teaching and politics.

The new specification from 2015 onwards will also include marks awarded to students for spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as extending the second paper in terms of material. With this in mind and the demanding nature of the course itself, a solid grasp of English and literacy is highly recommended for studying the GCSE, as well as a genuine interest in the subject itself. A studious and committed approach to learning is essential to the study of History at GCSE level.

What will be studied:

Paper 1: 37.5% of overall grade with one exam taken in the summer of Y11 (1hr 45mins)

The Origins of World War One

Peacekeeping and the League of Nations

Hitler's foreign policy and the origins of World War Two

Paper 2: 37.5% of overall grade with one exam taken in the summer of Y11 (1hr 45mins)

ONE OF:

Weimar Germany, 1919-1929

The Roaring 20s: USA, 1918-1929

PLUS BOTH OF:

Hitler's Germany 1929-1939

Race Relations in the USA, 1955-1968

Controlled Assessment: 25% of overall grade

2000 word assessment in exam conditions using sources on pre-determined topics, split into two questions:

Question 1: Testing the utility of 5 sources selected by the lead teacher in relation to a short aspect of British history e.g. attitudes to war, impact of trench warfare on British soldiers. Recommended length; approximately 800 words.

Question 2: Using 8 sources to test an interpretation on an aspect of British history e.g. the success of evacuation, the role of women in both world wars. Recommended length; approximately 1200 words.

Question focus will be determined by the lead teacher and will be completed by all Year 11s.

Further education options: History, Politics and International Relations, Economics, Law, Journalism, Archaeology, Classics, English.

Example of jobs available: Teacher, lecturer, journalist, politician, museum curator, archaeologist, archivist, business, lawyer, armed forces, civil service.

GCSE Humanities

Humanities is designed to give students experience of studying each of the subjects within the discipline, giving them a well-rounded experience that is comprehensive and engaging. Humanities helps students understand the world in which they live through a study of both contemporary and past issues. As part of the course, students will study:

- **History (25% of final grade):** Students will undertake a study of the United States from 1945-1975. The component will be broken down into:
 - The Cold War and its impact on American society.
 - Racial equality in the USA.
 - Political, social and economic influences on people's lives after 1945.
- **Geography (25% of final grade):**
 - The influence of the physical environment on people.
 - Living in urban areas.
 - Climate change.
- **Religious Education (25% of final grade)**
 - Diversity of beliefs and practices.
 - How different religions follow their faith in modern Britain.
 - Comparative study of religions in the modern world.

Controlled Assessment 25% of final grade

GCSE Religious Studies (RE)

Religious Studies is a relevant qualification for any job which involves working with other people. The UK is a multi-faith society and an understanding of our differences will help us live and work together peacefully.

Religion plays an important role in our society and can influence what people think, feel, and believe. Through studying Religious Studies, students get a broad look at how religion and spirituality form the basis of our culture. Through studying religion students will have the opportunity to explore and examine their own perspectives on the world and will be encouraged to develop a sense of tolerance of views and opinions that may be different from their own.

Religious Studies also helps students develop marketable skills and aptitudes including:

- analytical and strategic thinking;
- research skills;
- critical judgment
- the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas;
- an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict
- problem-solving skills
- leadership skills
- understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and
- an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences.

These skills are particularly useful for future careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media.

We follow the AQA syllabus B and cover two units – Religion and Ultimate Questions and Religion and Citizenship.

There is no coursework for this exam but there are two exams each lasting 1.5 hours.

Modern Foreign Language Faculty

GCSE French

Languages open the door to learning about other people and their cultures giving you the opportunity to appreciate how others live and work, as well as the art of conversation. It also opens the door for getting a job in a European or International company. You will be assessed on your writing and speaking skills as well as taking a listening and reading examination in Year 11.

What will be studied:

You will develop an understanding of the spoken and written forms of French in a range of contexts. You will learn how to communicate effectively in French, both orally and in writing and learn about other countries and communities where French is spoken. Whether you're flying to Monaco, or taking a gap year in Paris this course is for you!

You will study French in relation to:

- everyday activities
- personal and social life
- the world around us
- the world of work
- the international world

Further Education options – A Level French

Example of jobs available - linguist, translator, receptionist, teacher, journalist, air crew, holiday representative, secretary, international lawyer...

GCSE Spanish

Languages open the door to learning about other people and their cultures giving you the opportunity to appreciate how others live and work, as well as the art of conversation. It also opens the door for getting a job in a European or International company. You will be assessed on your writing and speaking skills as well as taking a listening and reading examination in Year 11.

What will be studied:

You will develop an understanding of the spoken and written forms of Spanish in a range of contexts. You will learn how to communicate effectively in Spanish, both orally and in writing and learn about other countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. Whether you're flying to Barcelona, or taking a gap year in Granada this course is for you!

You will study Spanish in relation to:

- everyday activities
- personal and social life
- the world around us
- the world of work
- the international world

Further Education options – A Level Spanish

Example of jobs available - linguist, translator, receptionist, teacher, journalist, air crew, holiday representative, secretary, international lawyer.

Community Languages (GCSE Urdu, Panjabi, Polish, Italian, Arabic, Chinese...)

These are not option subjects; however can be taken in consultation with the MFL department

Languages open the door to learning about other people and their cultures giving you the opportunity to appreciate how others live and work, as well as the art of conversation. It also opens the door for getting a job in a European company. You will be assessed on your reading, listening and speaking skills as well as taking a written examination.

Achieving a grade A*-C in your community language would give you an additional GCSE and would count as a language in the English Baccalaureate qualification.

Please note that the community languages are NOT taught as option subjects and rely on the student's existing ability and his/her independent preparation, however some enrichment support clubs are in place for some of the languages.

Sport Faculty

GCSE Physical Education (PE)

What will be studied:

40% theory

Knowledge and understanding for the Active Participant.

- Individual differences including age, gender and disability.
- Injury- Precautions – how to prevent injury.
- The difference between aerobic and anaerobic exercise.
- Characteristics and benefits of leisure and recreation.
- Health, fitness and a healthy active lifestyle.
- Specific exercise or training programmes including advantages and disadvantages, training and practice to improve fitness/skills/techniques.
- Diet.
- Key influences, including cultural factors, that impact on individuals' sustained involvement in physical activity.
- Opportunities and pathways available for becoming or remaining involved in physical activities.

Students will take an exam at the end of the course that will also include a scenario question. The scenario is issued to centres in advance of the examination to prepare the students.

Written Paper – 1 hour 30 mins

80 marks – 40%

60% practical

The Active Participant.

- You will study a number of sports that you will be assessed in that count towards your final grade. These are done in controlled assessments.
- You will take part in 4 assessments from at least 2 groups. At least 2 must be as a player/performer.
- You can be assessed in the following areas:
 - ✓ Player/performer.
 - ✓ Leader/coach.
 - ✓ Official.

Controlled Assessment

90 marks – 60%

Vocational Curriculum

Health & Social Care BTEC First Diploma

Many thousands of people work in the health and social care sectors and find their work very rewarding and exciting. The BTEC First Diploma prepares you for employment in these sectors and provides a good grounding to go on a more advanced course such as the BTEC National Diploma or Certificate in Care or Health Studies

What will be studied:

The course is made up of six units – two core units that everyone takes and four specialist units. The core units are:

- Communication and Individual Rights within the Health and Social Care Sectors
- Individual Needs within the Health and Social Care Sectors

The specialist units enable you to study a particular area in more depth. For the first of these you will have a Vocational Experience in a Health or Social care setting, carrying out 60 hours of work experience off site.

In addition to your work experience you will choose three from the following:

- Cultural Diversity in Health and Social Care
- Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care
- Human Lifespan Development
- Creative and Therapeutic Activities in Health and Social Care
- Health and Social Care Services
- The Impact of Health on Diet

You will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of learners to meet the needs of the health and social care sectors.

You will learn about the role of the health or social care worker, their relationship with patients/service users and their responsibilities towards patients/service users and the wider health and social care sectors.

You will develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Further Education options - Childcare, Health & Social Care, Health Studies

Example of jobs available - Social Care worker, Nutritional Therapist, Counsellor

Travel & Tourism BTEC First Diploma

If you are interested in travel, the travel industry and tourism this is the course for you. Whether your idea of a holiday is two weeks in Benidorm or a fishing break in the Highlands every holiday takes a great deal of organisation and costs money and therefore has an impact on the consumer, patterns of demand in the industry and on the local area. The course provides education and training for students wishing to seek employment in the travel and tourism industry with a good progression route to more advanced qualifications.

What will be studied:

There are three core units and three specialist units in this course. For the core you will study:

- The UK Travel and Tourism Industry
- Customer Service in Travel and Tourism
- UK Travel and Tourism Destinations.

In addition you will take three specialist units from:

- European Holiday Destinations
- Exploring Marketing in Travel and Tourism
- Business Skills for Travel and Tourism
- Developing Employability Skills for Travel and Tourism
- Planning Visits for Travel and Tourism.

Further Education options - Travel & Tourism, Leisure Studies

Example of jobs available - Travel consultant, Airline Executive

My option choice requests: Academy copy

Student's full name: _____

House Tutor Group: _____

Please complete your option choices ready for discussion with your Head of House.

The following subjects will be compulsory for all students.

Compulsory subjects – These are all EBacc Subjects

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GCSE English Language ○ GCSE English Literature ○ GCSE Mathematics ○ ICT Cambridge Nationals leading to GCSE Computing | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GCSE Core Science ○ GCSE Additional Science | } Some students will study triple Sciences based on their progress. |

Do not write these subjects below. They are compulsory so you will study all of these subjects in Years 9 to 11.

Select three first and three reserve choices from below:

Option Subjects

GCSE	Art
GCSE	Art Textiles
GCSE	Drama
GCSE	Music
GCSE	Media Studies
GCSE	PE
GCSE Ebacc	History
GCSE Ebacc	Geography
GCSE	Humanities
GCSE	RE
GCSE Ebacc	French
GCSE Ebacc	Spanish
GCSE	Product Design
GCSE	Textiles Design
GCSE	Food Technology
GCSE	Catering
GCSE	Business
Level 2 Cert	Employability
BTEC	Health & Social Care
BTEC	Travel & Tourism

Please write your choice of option subjects in the table below:

Three option choices	My first choice option is:	
	My second choice option is:	
	My third choice option is:	

These are your reserve option choices and should be different to those written above:

Three reserve option choices	My first reserve choice is:	
	My second reserve choice is:	
	My third reserve choice is:	

Remember these choices are in addition to your compulsory core curriculum.

Signed by Student: _____ Date _____

Signed by Parent/Carer: _____ Date _____

Interviewed and Signed by Head of House _____

Deadline 12th February 2014 - Please hand your completed form in to your Head of House