

YEAR 8

GCSE
OPTIONS
BOOKLET
2024

Enriching minds, enabling success

"OUR LIVES ARE FASHIONED BY OUR CHOICES. FIRST WE MAKE OUR CHOICES. THEN OUR CHOICES MAKE US."

— ANNE FRANK

Overview of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Core Subjects

Whilst you will have much greater flexibility to choose which subjects you would like to study in Key Stage 4, there are **core subjects** which must be studied. They are:

- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science:** students will follow the **Combined Science** course – which counts as 2 GCSEs. However, students who wish to take **Triple Science**, and work instead towards 3 named Science GCSEs, may choose this in the options.
- **Core Physical Education** - all students have to continue with PE to keep fit and healthy.
- **PSHE** - these are key elements of personal, social and health education
- **The Best of Big Ideas!** - these are the greatest elements of all option subjects which we feel students should still learn about and will enhance their knowledge of the world!

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The government has introduced new progress measures, which emphasise the importance of gaining qualifications in a broad range of subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Languages, Humanities, Arts and Technology. There has been a shift away from students taking more and more qualifications to each student gaining the best grades they can in a suite of **eight subjects** - **five of these must be EBacc subjects**.

All students will, therefore, be required to **choose at least one** further humanity subject, in addition to their core subjects, from either:

Geography

or

History

Further Options

You can choose **five** further options from the below to make a total of six preferences:

Art	Food & Nutrition	Music	Spanish
Art Textiles	Geography	Performing Arts	Sports Studies
Business Studies	Health & Social Care	Photography	Triple Science
Computer Science	History	Psychology	
Design & Technology	Media Studies	Religious Studies	

Timeline

May 8th - Year 8 Parents and Options Evening at 3:30pm to find out about the process and sources of information. 4pm and 5pm presentations in the canteen dining hall.

May 13th to May 17th - In assembly and form time students will:

- read the options booklet (this document)
- view subject videos
- speak to teachers during lesson time.

Week beginning May 20th - Students indicate their initial preferences by completing an online form during form time.

Summer 2 term - Two whole school timetables for 2024/25 will be created (one starting in September and the other in February) which will incorporate the Year 9 GCSE Options that will begin in February 2025.

January 2025 onwards - Once 6th January arrives, the option blocks will be locked. Changes may be requested after this, **BUT will be subject to fitting in with the option blocks.**

What is the process?

Students use the online form to:

- Choose either Geography or History.
- Indicate five further options, then list all six in order of preference.
- Confirm that they are happy with the subjects they have chosen.

Looking at the preferences indicated by all students, the school timetable will make four groups of subjects to allow as many students as possible to be given their preferred subjects.

If any subjects do not attract enough interest to run, students who chose the affected subjects will be informed so they can re-select their preferences.

How are students selected for subjects?

Once the four groups of subjects (known as option blocks A, B, C and D) have been set-up students will be allocated in order of their preference.

For example, the available spaces in Art will be first filled with those who chose Art as their first preference. If spaces remain, spaces will be filled from those students who chose it as their second preference. This continues until all spaces in the subject are filled.

If a subject has been filled, the students next preference will be given instead, assuming it is not full.

Students will be able to change their mind anytime up until 6th January 2025. At this time, all students will be allocated to their final option blocks. If it is not possible to give students a subject from their choices, a follow up discussion will be had.

Parents and students will be notified of final options before the February half term holiday.

Guidance for choosing options

Choosing the right options is vitally important. We suggest you consider the following:

Think carefully about what you want to do after Year 11.

You will be expected to stay in education until you are 18, so consider which courses will give you the best chance of doing what you want to do in sixth form, at college, or gaining an apprenticeship place.

If you have a particular career in mind, **find out what qualifications you will need** to follow it. If you would like further information on possibilities visit Careers in the Futures Room.

Think about the subjects you already do which:

- You are good at
- You enjoy
- You are interested in
- You think will be useful in your future study or future career.

Find out about the new subjects that you haven't tried, so you know what they will include.

Talk your plans over with your relatives, your teachers and anyone else you think can help. But do not choose a subject based on what your friends are doing! It needs to be what you will enjoy.

Guided sessions - We will be running guided sessions with our Careers Advisors to ensure students select the best possible courses for them. This will involve looking at their tracking, what the courses involve and their future plans to ensure that the students are selecting courses appropriate for their individual needs.

Order of Preference - Important

As subject groups are filled using order of preference, it is important students have their favourite choice first. Think carefully about all six of your choices. Students often claim they chose their 6th, 5th and even 4th choices 'without really thinking', or 'because they didn't want to do any of the others'. Remember, there are 18 choices - find out about as many as possible before making your choice of six.

Thinking of changing one or more of your choices, or your order of preference?

That's fine, you have from June 2024 to 6th January 2025 to change your mind - make sure you contact Mr Woods who will record any changes you wish to make. Changes can be made after 6th January but you will be limited by the option blocks which will be locked at this point.

Options Requests - Important

We will try to meet your option requests and ensure all students can study the subjects which they wish to do but, if too few students opt for any subject, it may not run. Similarly, if too many people opt for one subject, we may not be able to offer everyone a place. Any clashes or problems will be dealt with as they arise, but will not be on a first come, first served basis.

The options subjects

GCSE Art, GCSE Art Textiles & GCSE Photography

Do you want to improve your creative skills? Maybe you have a passion to draw, love to paint or would like to work in 3D? Do you want to learn about different techniques such as printmaking, textiles processes, clay, acrylic painting, digital photo editing in order to make exciting images? If the answer is 'yes' to these questions then an Art, Textiles or Photography course could be for you.

IMPORTANT - You cannot study Art, Craft & Design **AND** Art Textiles. You can however study Photography **AND** Art or Art Textiles. Please speak to Mr Merry if you have any queries.

<p>Art, Craft & Design</p>	<p>In Art, Craft and Design, learners must work in two or more titles from those listed in bold below. Learners may work in an area(s) of study within and/or across titles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Art: areas of study such as drawing, painting, printmaking or sculpture • Graphic Communication: areas of study such as illustration, digital art, packaging or even advertising • Photography: areas of study such as location or studio, the moving image • Textile Design: areas of study such as printed and digital textiles, fashion design or stitched and/or embellished textiles • Three-Dimensional Design: areas of study such as ceramics, product design or jewellery • Critical and Contextual Studies: areas of study such as artistic movements, popular culture, natural forms.
<p>Art Textiles</p>	<p>Learners are required to choose one or more area(s) of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructed textiles • Digital textiles • Dyed fabrics • Printed fabrics • Fashion design • Installed / textiles sculpture • Soft furnishings • Stitched and/or embellished textiles • Photography <p>Work can overlap with Art, Craft & Design. Please speak with your teachers to understand the best course for you.</p>
<p>Photography</p>	<p>Learners are required to choose one or more area(s) of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary photography • Photo-journalism • Studio photography • Location photography • Experimental imagery • Moving image: film, video and animation

GCSE Art, GCSE Art Textiles & GCSE Photography cont...

Why should I study these subjects?

The creative industry is the fastest growing sector of employment and a background in a creative GCSE could lead to work in fashion, graphic design, illustration, photography, video game design, architecture, web design or art therapy.

You will learn how to use different art materials and techniques to develop your own artwork for creative projects that link to your own interests. You will study artists who inspire you and develop a portfolio that shows your own 'creative journey'. The art facilities at school are fantastic - two kilns, photography equipment, printmaking, painting, sculpture and much more! Plus with the SPA Gallery this is an incredible opportunity for you to produce some inspiring and exciting Art, as well as achieving GCSE success.

What will I do in lessons?

Developing the basic skills you learnt at KS3 you will focus on many exciting areas of creativity such as painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and photography, taking inspiration from other artists and designers to produce your own outcomes. You will also have the opportunity to take part in workshops, cultural school trips and meet active artists/photographers.

In all courses you will be encouraged to work in a range of materials and processes including painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, digital art, and photography.

All of the **Art GCSE** courses are in two parts. The **PORTFOLIO** (often referred to as 'Coursework') and the **EXTERNALLY SET TASK** (the 'Exam' project). Below is a breakdown of the **OCR** course.

PORTFOLIO (60% of the overall mark)	EXTERNALLY SET TASK (40% of the overall mark)
Completed in Year 10 and the first term of Year 11	Completed between January and April of Year 11

Across the GCSE we will look at a range of exciting artists and creative movements but you will also be encouraged to find your *own* artists, designers and inspiration. You will produce a portfolio of work and a final outcome based on your chosen topic. This may be one big project or several smaller projects. *(Your final piece will probably be made in your 10 hour PPE)*

In the **January of Year 11** you will be given a set of titles or starting points. You will produce a portfolio of work and a final outcome based on your chosen topic. The final outcome will be completed as a **10 hour exam** (usually around the Easter of Year 11).

" THE EARTH WITHOUT ART IS JUST EH "

— DEMETRI MARTIN

GCSE Business Studies (OCR)

If you have an ability to use your charm to persuade others to follow you and to make sales, then this is the course for you!

This subject can be highly analytical and an ability to work well with a number of different students and in teams would be a huge advantage towards success.

Why should I study this course?

- Ever wanted to know how a business works?
- Have you considered the possibility of being your own boss?
- Do you have a keen eye for figures and detail?

This course could put you on the path to success as Entrepreneurs of the future, Managers, Accountants, Marketing executives, or Human Resource officers, and so the list goes on. If you want to go on to do an apprenticeship in Business Administration or access A-Levels and Degrees, then this course should support you to do so.

What will I do in lessons?

This course will help you gain an insight into what it is like to set up and run a small business. You will learn how to manage financial accounts and budgets, how to treat people well and motivate them to get the best out of your workforce, how to spot a business opportunity, how to develop enterprise skills and ensure you are aware of the wider environment. You will also have opportunities to apply your knowledge by engaging with guest speakers, trade fair events and visits to local businesses are also encouraged throughout the course.

Topics Covered;

Business Activity

Marketing

People

Operations

Finance

Influences on Business

The interdependent nature of business

How will I be assessed?

- 100 % External assessment – 2 exams taken at the end of Year 11.

The final grade will be decided by a combination of marks awarded for the internal and the external assessments.

GCSE Computer Science (OCR)

OCR Computer Science qualification provides students with an introduction into the world of computing. If you are interested in a career working with programming languages or software development, this course is for you.

Why should I study this subject?

This qualification will:

- Give you the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the computer science industry.
- Give you a more focused understanding of computer science through the selection of specialist units.
- Give you the opportunity to develop a range of personal skills and techniques, through the selection of units that are essential for successful performance in working life.
- Give opportunities for you to achieve a nationally recognised GCSE.
- Support progression into a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic course in Year 12 or into an apprenticeship.

What will I do in lessons?

You will Cover:

- Systems architecture
- Memory and Storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network Security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology
- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and integrated development environments.

How will I be assessed?

There are two aspects to the assessment:

- 100% External assessments - 2 exams taken at the end of Year 11.

The final grade will be decided by a combination of marks awarded for the two external units.

GCSE Design & Technology (Resistant Materials)

GCSE Design and Technology is engaging and inspiring, through the way in which the course is constructed and delivered, allowing the merging of material areas and specialising in timbers.

Design and Technology builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make, with confidence, prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities.

What will I do in lessons?

You will have five Design and Technology lessons a fortnight, two out of the five lessons will be dedicated to theory content, exploring a range of topics and processes in preparation for the written examination at the end of Year 11.

The remaining three lessons will be spent engaging with the designing and making process through the creation of a range of tangible products.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification is divided into two sections: core content and material categories – timbers.

Component 1 Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes - 50% of the qualification (100 marks)

Component 2 Non-examined assessment: 50% of the qualification (100 marks)

You will undertake a project as part of your non-examination assessment which will be set by the exam board. You are required to analyse a given contextual challenge from a range of three on an individual basis.

Having selected a contextual challenge to work on, you should develop a range of potential ideas and then manufacture one through practical making activities. The project must allow you to apply knowledge and understanding in a product development process to investigate, design, make and evaluate your prototype.

This project will require you to follow an iterative design process rather than a linear process requiring you to continually test, evaluate and refine ideas.

GCSE Food & Nutrition

The EDUQAS Food and Nutrition GCSE provides students with an opportunity to develop an array of culinary skills, as well as knowledge of kitchen safety, nutrition, food provenance, and factors affecting food choice.

Why should I study this subject?

Students should consider this course if they are not only passionate about food and enjoy cooking but willing to undertake the written element of the course and able to bring in ingredients to every practical lesson.

What will I do in lessons?

Lessons combine theoretical knowledge and practical work. Students are required to cook weekly in Year 9 and 10. In Year 11 students will be completing non-examined assessments (coursework) so will cook less frequently. There are two NEA tasks to be completed in Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

50% of the course will be assessed through the completion of non-examined assessments. 50% of the course is assessed through a 1hr 45 minute written exam in.



GCSE Geography




Why should I pick Geography?

Geography allows you to explore the world in which we live. It has been described as 'the mother' of all subjects, as it brings together so many other areas of study; for example, sciences, maths, technology, history and social studies. As Geography develops so many different skills, it is highly rated by employers, colleges and universities. In such a rapidly changing and evolving world, Geography becomes even more relevant and therefore important to study.

What will you learn about?

The course is essentially broken down into three elements:

- Unit 1: Living with the physical environment
- Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment
- Unit 3: Geographical applications

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
<p>Tectonic Hazards Weather Hazards Climate Change Tropical Rainforests Cold environments Coastal Environments River Environments</p> 	<p>Urban world Urban change UK Sustainable urban development Newly-emerging economies The changing UK economy Resource management</p> 	<p>Investigating coastal and urban issues Methods of data collection Data presentation Analysing data Concluding findings Evaluating investigations Geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical and statistical data</p> 

The course is delivered synoptically (you will be taught how to make links between these areas and you will need to, as everything you learn in Geography links together like a big jigsaw!)

In lessons, you will:

- Read and use a range of maps, graphs, diagrams, tables and statistical information to investigate cause and effect.
- Work alone and in groups to explore a variety of issues
- Enhance your problem solving and decision making skills
- Listen to both sides of the argument, before drawing your own conclusions
- Interpret, analyse and evaluate global issues, both human and physical
- Conduct fieldwork

GCSE Geography cont...

How will I be assessed?

The exam board is AQA. You are assessed through 3 exams:

Paper 1 (Unit 1) Living with the physical environment	Paper 2 (Unit 2) Challenges in the human environment	Paper 3 (Unit 3) Geographical Skills
90 minute exam, 35% of final GCSE	90 minute exam, 35% of final GCSE	75 minute exam, 30% of final GCSE

How am I supported in my learning?

There are three teachers of Geography - Mrs Ray (Head of Geography), Mr Coles and Miss Wysocki (new September 2024). All are subject specialists.

You will be provided with a student 'exam practice workbook' and you will have access to a revision guide. Revision is organised throughout the course, and will be completed at the end of every topic.

We look forward to welcoming you to Geography!

GCSE History

Why should I study this subject?	What job skills do I get from studying History?
Develop your writing skills	Questioning and analysing
Become an expert by learning topics in depth	Problem Solving
Satisfy your curiosity by asking questions and carrying out independent research	Understanding ideas and opinions
Learn how to persuade others	Collating information
Learn how to tell the truth from lies and make your own balanced judgements	Working with text, data and images
Be taught by supportive, experienced, passionate teachers	Communication skills

What will I do in lessons?

Become experts in five areas of history! Build on your existing knowledge and learn new and amazing facts. Research to support, persuade and build arguments. Write balanced, detailed answers that convince others of your judgements. Draw parallels from the past with today's society. Be challenged and supported in every lesson.

What will I study?

1) Medicine c1250 to the Present Day

The story of how medicine has arrived at what we know and use everyday: How medicine has changed and developed; who and what has helped and hindered progress. Often gruesome, always fascinating, this thematic study is the perfect start to your History GCSE.

2) Medicine in the Western Front 1914-1918

A focused look at what life was like in the trenches of World War One, and how medicine gradually developed to cope with the challenges of this horrific war.

GCSE History cont...

3) Anglo-Saxon and Norman England 1060-1088

A super chance to build on your existing knowledge, this British History study asks questions like: What was England like before the Normans invaded? What really happened in that fateful year 1066? How did William the Conqueror change our country forever?

4) Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991

This World History study gives you a chance to explore how our world has become what it is today. Explore how the tension between the USA and the USSR - 'East' and 'West' - led to conflicts and competition which shaped the world in the late-20th Century and still profoundly influences events in today's world.

5) Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

Always popular, this in-depth study looks at what life was like in Germany after World War One and all the changes that took place up to the outbreak of World War Two. We will examine the actions of the brand new Weimar government and attempts to rebuild Germany after the war. We also investigate how Hitler gained power and how the Nazi regime used lies and fear to control every part of German life. On this captivating journey you will also become experts in analysing sources and interpretations.

How will this course be assessed?

This two-and-a-half year course ends with three exams:

- Medicine + Western Front
- Superpower Relations + Anglo-Saxon and Norman England
- Weimar and Nazi Germany

OCR National Health and Social Care

The Cambridge Nationals qualification in Health and Social Care provides students with an introduction into the Health and Social Care and Early Years/Education sectors. If you are interested in a career in education, sports science, emergency services, nursing or working for social services, this course is for you.

Why should I study this subject?

This qualification will:

- Give you the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the health and social care sector
- Give you a more focused understanding of health and social care through the selection of optional specialist units
- Give you the opportunity to develop a range of personal skills and techniques, through the selection of units that are essential for successful performance in working life
- Give opportunities for you to achieve a nationally recognised level 1/level 2 health and social care qualification
- Support progression into a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic course in Year 12 or into an apprenticeship.

What will I do in lessons?

You will:

- Consider different scenarios that may occur and public case studies and reports to establish a strong understanding of what working in the sector may be like and the vast range of employment opportunities that exist.
- Explore a range of health and care settings, from health, social care and early years, so learners gain an appreciation of the wide scope of the sector
- Have the opportunity to apply your learning through practical skills and activities that reflect those used or found in the workplace. For example, demonstrating health and social care values and effective communication skills
- Hear from guest speakers from a range of health and social care settings, such as employers and service users, so learners gain real insight into what it is like to work in the sector.

How will I be assessed?

R032 - Principles of care in Health and Social Care settings - Exam

R033 - Supporting Individuals Through Life Events - Internal Assessment

R034 - Creative and Therapeutic Activities - Internal Assessment

There are two aspects to the assessment:

- **60% Internal assessment - two-unit assignments**
- **40 % External assessment - an exam unit**

The final grade will be decided by a combination of marks awarded for the internal and the external assessments.

GCSE Media Studies

Why should I study this subject?

At last! A subject you are already an expert in! You've been studying the media ever since you were born; television, music, films, the Internet, radio, adverts, comics or computer games; they are all part of Media Studies.

Ever wanted to know how your favourite TV shows are made? Ever wanted to plan and create the opening to a film? Ever wondered who decides what music gets played on the radio? These types of questions are what Media Studies are all about! This is one of the fastest growing and most popular subjects in this country, so join in and discover why so many students love this subject!

"Media Studies is the study of how we are all influenced by the mass media, whether we know it or not. We learn to understand it and we learn how to create media products ourselves."

What will I do in lessons?

The Media Studies course teaches students to analyse and understand the mass media that influence our lives so greatly today. Students study TV, radio, films, magazines, newspapers, pop music and many other media texts. The course involves a combination of written and practical work. Students develop a wide range of skills from the ability to interpret and understand media texts to the production and imaginative skills necessary to produce innovative coursework.

You will learn about:

- how media texts are created
- how audiences are led to understand media texts
- different theories related to how we view or create media texts
- how to analyse and explore the purposes of media texts
- how to create our own media texts

How will I be assessed?

70% examination – two written exams that last one and a half hours each

30% NEA – creating a media product from a choice of five briefs which change each year

PLEASE NOTE: THIS COURSE IS NOT JUST ABOUT SITTING BACK WATCHING FILMS AND TV PROGRAMMES!

You should have good literacy skills (preferably level 5 or above) and an interest in using image editing and video editing software packages. You will be developing your analytical, and researching skills as well, so bring a pen; not a tub of popcorn!

BTEC Award in Music Practice

Why should I study this subject?

The BTEC Technical Award in Music Practice is a combination of practical and written work based projects, very similar to those studied at Key Stage 3.

It is suited to any ability level and personalised according to your musical preferences. All you need is enthusiasm, determination to succeed and motivation to follow either a performance or music technology path.

You will have the chance to engage in music through performing, composing and production tasks. We will explore a variety of musical styles from classical, rock and pop, media. It will give you the knowledge and skills directly linked to careers in the music industry such as lighting and sound engineer, music producer, session musician or music journalism! All assessments are project based and practical throughout the course removing the demands to remember lots of information.

What will I do in lessons?

You will learn how:

- to explore a wide variety of musical styles and how they are created
- develop a personal portfolio based on a discipline of your choosing (performing an instrument or DAW)
- to develop song-writing techniques as used in the music industry
- Rework popular pieces of music into your own interpretation.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of three components. Each component is a project based assignment provided by the exam board. You will submit portfolios of evidence to support your musical journey.

Component 1 (30%) - Exploring music products and styles

Component 2 (30%) - Music Skills Development

Component 3 (40%) - Responding to a commercial brief

IMPORTANT: All projects are externally assessed and modular. This means that they will be sent away to be marked at specific dates during the course of Year 10 and Year 11. You will need to be able to work to deadlines and have good attendance to lessons.



BTEC Award in Performing Arts

Do you love to perform? Can you be heard singing in the shower? Are you a drama Queen or King? Do you love to strut your stuff on the dance floor? If the answer to all of these is 'Yes' then this is the course for you!

Why should I study this subject?

If you have an interest in Musical Theatre and Musicals that involve singing, acting and dancing then the Performing Arts Course is definitely for you.

If you are a confident and fun loving person who is not afraid to let their hair down and take on some interesting parts then you will thoroughly enjoy this course.

Are you a team player, do you enjoy working in groups and can you come up with ideas to include as part of a piece of drama?

Are you prepared to work hard and stand up and perform in front of your peers and an invited audience?

If you can answer 'Yes, Yes, Yes' to all of the above then please come along and join us in Performing Arts! Oh and we do go on Theatre Trips too!

If you are looking to go into a line of work that has anything to do with Performing then this is the course for you.

YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO PERFORM TO AN AUDIENCE.

What will I do in lessons?

You will take part in workshops which will develop your skills in all 3 areas of Singing, Acting and Dancing. You will rehearse and perform several pieces of musical theatre including a Christmas Pantomime, individual songs from well-known musicals like Grease, High School Musical, Blood Brothers and many, many more. You will work from scripts and will act out short scenes from well-known plays and musicals as a member of a group and also as an individual.

We will have visits from outside providers – they will lead on dance workshops and acting workshops and we will also visit theatres to see live performances of Musical Shows.

How will I be assessed?

You will study 3 Components

One of these units is externally assessed.

Two of them are internally assessed in school.

The other assessments are graded by the teacher and video recordings are taken for evidence purposes. The coursework elements include Lesson Logs, presentations and performances.

There will be an element of written assessment.

You will be awarded with either a Level 1 Merit or Distinction or a Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction or Level 2 Distinction*

GCSE Psychology

If you are interested in understanding the complex reasons for human behaviour (what makes people tick?) and the scientific research methods used by psychologists to formulate theories, then you will enjoy this subject.

Why should I study this course?

This course gets to the heart of what makes us human, including mental processes such as how memories are encoded and stored, how we perceive and interpret the world around us, and how our brains develop. You will also study how a person's environment and social context affects their actions, including behaviour in crowds and conformity to others. You will take an in-depth look at some of the most famous experiments in history, including Stanley Milgram's controversial study on obedience to authority.

What skills will I develop?

Students will be expected to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes, procedures and theories
- apply psychological knowledge and understanding of the content in a range of contexts
- analyse and evaluate psychological ideas, information, processes, and procedures, and make judgements, draw conclusions and produce developments or refinements of psychological procedures based on their reasoning and synthesis of skills
- evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness
- show how psychological knowledge and ideas change over time and how these inform our understanding of behaviour
- demonstrate the contribution of psychology to an understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity
- develop an understanding of the interrelationships between the core areas of psychology
- show how the studies for topics relate to the associated theory.

What will I do in lessons?

The course comprises two papers:

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour (Memory, Perception, Development, Research Methods)

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour (Social influence, language, thought and communication, brain and neuropsychology, psychological problems).

Lessons will involve an exciting mix of discussion, debate, cooperative learning, and activities which relate to growth mindset. You will also have the opportunity to design and conduct your own psychological research.

How will I be assessed?

Each paper is a complete written exam, worth 100 marks, which lasts for 1 hour and 45 minutes and counts for 50% of the GCSE respectively. Questions are a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. There are four sections on each paper.

GCSE Religious Studies

If you are interested in exploring what is going on in the modern world, such as violence, terrorism, war, and developing your own responses to these issues, as well as understanding religious and non-religious views, then this is the subject for you.

Why should I study this course?

The GCSE in Religious Studies gives you the opportunity to look into some of the issues and topics studied in Year 7 and 8 Life Studies in greater depth. You will explore a range of different themes to do with modern life and examine both religious and non-religious responses to these issues. This course will help you to understand what people think about controversial issues such as the value of human life and crime and punishment.

What skills will I develop?

You will:

- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion;
- explore religions and beliefs, reflect on and engage with fundamental questions;
- enhance your spiritual and moral development, and understanding of health and wellbeing;
- enhance your understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world;
- develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, the study of religion, and relate it to the wider world;
- reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in light of your learning.

What will I do in lessons?

The course comprises two units:

Component 1: Religions, beliefs, teachings and practices

You will compare responses to difficult questions, such as 'Does God exist?', 'Is there life after death?', 'What is the purpose of life?' from the perspective of two religions.

Component 2: Thematic Studies

You will study four topical issues, from the list below, which always spark debate:

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion and life.
- Theme C: The existence of God and revelation.
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed through a 1 hour and 45 minute written examination, which makes up 50% of the total GCSE marks.

GCSE Spanish

Research shows that studying a language can improve your memory and make you smarter! Your critical thinking skills will be improved as you learn to view things through a different lens. Learning a second language stimulates creativity! Knowledge of foreign languages is a significant asset in the job market as well as greatly enhancing travel and cultural understanding. Language lessons promote communication skills and encourage mental agility.

Why should I study this subject?

Spanish is now the second most common first language across the world and is the official language of 21 countries. It is also the second language of the USA and as we are now living in an Americanised world, having a good grasp of the Spanish language will be very useful for the future. Learning Spanish also opens the doors to Latin America, which could be potentially useful for business prospects and communication with the 400 million Spanish speakers of the world.



Spain is also a popular holiday destination and can make travel experiences more rewarding and exciting, making you a better-equipped traveller, allowing you to meet more people and enrich your personal experiences. Not only does this allow travel to Spain but also the Latin American world and the United States of America, where Hispanics are the largest minority, with the majority of them being Spanish speakers.

Being able to speak Spanish enhances your CV and makes you more competitive in the workplace to communicate with trading partners in Spanish speaking countries. Spanish is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, and the third most-used language in the media. Spanish is also the most in demand language in the UK job market. With a combined population of over 185 million people, Chile, Colombia and Mexico have all been identified as opportunity markets for the UK. Furthermore, the three countries all have low proficiency in English, according to the British Chambers of Commerce so Spanish may well be a good start depending on your motivations for learning. The British council study found that Spanish is 'useful' for 34% of UK businesses.

What will I do in lessons?

Languages are fun to learn and it doesn't take long to reach a level where you can communicate. You will:

- use mini whiteboards to assess and develop your learning
- learn through role play
- be given the opportunity to master the 4 key skills – Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing
- gain a rich knowledge of Hispanic culture
- have the opportunity to go on trips that promote the language

How will I be assessed?

Each skill – Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing – will be assessed as a final exam at the end of Year 11 and each skill will count for 25% of your final GCSE grade.

OCR National Sports Studies

The Cambridge Nationals qualification in Sport Studies offers learners an exciting and challenging opportunity to develop different types of skills through largely practical means. Communication, problem solving, team working, evaluation and analysis and performing under pressure are all transferable skills which can be learned and assessed through this qualification, and then used in many other educational and employment settings.

Why should I study this subject?

You will have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to your own practical performance. You will learn about current issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. You will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and how this shapes the sports industry.

What will I do in lessons?

Lessons will be a combination of practical (the course requires you to participate in one individual and one team sport) and theoretical lessons. Team and group work will be central to lessons and you will be challenged to use and develop your communication, leadership and problem solving skills. Although there are elements of practical sports performance within this option, the course is mostly comprised of theory.

The course consists of 3 units:

- Contemporary issues in sport. (Written exam)
- Developing skills in sport. You will demonstrate your skills, techniques and tactics in one team and one individual sport. It will also include sports leadership. Here, you will develop knowledge of leadership styles and then plan, deliver and review your own sporting activity session. (Practical alongside coursework).
- Sport and the media: Understanding the relationship between sport and the media. You will learn how sport uses the media to promote itself and in turn the media uses sport to expand and maintain uptake of its products. (Coursework).

How will I be assessed?

There are two aspects to the assessment:

- **40 % External assessment** – a 1hr written exam on Unit 1
- **60% Internal assessment** – two unit assignments

Students who have a history of not bringing their PE kit will be less likely to be successful in applying for this course.

Triple Science or Combined?

Deciding which Science course to choose can be difficult and confusing, as everyone has to study Science at GCSE anyway - so what's the difference?

To help, we have put together a comparison of the two courses you need to choose from, so you can start to decide which is right for you.

- If you decide to take the Triple Science course, then this counts as one of your option subjects, as you will have more Science included in your timetable each week.
- If you decide that the Combined Science course is for you, then you don't have to opt for this - this will automatically appear on your timetable as a core subject, along with English and Maths.

Do please come and ask Mrs Holmes or any of your Science teachers if you would like any advice, to find out more, or if you want to look through some of the course textbooks - we are always happy to help!

The next pages show comparisons of Triple and Combined Science to help you make your decision.

Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	Combined Science
<p>Examination board: AQA</p> <p>Qualifications: GCSE Biology (Specification code: 8461) GCSE Chemistry (8462) GCSE Physics (8463) = 3 separate named GCSEs.</p> <p>Course overview: This course offers students the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as independent subjects. The Triple Science course goes into much more depth than the Combined Science course and, particularly in Chemistry and Physics, includes more opportunities for you to use your Maths skills. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.</p>	<p>Examination board: AQA</p> <p>Qualification: Trilogy Combined Science (Specification code: 8464) = 2 combined science GCSEs.</p> <p>Course overview: This course is the equivalent to two GCSEs and offers students the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within one combined science course. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.</p>

" NOTHING IN LIFE IS TO BE FEARED, IT IS ONLY TO BE UNDERSTOOD. NOW IS THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND MORE, SO THAT WE FEAR LESS "

— MARIE CURIE

Triple Science or Combined? cont...

Course content: At first glance, the topics studied appear very similar to the combined science course but each topic includes additional content not taught in the combined science course. There is also an additional unit of Space Physics:

GCSE Biology -

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

GCSE Chemistry -

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding and structure
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

GCSE Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Space physics

Course content: The topics studied are as follows:

Combined Biology -

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Combined Chemistry -

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding and structure
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Combined Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

Triple Science or Combined? cont...

The skills developed during the course include scientific literacy; a knowledge and understanding of science and how science works; application of knowledge and understanding; practical skills; enquiry and data-handling skills; literacy and numeracy; problem solving.

Assessment of course:

For each of these 3 named GCSEs, there are two papers (1 hour 45 minutes each) with half of the topics tested in each paper.

Each of the papers contributes 50% towards the overall GCSE grade.

Higher and Foundation tier exam entries are available.

Students are assessed on their practical skills in their exams, with at least 15% of the marks coming from questions relating to required practicals.

Students will be awarded 3 separate GCSEs, each graded on a 9 point scale from 9 to 1.

Some reasons why you should consider opting for Triple Science:

Triple Science gives you an advantage at A-level. The course is more in-depth and so acts as a bridge between GCSE and A-level knowledge.

Choosing Triple Science demonstrates an interest and passion for Science and separate Science GCSEs are favoured by Sixth Form Colleges and Universities, if you may be considering studying a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths) subject beyond GCSE.

High achieving and keen Science students are likely to find Triple Science GCSE more stimulating and challenging.

The skills developed during the course include scientific literacy; a knowledge and understanding of science and how science works; application of knowledge and understanding; practical skills; enquiry and data-handling skills; literacy and numeracy; problem solving.

Assessment of course:

For each of the 3 sciences, there are two papers (1 hour 15 minutes each) with half of the topics tested in each paper.

Each of the papers is equally weighted and contributes 16.7% towards the overall GCSE grade awarded. Higher and Foundation tier exam entries are available.

Students are assessed on their practical skills in their exams, with at least 15% of the marks coming from questions relating to required practicals.

Students will be graded on a 17-point grading scale from 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1, 1-1.

Some reasons why you should consider the Combined Science course instead:

If you know you are unlikely to study Science at A-level, you might decide not to go into so much depth at GCSE.

You certainly don't need to be any sort of maths genius to study Triple Science, but if your maths really isn't very strong, there's less challenging content in the Chemistry and Physics units of the Combined Science course.