

# THE GAINSBOROUGH ACADEMY 2024 OPTIONS BOOKLET



WICKERSLEY  
PARTNERSHIP  
TRUST.





# INTRODUCTION

Our options programme allows you to choose the most appropriate subjects to study from year 9. These subjects should be chosen to best match your interests and potential for further education and employment.



It is very important that you follow a broad and balanced curriculum.

We hope that you will find this booklet useful; indeed you may return to its pages time and time again over the next three years. Each subject has been prepared by Subject Directors and Leaders.

The progress you have made whilst at this school will, of course, be taken into account when the groupings in subjects are decided. You will be given every opportunity to have discussions with Tutors and Subject Staff on which are the best choices for you, and this booklet details the courses offered.

The specifications, courses and exam boards are selected by the school to enable students access to the most appropriate curriculum.

In Year 10 and 11 we would expect most students to choose a subject from their Y9 option suite. Whilst we try to facilitate all requests, there are sometimes circumstances out of our control that mean we cannot meet all requests.



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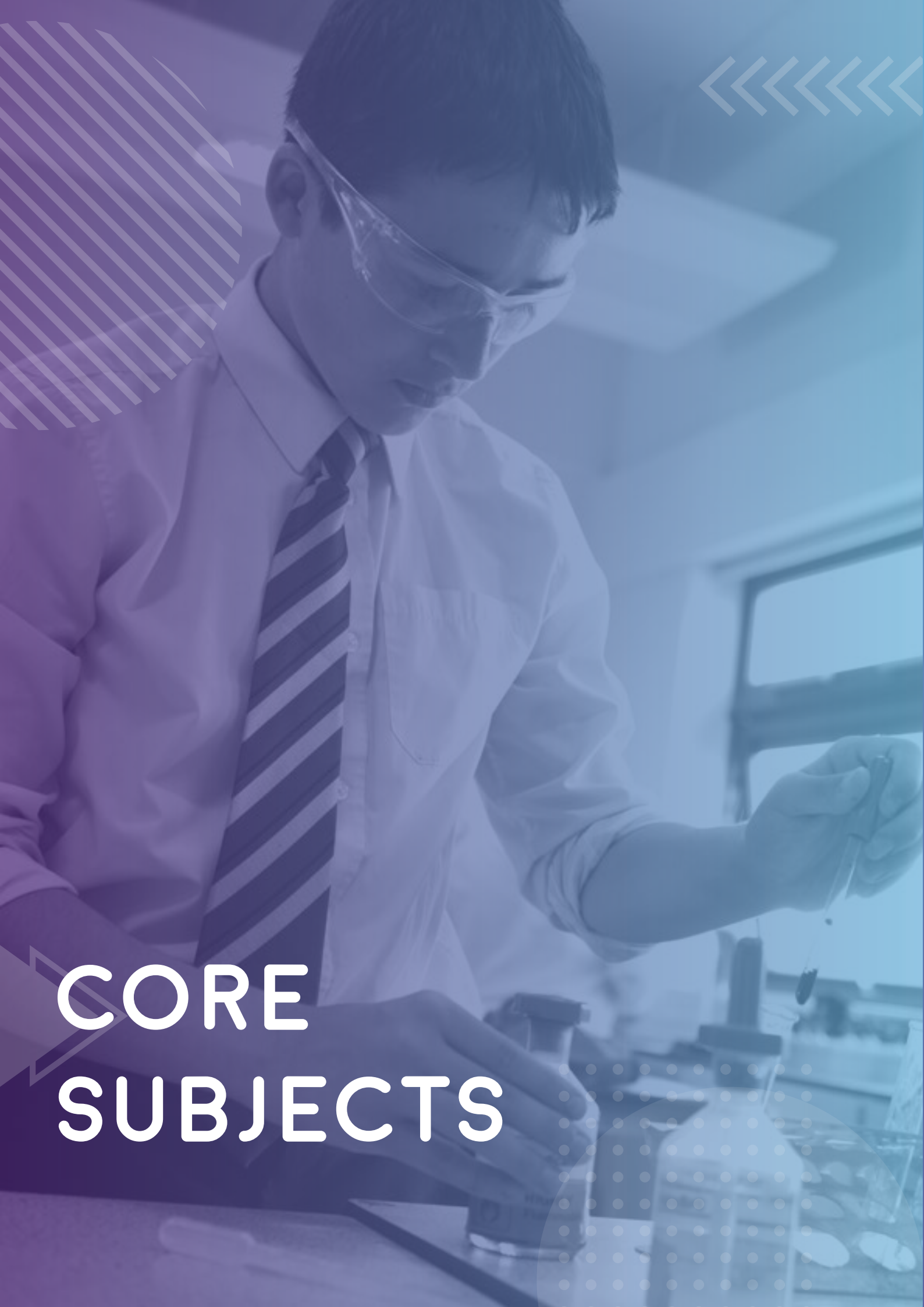
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# CORE SUBJECTS







# WHAT ARE CORE SUBJECTS?

Core subjects are compulsory national curriculum subjects that all secondary students will study throughout KS3 and KS4.

Students will continue to study English, Maths, and Science (Chemistry, Biology, Physics) until the end of Year 11 and gain a GCSE in these subjects.

Core History, Geography and MFL lessons are taught until the end of Year 9, with GCSE Options available in those subjects.

Students will also be supported throughout their KS3 and KS4 journey with weekly Physical Education lessons and 1 lesson every 2 weeks in PSHE and RE.

## WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Language is all around us and it is something we use every day.

English not only teaches you about language but also how to use it effectively, and respond to it with understanding.

Literacy skills are developed in English lessons that will help you in other subject areas in school, in everyday life and in your future career.

## WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

English Literature will not only help you develop your reading and analytical skills but will also provide you with the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate a range of texts from different genres.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

In English Language / English Literature you will develop the ability to write accurately and analytically, in a range of styles and for a variety of purposes.

You will also be able to read and respond to a range of texts with understanding and insight. You will develop skills as a speaker for different situations.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE?

The course requires you to read a wide range of poetry, plays and novels and respond to them in four exams in Year 11.

The key areas of study focus on:

- The study of a Shakespeare play
- A range of poems from a chosen collection
- A 19th Century novel and a modern novel or play
- Descriptive and Narrative Writing
- Writing to express a viewpoint
- Analysis of non-fiction and literary texts

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All students are entered for both English Literature and English Language.

As part of the Language course you will complete a Speaking and Listening task which will also be awarded a grade on your GCSE certificate.

Make sure you understand exactly what you need in order to pass your English examinations. If in doubt, ask! There will be four exams at the end of Year 11

## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE?

The skills you gain in English Language, such as the ability to read, write and speak with confidence, are highly valued by employers.

Most further education establishments and many employers look for a high quality GCSE qualification in English Language.

Skills learnt in GCSE English Literature such as literacy, analysis, communication, empathy and the ability to develop ideas and a line of argument, are useful in many jobs.



## WHY STUDY SCIENCE?

Science affects your life in many ways - the clothes you wear may include man-made fibres, the food you eat may contain chemical colourings, household appliances contain electric circuits.

All Science courses encourage you to acquire a body of scientific knowledge and develop an understanding of Science including its power and limitations; develop experimental and investigative abilities; develop an understanding of the nature of scientific ideas and activity and the basis for environmental applications of Science and of the economic and social implications of these.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- Plan strategies to develop and test ideas
- Select, organise and present information clearly and logically
- Analyse critical data using knowledge and understanding
- Use ethical, moral, social and economic reasons to explain your ideas

# SCIENCE

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SCIENCE?

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An equal amount of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied in all Science courses.

You will develop an understanding of how Science works and learn how to use scientific evidence to answer questions such as:

- What the possible risks are of giving children vaccinations?
- When is it economical to extract metals from their ores?
- How can radioactive tracers be used to detect forged bank notes?

To do this you will develop and improve your scientific communication skills by using different approaches to presenting information including using the Internet.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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All GCSE courses begin to be taught in Y10. Most students will study Combined Science. In this course, students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and are assessed through 6 exams in Year 11. Students leave school with two GCSEs in Science.

Those students who are chosen to study Triple Science will also study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, but do so in greater depth. Again, assessment is through 6 exams at the end of Year 11.

Students who study Triple Science will leave school with three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT SCIENCE?

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For many careers, good Science qualifications are essential,

These include careers such as Nursing and Health Care, Child Development, Engineering, Architecture and Construction, Surveying and any other careers that have a technical aspect.

Employers at all levels see Science as a desirable qualification, as it shows that students are able to demonstrate a wide variety of skills essential in the workplace, such as analysis and interpreting data, applying knowledge and researching.

## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT MATHEMATICS?

Employers recognise that Mathematics is a demanding subject. The progress on your GCSE course gives them an indication of how well you might apply yourself in the world of work.

The Mathematics you study is an important foundation for many courses you may take in employment or further education. Many jobs and careers require you to have a GCSE in Mathematics.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

You will develop a wide range of skills in your GCSE Mathematics course. These include the ability to:

- Use your mathematical knowledge to solve problems
- Apply a logical method to reach an answer
- Find solutions to problems from real life
- Use a calculator correctly and efficiently

# MATHEMATICS

## WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

GCSE Mathematics covers many basic skills that you will need to use in a variety of ways all through your life.

You will use many of the skills you learn in other subjects. For example, in Science you need to take measurements, use formulae and solve equations. In Geography you need to read statistical diagrams and maps.

In Technology you need to be able to draw to scale and be competent with measures. In many other subjects you will be asked to obtain information from charts and diagrams.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN MATHS?

The course should enable you to:

- Make and monitor decisions to solve problems
- Develop skills of reasoning
- Communicate
- Understand place value and the decimal system
- Develop methods of computation
- Solve numerical problems
- Understand and use equations and formulae
- Understand and use properties of shape
- Understand the properties of position, movement and transformations
- Use measures
- Collect, process, represent and interpret data
- Estimate and calculate probabilities of events



## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be placed in academic 'sets' for examination at two possible levels:

- Higher Grades 4-9
- Foundation Grades 1-5

Assessment:

PAPER 1— CALCULATOR

PAPER 2— NON CALCULATOR

PAPER 3— CALCULATOR

**3** EXAMS  
- 1HR 30  
MINS  
EACH

**100**  
MARKS

33%

33%

33%



## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT HISTORY?

Skills you learn in GCSE History such as literacy, analysis, reasoning, communication, empathy and research are useful in many jobs and this is why GCSE History is valued by employers, colleges and universities.

They are great life skills no matter what your career path.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- Ability to analyse evidence to find the truth
- Ability to debate and form arguments about events and concepts
- Ability to understand causes and consequences of world events – not just the event details.

# HISTORY

## WHY STUDY HISTORY?

This is a fascinating subject which gives an insight into amazing things that have happened in the past. It helps us to understand where we came from and where we are going to. It gives us opportunity to understand others and to appreciate the challenges faced by those who have gone before us.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN HISTORY?

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You will study with the Edexcel examination board. The main topics are:

Paper 1:

- Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British section of the Western Front 1914-18: Injuries, Treatment and the Trenches

Paper 2:

- Part 1 – Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
- Part 2 – Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Paper 3:

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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There are 3 formal examinations.

- Paper 1– 30%
- Paper 2– 40% (Each topic is worth 20%)
- Paper 3– 30%



## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT GEOGRAPHY

The job market has become increasingly competitive and international. Around 75% of businesses think the UK is in danger of being left behind unless young people learn to think more globally.

However, the transferable knowledge and skills developed by studying Geography are actively sought out by employers allowing graduate geographers to consistently experience lower than average levels of unemployment. A GCSE in Geography is a stepping stone in becoming a valued individual in a competitive world of work.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- The ability to research information
- To develop organisational skills
- To be able to use graphs, diagrams and simple statistics to interpret and analyse information
- Practical fieldwork skills

# GEOGRAPHY

## WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

You live in the world - why not find out more about the challenges and opportunities it offers and how to get involved?

Find out more about how people are using different environments, both your own and those in other parts of the world. Investigate issues of sustainability - will the Earth still be able to provide us with all the resources we take for granted?

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN GEOGRAPHY?


Geography gives you the chance to study 3 units:

- Living within the physical landscape (this unit will look at the challenges of natural hazards, the living world and physical landscapes within the UK).
- Challenges within the human environment (this unit will look at urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenges of resource management).
- Geographical application and skills (this unit will allow you to leave the classroom and experience geography in the real world).

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in two fieldwork visits. One will focus upon human geography and the second on physical geography.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Paper 1 is a 1 hour 30 minute examination which covers the 'living within the physical landscape' unit and accounts for 35% of the final grade.
- Paper 2 is a 1 hour 30 minute examination which covers the second unit of 'challenges within the human environment' and accounts for 35% of the final grade.
- Paper 3 is a 1 hour 15 minute examination which covers the third unit of 'geographical application and skill.' This paper accounts for 30% of the whole GCSE.



MODERN  
FOREIGN  
LANGUAGES

## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT SPANISH?

- Spanish is in the top three most desired additional languages by employers
- Job prospects open, not just in the UK but worldwide.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- How to be independent
- Communicating with others confidently
- A knowledge of grammar
- Listening and reading for detail
- Identifying patterns
- Further develop good study skills and the ability to work and learn independently

# SPANISH

## WHY STUDY SPANISH?

Spanish is a world language with over 400 million speakers worldwide. Tourism, ICT, Marketing, Banking, Business and Engineering are just a few areas where you can use Spanish. People who speak a foreign language earn 20% more on average than those who don't!

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SPANISH?

If you continue Spanish in Y10 you can expect to study the following

- A number of cultural themes including Media, Youth Culture and Employment
- A mixture of listening, speaking, reading, translation and writing activities linked to various topics
- Information about life in Spain, regional traditions and fiestas
- What life is like for a young person living in Spain in 2020's

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is via examination and you will be assessed on the four language skills:

- Listening – 25%
- Speaking – 25%
- Reading – 25%
- Writing – 25%





## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT FRENCH?

- France plays a key role in many areas of engineering including the aerospace industry
- People who speak a foreign language earn 20% more on average than those who don't

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- How to be independent
- Communicating with others
- Knowledge of grammar
- Listening and reading for detail
- Identifying patterns
- Further develop good study skills and the ability to work and learn independently

# FRENCH

## WHY STUDY FRENCH?

French is a world language and the language of the international Olympic Committee. Studying this course will build upon your existing language skills from KS3 to develop a more detailed understanding of French language and culture. Tourism, ICT, Marketing, Banking, Business and Engineering are just a few areas where you can use your language.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN FRENCH?

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If you continue French in Y10 you can expect to study the following

- A number of cultural themes including Media, Youth Culture and Employment
- A mixture of listening, speaking, reading, translation and writing activities linked to various topics
- Information about life in France, regional traditions and national holidays
- What life is like for a young person living in France in 2020's

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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Assessment is via examination and you will be assessed on the four language skills:

- Listening - 25%
- Speaking - 25%
- Reading - 25%
- Writing - 25%





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## WHAT DO WE DO IN YEAR 9 SUITE LESSONS

The PE suite is a great option for anyone who has a love of sport and is interested in learning about the various career paths within the sports industry. Students will be given the opportunity to learn concepts and develop their skills in careers such as; Fitness Instructor, Sports Coach, Sports Analyst, Sports Scientist, Sports Development and Sport as a Business.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

- Practical skills in a variety of sports and physical activities
- Literacy skills to construct examination answers and coursework analysis
- Communication skills to take part in class discussions
- Problem-solving and strategic thinking
- Analytical skills for self-evaluation
- Leadership skills for coaching and teaching peers
- Concentration and listening skills

## WHAT HAPPENS IN A SPORT STUDIES LESSON?

Lessons will be a mixture of classroom and practical lessons. The exam unit will involve theory lessons and exam practice. The other units involve a combination of coursework and practical activities.

# SPORT STUDIES

## WHY STUDY SPORT?

PE and Sport Studies allows you to develop and strengthen your practical ability in a range of sports and physical activities as well as learning and understanding the theoretical and biological workings of a variety of skills. The course will equip you with a range of transferable skills that will be an asset for further education in the field of Sport, Fitness, Health and Well being.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SPORT STUDIES?

The programme of study will cover a range of sports related topics including:

- Sports Leadership & Coaching
- Practical Sport
- Outdoor Adventurous Activities
- Performance Analysis

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will have a combination of classroom and practical lessons where you cover 3 different units:

- Coursework unit (40%) - Students are assessed in their two best practical sports. They complete a piece of coursework where they analyse themselves in a sport of their choice. They also plan and deliver a sports coaching session of their choice to a group and then evaluate their performance.
- Theory Exam (40%) - Contemporary issues in sport which includes: The Olympics and Paralympics, sporting behaviour, performance enhancing drugs, major sporting events and sports development and technology in sport.
- Coursework unit (20%) - Students learn about a wide range of Outdoor Activities and the equipment, safety and provision of those activities. They take part in an assessed OAA activity in which they are judged on how they keep safe; they then evaluate their performance whilst they also plan how they would deliver an outdoor activity session.



## WHAT DO WE DO IN YEAR 9 SUITE LESSONS

The PE/Dance suite is a great option for anyone who has a love of Dance and is interested in learning about the various career paths within the Dance industry. Students will be given the opportunity to learn concepts and develop their skills in careers such as; Dance Teacher, Dance Fitness Instructor, Choreographer, Dance Artist/Performer, Dance Producer and Events Management.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN A DANCE LESSON?

Dance lessons are extremely varied and cover a range of topics. In practical lessons, students will receive input from teachers in the form of new movement vocabulary, performance skill development or choreographic techniques. Students will then be expected to apply these new skills and ideas to performance and choreography based tasks in both solo and group work. In theory lessons, students will be introduced to the constituent features of dance through the analysis of professional dance pieces and their own work. Regular assessments in both a practical and theory setting will take place throughout the course.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN DANCE?

In Year 9 you will study a range of dance styles including contemporary, hip hop, ballet, samba, capoeira and folk. You will look at how dance has evolved through the years from lindy hop to TikTok and everything in between! You will also develop your understanding of dance performance and choreography skills by using these in response to a range of different themes including musicals, dance films and 'Nutcracker!' While also challenging your creativity by learning how to use props and contact in dance.

# DANCE

## WHY STUDY DANCE?

Studying Dance will give you the opportunity to further develop the skills and knowledge you have learnt in Year 7 and 8 Dance. In Year 9 you will have one lesson a week. This will increase to 2 lessons a week in Year 10 and Year 11, which will incorporate both practical and theory lessons. You will use creative thinking skills to solve problems and create insightful work. Whilst developing your analytical ability in theory aspects of the course. You will broaden your horizons through the appreciation of professional dance works which combined, will allow you to widen your ideas and thoughts of what can be achieved through dance.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students are assessed over three components:

**Component 1** is worth 30% and is about understanding how professionals create repertoire. You will learn Jazz / show dance/ hip hop/musical theatre and will perform as a group. You be assessed against the criteria that the exam set which will be understanding job roles and planning and performing dances.

**Component 2** is worth 30% and is about learning and performing professional repertoire to an audience. You be assessed on how near you can perform the exact routine by a professional dance repertoire. Your development of skills and techniques will be assessed in this unit of work.

**Component 3** is worth 40% and is marked externally. You will be given a stimuli and scenario and will be required to create a dance in a group of 3 - 7 performers. You will choose your music and choreography your own routine to link to the stimuli. All three units of work have both written and performance elements.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

It is essential that you have completed the dance option in Year 8 to access the work covered in Year 9. You will also need the following:

- Motivation and enthusiasm
- Confidence in performing
- Creative ideas and an open mind ready to try different styles of dance
- The ability to work in small groups and on your own
- A reasonable level of physical skill - flexibility, strength and coordination
- The ability to understand dance key terms and use them in written work
- A reflective mind allowing you to evaluate and improve
- The ability to plan, perform and evaluate





# PERFORMING ARTS

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Component 1 - Devising 40%**  
You will work in a small group to share your ideas and create your own original piece of theatre based on a key extract from a play. You will complete a portfolio of evidence and an evaluation of your practical work.

**Component 2 - Text in Performance 20%**  
This will be a performance in a scripted play in small groups. In each piece, you will have your own character and will learn two extracts from a script to be performed in costume to an audience and the visiting examiner.

**Component 3 - Theatre Makers in Practice 40%**

This is a written paper where you will write about your ideas for staging a performance of a play we will study in class. You will also write a review of live theatre you have seen during the course.

## WHAT COULD I DO NEXT?

The possibilities are endless. Drama will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities will be looking for. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and get the most out of life.

A drama qualification can lead to career opportunities in teaching, law, publishing, politics, translation, science, occupational therapy, journalism.

# DRAMA

## WHY STUDY DRAMA?

In Drama, you will play many parts in different imaginary situations and will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people.

Drama is an ideal course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. You will enjoy this subject if you enjoy working as part of a team as Drama involves a lot of group work.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN DRAMA?

- You will Investigate a variety of drama techniques, play scripts and theatrical styles
- Learn about how playwrights and practitioners communicate with an audience and make an impact
- Learn how to use a range of drama techniques to present effective practical work
- Have the opportunity to go on the London Theatre Trip to see two West End theatre productions

### Unit 1: Bang Out of Order!

You will read and explore this dark and dramatic play about some very dysfunctional teenagers. In this unit you will develop your skills in responding to play texts and your acting skills using script.

### Unit 2: Combat and Conflict

Learn how to portray different types of anger in a variety of conflict scenes before we cover the basics of stage fighting. You'll work in a pair and learn how to punch, slap, kick, strangle and stab your opponent – or at least that's what it will look like to an audience; it's all theatrical trickery really!

### Unit 3: DNA

This shocking contemporary play starts with a dead body in the woods and you will stage scripted extracts as part of your practical work. You will develop your knowledge of different rehearsal techniques and technical design elements such as scenery and lighting design.

### Unit 4: The Tempest

You will read and act out extracts from this mysterious and magical play. You will also explore design elements such as costume and scenery and have the chance to make your own design work in class.

### Unit 5: Brecht

You will study and practically explore the techniques of the revolutionary drama practitioner and playwright before including them in your own piece of devised theatre.

### Unit 6: Girls and Dolls

You will read this striking play about childhood tragedy and consider the staging process, developing your skills in characterisation, multi-role, narration and staging types.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Taught as a group as well as an individual, one to one mini-tutorials will guide you to a higher level of achievement. You will learn to work with different materials and techniques and develop projects within your portfolio. There are many high quality examples to help. This will be a creative and individual process.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

Everybody studying Music Performance starts with a different level of musical skill, but you must possess a drive for self-improvement as a musician and be willing to perform in front of an audience.

Ideally, you will be a confident performer on at least one instrument before starting the course. You also need a love of music and excellent self-discipline, as you will be required to work independently during rehearsals. An ability to read music notation is also recommended!

# MUSIC

## WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Performing Arts Music is a development of music at KS3 and a stepping stone for further study at KS5 (college, sixth form etc.)

It is a very practical course, that will develop your practical and performance ability - become a better musician! It will develop your understanding and appreciation of different musical genres, and your critical and creative thinking.

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Confidence through performance and rehearsal
- Learning independently and time management through rehearsal
- Team work through performing with others
- Organisation
- Problem-solving
- Research
- Self-discipline
- Stamina
- Taking on responsibility

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN MUSIC?

This qualification is made up of 3 units:

### Unit 1: Performing

You will learn the skills and techniques needed to produce a successful performance of an existing piece of music.

### Unit 2: Creating

You will learn how to create and refine your own composition.

### Unit 3: Music in Practice

You will learn about areas of the music industry that need to be considered when responding to a commission, and will consider these when coming up with and pitching your own idea.





# ICT & BUSINESS



## WHAT HAPPENS IN A BUSINESS STUDIES LESSON?

Lessons are varied and active. Over the course of a topic area lessons will include:

- Working as a group to analyse a business scenario and design effective marketing campaigns
- Roleplay considering different customer needs and wants
- Independent research activities on entrepreneurs
- Studying real business situations
- Enquiry based homework projects
- Exam skills

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

The course is designed to encourage an investigative approach to some real-world questions. Skills used include data analysis and interpretation, group work, individual research, planning, report writing and creativity when it comes to improving and adapting business products and campaigns. There is some use of Google facilities involved in the course and also some mathematical concepts. Although you don't need any prior business knowledge to do this course, enthusiasm about the world of business and reading around the subject is key to success.

# BUSINESS STUDIES

## WHY STUDY BUSINESS STUDIES?

Business looks at how organisations develop new and innovative ideas not only to generate profit but to contribute to and solve problems in wider society. Our subject develops a students knowledge beyond the start-up phase of a business and focuses on the key concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. By the end of the course, students will have developed as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively and reflect with enquiring minds. They will have the opportunity to investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues with case studies ranging from small medium enterprises to national corporations.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN BUSINESS STUDIES?

In Year 9 students will follow an introduction into the four basic functional areas of a business; what activities take place in marketing, finance, human resources and operations.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

### Theme 1

- Enterprise and entrepreneurial behaviour
- How to spot a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on a business e.g. exchange rates and economy.

### Theme 2

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

Students achieve a GCSE grade 9 - 1. 100% exam based through two exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam is 1hr 45mins, worth 90 marks and is 50% of the final GCSE grade. The papers consist of calculations, multiple-choice questions, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

## WHY STUDY IT?

The Digital Information Technology curriculum has been designed to give learners the opportunity to explore a variety of applications. These will provide them with skills and knowledge needed to act as a stepping stone into a wide variety of occupations when they leave school, and also skills that will be essential to enhancing their learning in many other subjects that they have chosen.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Activities in lessons are varied and will include a wide range of activities including:

- Research and practical tasks building on the skills learned in the lesson
- Student presentations and collaborative work
- End of topic assessments and progress feedback

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

You will need a genuine interest in IT, good organisation skills, literacy skills, a positive work ethic and the desire to succeed.

# IT

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN IT?

A range of topics and skills will be covered. User interfaces are everywhere, from cash machines, to the apps on our phones and tablets. We will explore the key principles of user interface design. Another key element of the digital sector is data - what is it? Why is it collected? How is it collected? The spreadsheet topic will answer these questions. It will provide students with a theoretical and practical understanding of the creation and use of spreadsheets to analyse and manipulate data by using entertaining scenarios to teach a very important topic that provides essential skills for life. Other topics include sound editing, image manipulation and IT project planning.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Should students take the decision to continue with Digital Information Technology into Year 10 and Year 11, they will apply much of the theory and practical skills developed in Year 9 to three components of work.

- Component 1 - Exploring user interface design principles and project planning techniques. Students will expand on the theory delivered in Year 9 to complete an assignment where they will explore user interface design and development principles, creating a functional interface for a given scenario
- Component 2 - Collecting, presenting and interpreting data. Students will expand on the theory delivered in Year 9 to complete an assignment where they will explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations, developing a dashboard using data manipulation tools
- Component 3 - Effective digital working practices. This is a new unit to be studied in Year 11. Students will explore how modern information technology is evolving, looking at legal and ethical issues of the sharing of data and understanding the role of cyber security to secure it.

The course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that is externally assessed. Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed assignments, each worth 30% of the overall grade. These contain written work and practical tasks. Component 3 is an exam worth 40% of the overall grade. This is a written exam at the end of Year 11.



# POLITICAL SCIENCES



## WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religious Studies offers you the opportunity to study a range of highly topical and controversial issues. It encourages you to think and debate about how and why people respond to ethical issues in everyday society. You do not have to be religious to take Religious Studies and it is not about making you believe in any viewpoint. Instead, you need to be prepared to listen to other people's viewpoints and find out why people believe what they do, as well as considering important issues that affect everyone. You will also be encouraged to consider your viewpoint on a range of issues and develop the ability to justify your opinion both verbally and in written form.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

You will need good skills in the following:

- Independence of mind and initiative
- Interpreting, analysing and evaluating information
- Communication skills
- Developing and defending different arguments

If you like learning about different people's opinions and why people behave in the way they do this is the subject for you!

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

The course focuses on both religious and non-religious attitudes towards society and a range of ethical and philosophical issues. Here is an example of some topics you may study:

- Existence of God, Gods and ultimate reality (e.g. Does a God exist?)
- Peace and conflict (e.g. can a war ever be justified?)
- Crime and punishment (e.g. should the death penalty be allowed?)
- Religion, human rights and social justice (e.g. should females be allowed to be religious leaders?)
- Life and death (e.g. what happens, if anything, when we die?)
- Religious and cultural rituals (e.g. what customs are used to mark a child becoming an adult?)

Throughout the Year 9 course, you will build upon the Knowledge and Understanding (KAU), Personal Opinion and Debate (POD) skills which you will have developed during Year 7 and 8 and begin to develop the skills required for the GCSE course should you chose to continue with the subject.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN A RELIGIOUS STUDIES LESSON?

Religious Studies lessons are varied. You may learn about a specific belief system (both religious and non-religious) - why someone holds the view they do and how this belief affects their daily life/behaviour. You may also gather evidence to support or challenge an argument, debate an issue and assess sources of information or work in groups to produce a presentation.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

During Year 9 students develop foundational skills for the GCSE examined course and progress is measured against 'Can Do' statements. In Year 10 and 11 we study the Pearson/Edexcel Religious Studies B course; this involves learning about the viewpoints of two religions (Christianity and Islam) and also non-religious viewpoints (atheist and humanist). We look at a range of topics:

- Christian & Muslim beliefs
- Living the Christian & Muslim life
- Marriage & the family
- Matters of life & death
- Crime & punishment
- Peace & conflict

You will be assessed at the end of the two-year course via two examinations:

- 50% Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes (Religion and Ethics)
- 50% Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 minutes (Religion Peace and Conflict)



## WHY STUDY CITIZENSHIP?

How can citizens try to make a difference in society? This is the overarching theme of Citizenship Studies. Students gain knowledge of democratic processes, the structure of parliament and how laws are made and enforced. Citizenship Studies will help you to develop many useful skills such as the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate an argument, weigh the evidence and look for alternative interpretations.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Citizenship studies is about the real world outside of the classroom. Lessons are varied and will always relate to current affairs. You may gather evidence to support or challenge an argument, assess sources of information, debate an issue or analyse a campaign.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

Citizenship is all about wanting to take part and make a difference. If you are passionate about making your community or wider society a better place, this is the option for you. Other desirable skills:

- Good reading and writing skills
- An open mind and a willingness to listen to a range of viewpoints
- An interest in current affairs

# CITIZENSHIP

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN CITIZENSHIP?

In Year 9 you will explore how individuals come to have power within our democracy. You will be introduced to the structure of parliament in the UK; exploring political parties' manifestos taking part in a mock election. You will study the different elements of the criminal justice system in England to develop your understanding of our laws and how they are enforced. Finally, you will develop your knowledge of human rights and international efforts to protect them. You will also have an opportunity to develop active citizenship skills by engaging in a community event or campaign.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

If you choose to continue to study Citizenship at GCSE level you will cover five topic areas:

- Living together in the UK
- Democracy at work in the UK
- Law and justice
- Power and influence
- Active citizenship

GCSE Citizenship Studies involves two examinations each lasting 1hr 45mins, to be taken at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework in this subject, but as part of the course, you will plan a course of informed action to address a citizenship issue or question of concern and aim to deliver a benefit or change for a particular community or wider society. You will be required to present coherent arguments in essay form.





# HEALTH SCIENCES

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Child Development lessons are varied, you may:

- Learn content relating to different elements of Child Development
- Use the knowledge that you have learnt to produce written tasks
- Work in groups to share ideas and compare information
- Spend time researching and fact finding
- Develop research and presentation skills

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

Child Development is a linear qualification and students will have to apply their knowledge to their non-exam assessment (NEA) and their examined assessment (EA) towards the end of Y11.

Students will need:

- Comprehensive note taking skills, taking pride in their work and presentation
- Good reading and extended writing skills
- Good organisational skills
- The ability to find your own information and conduct research
- To be able to think for yourself and work independently
- Determination and the ability to remain motivated in order to complete tasks
- Excellent time management

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT

## WHY STUDY CHILD DEVELOPMENT?

Child Development provides the opportunity to gain vocational qualifications in the child development sector. It will be of interest to students who are considering a career of working with children in an education, health or social work environment. It includes the knowledge and understanding of Child Development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of different settings including schools, nurseries and private provisions.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT?

During Year 9 students will be introduced to Child Development starting with conception, birth and how to care for the developing child. We will also focus on the different areas of development and how we can support the child by providing age and stage appropriate activities. Students will also research the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum that children aged 0-5 years typically follow.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

During Year 10 and 11 learners will study for the NCFE/CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years which involves the following topics:

- Child Development
- Factors that influence the child's development
- Care routines, play and activities to support the child
- Early Years provision
- Legislation, policies and procedures in the Early Years
- Expectations of the Early Years practitioner
- Roles and responsibilities within Early Years settings
- The importance of observations in Early Years childcare
- Planning in Early Years childcare

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Health and Social Care lessons are varied. You may:

- Work in groups to share ideas and compare information
- Spend time researching and writing up coursework tasks
- Develop research and presentation skills
- Use the internet and health promotion activities
- Design and create resources to promote health
- Use real-life stories and situations to apply knowledge

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

Health and Social Care involves a lot of coursework. You will need:

- An interest in Health and Social Care related jobs
- Good reading and extended writing skills
- An excellent homework record
- Good organisational skills
- The confidence to go out into the community and talk to people doing different jobs
- The ability to find your own information and conduct research
- To be able to think for yourself and work independently
- Study and revise skills for the examined unit
- Determination and the ability to remain motivated in order to complete coursework
- Time management

# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

## WHY STUDY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE?

Around 3 million people work in health and social care. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and administrators. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK. The need for both health and social care will continue to rise and therefore continue to play a key role in UK society, as the demand for people to carry out these vital roles will increase. Therefore the study of this subject provides a good platform for further study in Key Stage 4 and beyond to pursue career opportunities post-16 in this essential sector.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE?

Within this subject you will learn and begin to develop an understanding of different factors that can impact an individual's health and wellbeing.

Alongside this, Health and Social Care provides you with the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills about the health and social care sector, how they work to meet individual needs and the essential services they offer, as well as learning about how these services can support an individual's with specific needs.

Most importantly, whilst studying Health and Social Care, you will learn about our essential health and social care services that are relied on by all, learning about how they work to provide essential health and social care services to society by looking at current health issues and a range of real life case studies. This provides you with real life application that consolidates knowledge.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This subject provides a platform for further study in Key Stage 4, where you would undertake the OCR level 1/2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care. This qualification is comprised of three components; over the course of your two year qualification you would complete two internal coursework units and one external synoptic assessment.





# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT PRODUCT DESIGN

All employers value a person who is creative and capable of solving problems independently.

Design Technology will encourage you to develop these skills as well as your making skills. Employers value this 'hands on' approach to education. By opting for Design Technology you will gain a skill which can be used in a variety of college courses and careers.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

- Good drawing skills
- Analytical skills
- Competent making skills
- Problem solving skills
- Innovative ideas
- A mature, industrious, well behaved approach to working and learning.

In Y11 you will spend the year designing and making a product in response to a design challenge set by the exam board. You will spend the majority of Y11 completing this project.

# PRODUCT DESIGN

## WHY STUDY PRODUCT DESIGN?

Product Design is a full GCSE course where wood metal and plastic are used to design and make innovative products.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN PRODUCT DESIGN?

- Designing and making a range of products
- Graphical communication techniques
- Specific use of machines and hand tools
- Computer Aided Design and Manufacture
- Theory based information related to specific materials
- Communicating the design process

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Written Exam: 2 hours – 100 marks – 50% of GCSE  
This includes a design section; using pre released material which will test designing, making and the knowledge of materials and processes used in the workshop.

NEA non examined assessment coursework 50% of GCSE

## WHAT HAPPENS IN A PRODUCT DESIGN LESSON?

The course is delivered through a series of projects, which concentrate on different types of wood, metals and plastics. The lessons are theory based at the start of the projects and are mainly centred around specific research related to the area of study.

Once the products have been designed, pupils are then given the opportunity to make their product using all the hand tools and machines available in the Design and Technology Faculty.

# CONSTRUCTION

## WHY STUDY CONSTRUCTION?

The Construction industry is a wide and diverse industry which offers a huge range of opportunities to work in, including areas such as carpentry, plumbing and electrical.

A broad range of skills are available to enhance practical skills, from a DIY level to an expert craftsman level.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN CONSTRUCTION?

You will learn practical, hands on skills that are immediately transferable to the workplace, such as tiling, bricklaying and maintenance skills.

You will have to consider aspects that change and improve the value of the built environment in order to make recommendations on how to raise the quality of certain areas.

You will do this first of all by analysing your local area, and how it is used by the community.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is made up of two separate units.

Unit 1: External exam 90 minutes 40%

Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment (coursework) 60%

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

The course is split roughly 50/ 50 between mainly written assessment and practical work.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

- A love of practical based learning using a range of construction based materials
- Determination when solving problems particularly when using skills related to literacy, numeracy, and enterprise

## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

- The majority of learning in Y10 will be practical based with small sections of written and planning work to record and develop key skills ready for Y11 assessments.
- The rest of the course is split roughly 50/50 between mainly written assessment and making.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

- A love of practical based learning using metals and plastics and a range of other materials
- Determination when designing products to solve engineering problems using a range of different 2D and 3D modelling skills
- Some ability to use different workshop based tools and processes with some accuracy

# ENGINEERING

## WHY STUDY ENGINEERING?

You will develop skills that will enable you to contribute to many disciplines and open up career paths including sciences, design, engineering, manufacturing and teaching. This course is also a desirable qualification for students wishing to take on an engineering apprenticeship post 16.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN ENGINEERING?

In this WJEC course we will teach you how to analyse an engineered product to identify manufacturing criteria such as the correct material to be used.

You will learn how to read engineering drawings and be able to create a working plan of instructions that could be used to make the product from. You will then learn how to complete a range of both hand and machine operations such as turning, milling, brazing, casting and welding so that you can independently produce products from your plans.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- The course is made up of three separate units:
- Unit R014: External exam 75 minutes 40%
- Unit R015: Manufacturing a project (coursework) 30%
- Unit R016: Manufacturing in quantity (Coursework) 30%





# ART & FOOD



## WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Taught as a group as well as an individual, one to one mini-tutorials will guide you to a higher level of achievement. You will learn to work with different materials and techniques and develop projects within your portfolio. There are many high quality examples to help. This will be a creative and individual process.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

In order to be successful in Art pupils should:

- Critical and creative thinking skills
- Practical and technical skills across a wide range of materials
- Communication skills both verbal and written
- Independence, organisation, resilience, and responsibility
- Respect and understanding of different cultures, artists, craftspeople and designers

# ART

## WHY STUDY ART?

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After experiencing a range of media in Year 7 and 8, the Art department is confident you know more than enough to take the challenge of developing quality artwork. You will gain a firm understanding of Art by investigating a range of art movements from different cultures, artists, crafts people, designers and architects. You will develop knowledge and skills in following areas of study: Drawing, Painting, Art Textile, Clay work and Photography. You will be able to create high-quality studies and gain a great sense of achievement from your final ideas/pieces.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN ART?

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In Year 9 students will respond to artist research by, exploring a range of artists and art movements from different cultures, artists, crafts people, designers and architects. Students will extend their work linking to design ideas and the use of composition. Students will experience workshop-based lessons to help develop their technical skill in the 2D and 3D elements of Art, for example, pencil, pen and ink, painting, textiles, clay and some photography. During this time students will learn about the content needed to make successful studies that are presented in sketchbook and how to annotate the development of their work.

**The Y9 Art and Design curriculum will prepare you for further studies in your GCSE Option subjects:**

**Fine Art or Photography**

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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In Year 9, formative assessments take place throughout lessons in Art. Summative assessments take place at the end of each topic, of which there are six.

During projects you will analyse the work of existing artists and use this to develop your own ideas; refine your ideas through experimentation and selection of appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.

## WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT HOSPITALITY?

Hospitality provides learners with the opportunity of experiencing a live event as well as the need for time constraints and deadlines.

It provides you with a strong understanding of what is important in a commercial kitchen. It also equips you with good team working as well as independent skills. Employers value a student with this kind of hands on experience and existing knowledge.

You will gain skills which would be well suited to careers such as;

- Chef
- sports science
- dietician
- food journalism
- product development
- home economist
- events management
- hospitality
- front of house
- conference management
- buyer production manager
- public relations
- hygiene control
- National Health Service
- health promotion
- technical management
- food quality
- food preparation
- retail

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

In order to be successful in Hospitality pupils should:

- Have some practical capabilities in the production of food products
- Be able to meet firm deadlines
- Have the skills required to work independently

# HOSPITALITY

## WHY STUDY HOSPITALITY?

This option encourages the investigation and study of hospitality and uses a range of assessment techniques to enable the candidate to respond through practical and investigative work. You will investigate the hospitality and catering industry and learn about the local, national and international employment opportunities within it. You will also learn about other businesses in hospitality such as hotels, pubs, restaurants, health clubs etc. A large portion of the controlled assessment work focuses on understanding health and hygiene.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN HOSPITALITY?

During this course students will learn about:

- Health, safety and hygiene not only in a school based context but within the Hospitality Industry as a whole
- Menu planning - food preparation, cooking and presentation taking into account the needs and wants of a client base and costings
- Types of service provided and the related client groups, including customer care
- Job roles, employment opportunities and relevant training
- Planning for functions and events
- Standards of service
- Communication and teamwork

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is made up of two separate units.

Unit 1: External exam 80 minutes 40%

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action (coursework) 60%

You will be graded as follows; Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction

- ! In all Technology subjects the materials used in making what has been designed have a cost, and wherever possible students will be asked to make a contribution towards these resources.

