

Guided Options 2026



Park Vale
Academy





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Year 9 Guided Options Process

A new improved option process is being trialled allowing students the opportunity to select a larger part of their own curriculum. Option subjects will then be discussed and confirmed in a meeting between the student and a senior leader of the academy.

All students will study the following **compulsory** subjects:

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Combined Science (worth two GCSEs) - Triple Science (worth three GCSEs) is selected as an option

GCSE Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (Years 9 and 10 only)

Core PE

STEP 1: Students will also study **three** option subjects. **At least one** of these option subjects must be an EBACC subject from the list below:

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE French

GCSE Spanish

STEP 2: Two other subjects will be offered from the list below. Students need to consider four possible options from these subjects to discuss at their option meeting. Some subjects will act as reserves should the combination of subjects not be possible in terms of timetabling, or the course is over or under subscribed.

Art	Geography	Physical Education
Business & Enterprise	Health & Social Care	Product Design Technology
Computer Science	History	Spanish (if studied in Y8/9)
Creative i Media	Hospitality & Catering	Textiles
Dance	Music	Triple Science
Drama	Photography	
French (if studied in Y8/9)		

EBACC: Please remember that to study the full academic EBacc, you will need to study either Geography or History PLUS either French or Spanish in year 10 and year 11.

WHY THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE ?

The EBACC recognises students' achievement across a core of selected academic subjects, although it is not a new qualification in itself. The EBACC covers achievement (Grades 5-9) in all five of these subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Language (French or Spanish)
- Humanity (Geography or History)

For students who wish to have their achievements at Park Vale Academy recognised by the English Baccalaureate they must successfully select options subjects in the following areas at Years 10 - 11:

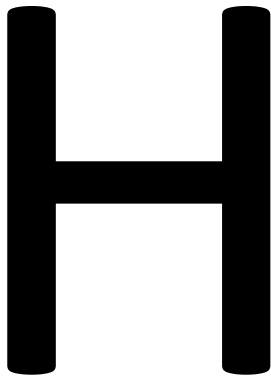
French or Spanish **AND** Geography or History

The benefits of studying these subjects are widespread which is why we encourage as many students as possible to select them. **It is certainly the best option pathway for any student aiming for university study in the future.**

Languages GCSE is a qualification that is valued in the wider world. Learning a language helps your memory, creativity, listening skills and self confidence. Language study is a life skill. The subject teaches you communication skills and adaptability. It is well documented that Languages give you the edge in the job market and many universities are now increasingly looking for GCSE Languages as part of their entry requirements for many degrees.

Like Languages, both History and Geography are solid academic subjects that are well respected by universities and employers alike. Both allow you to develop a huge amount of transferable skills. The skills of analysis are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital to decision making. This not only provides a skills set but it also keeps career options open. In order to make sense of current affairs it is important to study the past, as everything which is happening around us has been influenced by, and is a direct result of, that which preceded it. Similarly, Geography helps students make sense of the world around them. Both subjects develop literacy skills in students and encourage critical thinking.





How do I decide which option subjects are best for me?

This is likely to be the first major decision that our students will make in their education. Along with choices after Year 11, the options they choose now will play a big part in how successful they are in the future and what they progress on to in education and employment in the years to come.

1. Read the Options subject booklet carefully.
2. Reflect on which subject you are most likely to achieve in based on your feedback from teachers.
3. Refer to your past progress reports.
4. Visit subjects during the Options Evening to find out more about them.
5. Speak to your subject teachers and find out more information about each course
6. Spend some time discussing subjects with your parents.
7. Discuss your subject choices with your tutor if you want another opinion [by email] they know you well and will be able to advise on suitable courses
8. If you like, you can email Mrs Meeks to discuss your subject choices, she will be able to advise you on the best courses and answer any questions you may have.
9. Speak to our Careers Advisor about subjects and their links to future careers.
10. Every student will have a meeting with a senior leader in which their final subjects will be agreed.

When designing the timetable, some combinations may prove difficult or impossible to meet. **PLEASE NOTE, ONLY OPTION SUBJECTS WITH VIABLE STUDENT NUMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO RUN.**

Please also note that students cannot study both GCSE Textiles and GCSE Art and will need to decide which one they wish to study.



GCSE English and English Literature

Compulsory Subject

What will I study?

- Use of the English language: writing, speaking and listening as well as reading.
- Role play, drama and group work.
- Reading and studying literature; poetry; plays; prose and non-fiction.

The course builds on the work you have done in Key Stage 3.

You will study a variety of fiction texts that range from Shakespeare to modern day, and that cover poetry, prose and plays. You will also study non-fiction texts.

You will also learn to adapt your writing so that you can change your writing for audience and purpose and write in a variety of styles.

How will I be assessed?

English Language Exam:

You will sit two exams for English Language that will test your reading and writing skills.

English Literature Exam:

You will sit two exams for English Literature that will test your reading skills of poetry, prose and drama.

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

Separate endorsement • using spoken Standard English.

To find out more about English Language and Literature, please speak to Miss Mugaseth, Head of English or your English teacher.



GCSE Mathematics

Compulsory Subject

Assessments

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher tier (grades 4-9). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

The information in the table below is the same for both Foundation and Higher tiers.

The Subject content section shows the content that is assessed in each tier.

Paper 1: non-calculator	+	Paper 2: calculator	+	Paper 3: calculator
What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed
How it's assessed - written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks - non-calculator 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment		How it's assessed - written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks - calculator allowed 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment		How it's assessed - written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks - calculator allowed 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment
Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Topic Area	Foundation Tier (%)	Higher Tier (%)
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and statistics (combined)	15	15

To find out more about Maths please speak to Mr Hay, Head of Maths, or your Maths teacher.



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GCSE Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Compulsory Subject

What will I study?

"RS is not about being religious; it is about establishing yourself as a person"
Ian Jamison

GCSE PRE is a fascinating course for students to reflect on essential components of what it means to be human and to live in society. Students are encouraged to engage with both religious and non-religious viewpoints to come to their own critical conclusions. PRE is not about expressing a certain view as 'true' but developing a spirit of enquiry from which students can explore a wealth of different worldviews and form their own opinion on philosophical, religious and ethical matters. Alongside studying and learning academically rigorous content students are rewarded for developing skills in debating and justifying their viewpoints in an intellectual, respectful and emotionally intelligent way.

Course Content and assessment

Paper 1: Study of religions; students study and explore the beliefs, teachings and practices of both Christianity and Islam.

Paper 2: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies; students will study four philosophical and ethical themes and consider the issues and debates that are presented when studying contentious and relevant issues. Themes studied for GCSE:

- Peace and conflict
- Crime and punishment
- Religion and life
- Relationships and families

Paper 1: Study of Religions (50% - 1hour 45 mins)

Paper 2: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Issues (50% - 1hour 45 mins)

What next?

This course is excellent preparation for Social Science courses in Philosophy and Ethics, Psychology and Sociology; but also develops skills such as logic and ethical awareness integral to Maths, Medicine, Business, Law and Science career pathways. Additionally, studying PRE is excellent



preparation for studying PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at university, which is a prominent degree amongst politicians and civil servants.

Contact Mr Bryan, Head of PRE, for more information.



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GCSE Science

Compulsory Subject

GCSE Combined Science

What will I study?

Students who do not choose Triple Science as an option will study Combined Science which counts as 2 GCSE qualifications. The grade is calculated as an average of three sciences. Some students may select Triple Science as an option choice. Scientific developments result in our World constantly changing. Science is an integral part of our everyday life, from the fuels we use in our cars and homes, to mobile phones and games we play, to health and hygiene of our bodies, waste disposal and consideration of our planet's resources. Studying Science will help prepare you with many skills and knowledge for the world of work or simply your everyday lives. Employers and universities recognise the skills and knowledge needed to achieve good Science qualifications and, therefore, value them highly.

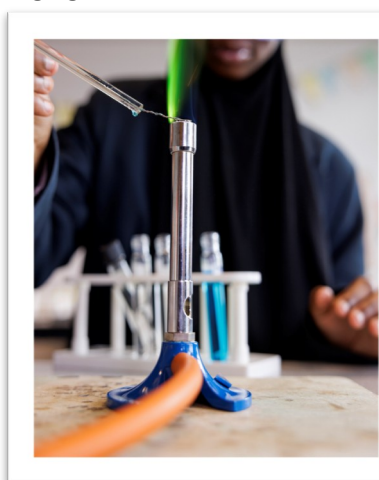
Course content and activities

Students will study topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will also complete Core Practical Tasks. These are experiments the exam board tell us students must complete. The skills and knowledge gained from these practicals will be examined in the final examination papers.

How will I be assessed?

Written Exams: 100 %

All exams contributing towards the final grade will be sat at the end of Year 11. Students sit 6 exams in total, 2 exams for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



OR

GCSE Triple Science (selected as a subject choice)

The qualification

For students who study Triple Science, this is a 3 GCSE qualification and is another name for "Separate Sciences". Students will leave with GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Triple Science is a highly regarded qualification, and a perfect course for those who want to study A' Level Sciences or who want to work in a science related job. Whatever career you are considering, whether involving science or not, taking Triple Science GCSEs will set you up well for later life. A host of employers are crying out for candidates with science-based skills. Park Vale Academy are proud of our triple science results with the average grades in 2025 being Physics 7, Biology 6.5 and Chemistry 6.5

Course content and practicals

Students have separate lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics during which they complete Core Practical Tasks. These are practicals that the exam board tell us students must complete. The skills and knowledge gained from these practicals will be examined in the final examination papers.

Assessment Information

Written Exams: 100 %

All exams contributing towards the final grade will be sat at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework. Students sit 6 exams in total, 2 exams for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

To discuss, please speak to Mr Such,
Head of Science, or your Science
teacher.



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Core Physical Education

Compulsory Subject

Core PE

What will I study?

As well as developing physical, social and mental well-being (health and fitness) and improving the level of skill you have, the Years 10-11 programme in P.E. is concerned with educating about leisure and recreation in life. All students are required to take part in Core P.E. We can provide access to activities which allow personal choice, focus on determination and commitment, and enable everyone to participate. P.E. lessons will also focus on developing a range of life skills, such as teamwork and resilience, that will benefit you in all aspects of life.

Range of activities:

Activities are ultimately chosen based on the students' interests. Activities offered where possible include, but are not limited to:

Football, Netball, Basketball, Handball, Badminton, Volleyball, Cricket, Rounders, Athletics, Table Tennis, Tennis, Rugby, Dance, Ultimate Frisbee, Fitness, Zumba and Dodgeball.

How will I be assessed?

Core Physical Education is not assessed as an examination subject and you do not receive a GCSE for it. You will however, be assessed on your participation and effort levels in lessons; each report will state either developing, secure or exceeding. This is because being physically active is so important to your health and well-being as well as having a positive impact on your attainment.



Contact Mrs Boulty-Ward, Head of PE, for more information.



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GCSE Art

What will I study?

You will have an opportunity to develop your creative skills exploring a wide variety of materials and techniques. Creating artwork based on different themes.

You will have an opportunity to learn about a range of different artists / art movements.

This course is ideal for you if you:

- have an interest in art
- are creative and want to develop your artist skills
- like to develop your own ideas
- are practical minded and like to be 'hands on'
- have an interest in - drawing, painting, collages, printing, making
- enjoy experimenting with paints, pencil crayons, oil pastels, wax crayons, chalks and clay
- enjoy learning in a practical environment
- enjoy experimenting and exploring visual effect

You will have an opportunity to develop your creative skills exploring a wide variety of materials and techniques.

Developing your own ideas creating artwork based on different themes.

How will I be assessed?

AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and

experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

You will cover two units - these will include planning / research a final piece.).

- Unit 1, Portfolio (60%)
- Unit 2, Externally set task. (40%)
- Possible grade GCSE in Art and Design 9-1

Contact Miss Voce, Head of Art for more information.



****Students cannot study both GCSE textiles and GCSE Art



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Business & Enterprise

Technical Award

Being an entrepreneur requires hard work, determination and the ability to get on with others. Students will be expected to be creative, organised and efficient. An entrepreneur needs to firstly think of a good idea, make a plan and then have the skills to implement it. Once the business is up and running it's important to make sure it's operating at a profit, keep an eye on costs, communicate with suppliers. Business and enterprise qualifications give the flexibility and choice to develop careers with a broad overview of business and allows students to specialise later, if they choose to continue their studies.

What will I study?

Students will gain a broad understanding of Business and Enterprise including the following:

- entrepreneurial characteristics and business aims and objectives
- legal structures, organisational structures and stakeholder engagement
- the marketing mix, market research, market types and orientation types
- internal and external influences on business
- research, resource planning and growth for business
- human resource requirements for a business start-up
- sources of enterprise funding and business finance
- business and enterprise planning.



How will I be assessed?

Internal Assessment:

There are a range of high quality project based assignments to complete that result in a portfolio of evidence which is internally assessed.

Portfolio Synoptic Project **60%**

Created across 21 hours of controlled assessment

Written examination (1 Hour 30 minutes) **40%**

External Assessment:

There is an externally assessed written paper.

Contact Mrs Meeks in Business for more information.



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GCSE Computer Science

Computer Science

Why study Computer Science?

This exciting GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. You'll also do some fascinating in-depth research and practical work. For example, some of the current investigations look at JavaScript, encryption and assembly language programming.

What will you gain from this course?

- Valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace
- A deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions
- Ability to write down solutions to problems for other people to understand
- A good grounding in mainstream computing theory and understanding

Course Content

COMPUTER SYSTEMS COMPONENT 1

- Study how processors work
- Investigate computer memory and storage
- Explore modern network layouts and how they function
- Build skills in the ever important realm of cyber security
- Investigate how types of software are used within computer systems
- Stretch wider comprehension of how computers and computing affect ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues.

COMPUTATIONAL THINKING, ALGORITHMS

- Build a firm foundation in programming techniques
- Produce programs through diagrams
- Thoroughly test programs and make them resistant to misuse
- Explore Boolean algebra (AND, OR, NOT)
- Understand how we store data within computers in binary form.

A PROGRAMMING PROJECT COMPONENT 3

- Use new-found programming skills on an independent coding project by solving a real-world problem of their choice
- The project is carried out under exam-like conditions.

Assessment

There are two exam papers at the end of the syllabus, one focusing on computer systems and one with a focus on computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

Each paper lasts 1.5 hours and is worth 40% of the total GCSE. You will also complete a programming project in the final year of the course that will take a total of 20 hours to complete.

What next?

The GCSE Computer Science is effective preparation for a range of qualifications including:

- A Level Computer Science
- A vocational qualification that offers an alternative to A Levels for students aged 16+
- Any level 3 course that require problem solving and analytical skills.



STUDENTS WHO OPT FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE SHOULD HAVE A KEEN INTEREST IN MATHS AND SCIENCE.

If you want to find out more about this qualification, speak to Mr Harper or Mrs Watt in Computer Science.



GCSE Dance

GCSE Dance will take place in the dance studio. You will learn different dance styles, how to choreograph for yourself as well as developing ways of appreciating movement and understanding dance.

What will I study?

- Do you enjoy performing?
- Do you want to become fitter and healthier?
- Would you like to develop your confidence, leadership and problem solving skills?
- Could you be creative and imaginative on your own as well as in a team choreographing your own dances?
- Would you be committed to rehearse in your own time and also be part of two performances a year?
- Do you think that you would like to learn about different styles of dance like: Capoeira, Samba, Break, Ballet and Contemporary?

If the answer is YES.....

GCSE Dance could be the right option for you!

How will I be assessed?

This course combines both the theory (written) and practical (physical) elements of dance:

Practical work - 60% - Performance and Choreography

Written work - 40% - Appreciation of professional performances

Contact Miss Walden, Head of Dance & Drama, for more information.



Park Vale
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GCSE Drama

What will I study?

Students will learn how drama is created and be given opportunities to create drama pieces based on given scenarios and texts. Students will focus on creating and acting as characters in different performances, learning different techniques that will allow them to identify with different roles and understand how to portray them confidently. Students will be encouraged to see as many different theatre shows as they can and explore and evaluate a selection of plays and performance texts through written reflections, essays and structured questions.

What will you learn?

The course is broken up in to three different components as shown below:

Component 1: Devising - Coursework (40%)

Students will create, develop and perform in a devised piece from a given starting point. Evidence will be through a written portfolio analysing and evaluating the process with a 2000 maximum word limit.

Component 2: Performance from a Text – Assessed by a visiting examiner (20%)

Students will perform two key extracts from a selected performance text.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)

Section A: Bringing Texts to Life - 45 marks - This section consists of one question broken into six parts (short and extended responses) based on an unseen extract from the chosen performance text.

Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation - 15 marks - This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.

Is GCSE Drama for me?

Do you want to learn more about Drama? Do you enjoy performing on stage? Do you enjoy working with others? Would you like a career on the stage?

IF THE ANSWER IS YES...

This course could be the course for you!



Contact Miss Walden, Head of Dance & Drama for more information.



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GCSE French

GCSE French - an opportunity to stand out from the crowd!

Do you want to communicate across five continents, sixty countries to 220 million people? Then GCSE French is the option for you! Learn to speak and write, listen and read in a new language. Demonstrate to employers that you have problem-solving skills and resilience. Explore the different cultures of the French-speaking world and improve your understanding of what it means to be a Global Citizen.



Why study French at GCSE?

Build on the foundations laid in KS3 to become a more confident and competent communicator. Demonstrate to employers that you have problem-solving skills and resilience. Improve your fluency in speaking and writing and advance your reading and listening skills. Understand the world and appreciate different cultures, open your eyes to global opportunities. Studying a Foreign Language will provide you with access to the highly prestigious EBACC qualification. Employers are always looking for people who speak more than one language to join their teams, therefore you will be one step ahead of the competition.

What are my career options?

Many companies have offices abroad, or deal with other companies that are based abroad, therefore, there are a wide-range of avenues a linguist can pursue after school. Some options include:

- Translation and Interpreting
- Medicine
- Marketing and Sales
- Scientific and Social research
- Finance and banking

What will I be studying in Years 10 and 11?

The GCSE curriculum is based around the following thematic contexts:

- My Personal World
- Studying and my future
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- Travel and tourism

This means that you will studying vocabulary and grammatical structures in lessons, and for homework, relating to the following topics, for example:

- Describing your identity
- Talking about your online habits
- Talking about earning money
- Describing holiday activities

How will I be assessed?

We use the Pearson Examination Board. You will be examined in all four disciplines. The Reading, Listening, and Writing papers take the format of written examinations. The Speaking exam will be conducted by your class teacher. Each skill has an equal weighting of 25%.

****This option is only available to students who have previously studied French in Years 8 or 9**

For any additional information, please speak to Miss Milnes, Head of Languages.



Park Vale
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GCSE Geography



What will I study?

Geography is the study of the world. It is the News. What is happening around us every day?

Our impact on the planet and how the planet affects our daily lives and future.

At a time of growing concern about climate change, shrinking resources and a desire for sustainable solutions, Geography is the most relevant course you could choose to study.

Why choose Geography?

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

Michael Palin

“Employers rarely need narrow specialists. They need, inquisitive individuals who are well informed about the world we live in. Geographers are stars in this respect.”

David Rhind, Ordnance Survey, Chief Executive.

Possible Career Pathway:

- Green issues • Environmental Health Officer • Volcanologist • Forestry Manager • Recycling Officer • Town Planner • Transport Coordinator • Conservation Worker • Teacher • Market Research Officer • Coastal Engineer • Weather Forecaster • Environment Consultancy.

Written examination

100%

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment.

35%

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment.

35%

Paper 3: Geographical applications.

30%

How will I be assessed?

The AQA course is assessed via 100% written examination.

Living with the Physical Environment:

The aim of this Unit is for students to make sense of the physical world. To look at a range of environments, natural landscapes, hazards. We will study in detail the causes of coastal and fluvial flooding which is featured constantly in the media and investigate potential management strategies. As Geographers we are very interested in how we are affected by nature and how we affect nature in return. Sustainability of our planet is a critical topic at the moment and Geographers are at the forefront of this conversation.

Challenges in the Human environment:

The aim of this Unit is to make sense of the complex human world we live in. We will study where people live, where people are moving to. The complex link between places including the flow of money and trade, aid and information. The changing position of UK in the wider world. The challenges and potential solutions of life in UK cities and compare life with other regions.

Geographical applications:

Students are required to demonstrate a range of geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical, numerical, statistical and problem solving skills. This **includes two fieldwork enquiries. Please note that students signing up to this course are expected to attend two field trips over the course in order to sit a specific exam paper.**

Contact Mr Steer, Head of Geography , for more information.



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Health & Social Care

Cambridge National

What will I study?

This vocational qualification is aimed at students who wish to work in the health and social care sector or simply feel they would benefit from gaining the experience and understanding that the course offers.

The qualification is made up of three units focusing on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices related to health and social care services and the health and well-being of individuals. This qualification will also help learners develop independence and confidence to use skills relevant to the health and social care sector which can then be used in other life and work situations.

Assessment

Students are required to complete and achieve in all three units.

R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings

This unit is assessed by an exam. In this unit students will learn about the key topics that are important when caring for and protecting people in health and social care. Topics include the rights of service users in health and social care settings, person-centred values, effective communication in health and social care settings and protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings. This unit makes up 40% of the overall grade.

R033: Supporting individuals through life events

This unit is assessed by a Set Assignment. In this unit students will learn about growth and development through the life stages. They will also learn how to understand the needs of individuals who have been affected by life events and how to recommend support to meet their needs. Topics include the life stages, the impacts of life events and sources of support. This unit makes up 30% of the overall grade.

R034: Creative and therapeutic activities

This unit is assessed by a Set Assignment. In this unit students will research therapies and learn about how they can benefit people. They will also learn about the benefits of creative activities and will plan and deliver a creative activity to a group or individual. Topics include therapies and their benefits, creative activities and their benefits. This unit makes up 30% of the overall grade.

Progression/further study

As well as the course content, students will be given the opportunity to explore career options within the health and social care sector and will be supported in their decision-making regarding post 16 choices. These choices could include-

- BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care
- CACHE Children's Care, Learning and Development
- NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in Health and Social Care

Possible career paths include health care worker, nurse, social worker, nursery nurse, carer or early years' classroom teacher however this course is not just suitable for students wishing to have a career in the health and social care sector. This course allows students to gain vital skills that are necessary when working with others and therefore can be applied to many other vocations.

Contact Mrs Watt, Subject lead for health and Social Care for more information.



GCSE History

What will I study?

In GCSE History you will learn about a range of topics that impact on our lives today. From the British history that built our country, to the ever changing fields of medicine and surgery, the Nazi regime in Germany and the growth and development of America in the 19th Century, you will find out how the way you live today and your future has been shaped by the past.

History is a subject that develops skills as much as it teaches about events. A GCSE in History is something that all colleges and universities will respect and will show your ability to adapt to any other area of study.

Why choose History?

The skills of justification, analysis and explanation as well as being able to write in depth and present findings are all studied in History. These skills are readily transferable to many future careers such as politics, media, journalism, education and the civil services.



How will I be assessed?

We will be studying the Edexcel GCSE course in History which is assessed by three written exams.

Paper 1	Medicine in Britain, c1250 to present including the British sector of the Western Front, 1914 - 1918 . (30%)
Paper 2	Elizabethan England 1558 - 1588 & The American West 1835– 1895. (40%)
Paper 3	Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 1939. (30%)

Contact Miss Mills, Head of History, for more information.



Hospitality & Catering

Technical Award

Why study Hospitality & Catering?

Learners will be expected to make a range of food products and develop skills related to commercial food preparation including food hygiene, food presentation and considering production in quantity. They will be expected to apply technical and practical expertise to ensure that food meets customer needs and preferences and is appropriate for a given occasion. They will have the opportunity to use a wide range of practical skills and techniques, gaining an understanding of catering and an awareness of related career paths.

The qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work in the hospitality and catering sector and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.

This approach also enables learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- Skills required for independent learning and development.
- A range of generic and transferable skills
- The ability to solve problems
- The skills of project based research, development and presentation
- The fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment.

Course content

- Unit 1: The hospitality and catering Industry
- Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action

This structure has been designed to develop in learners the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how

they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, learners will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

Through the two units, learners will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available.

Assessment:

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes 40% of qualification



80 marks

Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours 60% of qualification 120 marks

What's next ?

This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE and leads to Level 3 courses.

For more information, please contact Mr. Brough, Head of DT, or Mrs Owen, Teacher of Hospitality.



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IT Creative iMedia

Cambridge National

IT Creative iMedia

Why study IT?

The qualification will encourage independence, creativity and awareness of the digital sector. It will equip students with a range of creative skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills.

Students will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative digital products. The 'hands on' approach that will be required will give students the freedom to explore the areas of digital publication that interest them as well as providing good opportunities to enhance their learning in a range of other curriculum areas.

Course Content:

Creative iMedia in the media industry

Students are introduced to a range of essential pre-production techniques used in the creative and digital media, including client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques. Assessment: Written paper, OCR set and marked

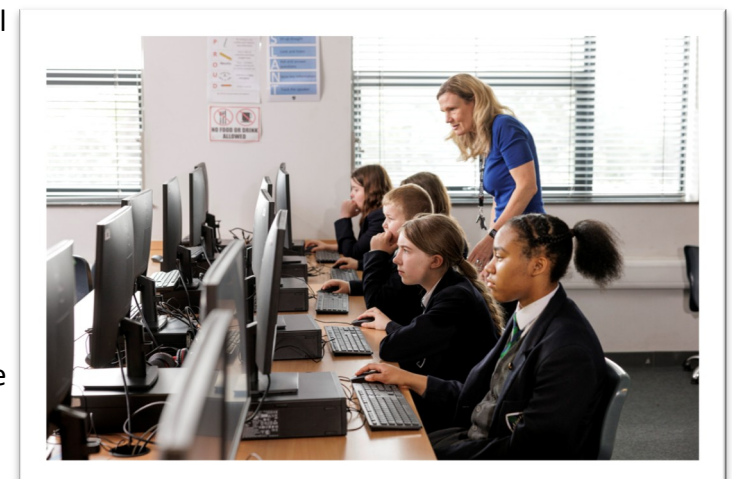
Visual identity and digital graphics

Building on the skills and understanding that they have developed in the previous unit, students explore where and why digital graphics are used and the techniques that are involved in their creation. They apply their skills and knowledge in creating digital graphics against a specific brief. Assessment: Centre-assessed tasks



Interactive digital media

Students develop their knowledge and understanding of where and why different interactive multimedia products are used and what features are needed for a given purpose. They learn how to interpret a client brief, and how to use time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques as part of the planning and creation process. Assessment: Centre-assessed tasks



If you want to find out more about this qualification, please speak to Mr. Harper or Mrs Watt.



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BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

Why choose Music Practice?

The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is a **practical, creative and industry-focused** course designed for students who enjoy **making music**, performing, composing, producing, or working with music technology. It develops real-world skills used in the music industry while building confidence, teamwork and independence.

This course is ideal for students who prefer **hands-on learning** and want to explore how music works beyond the classroom.

What will you study?

The course is made up of three main components:

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

Study different **music styles and genres**

Explore how professional music is created and produced

Develop listening, analysis and research skills

Component 2: Music Skills Development

Build practical skills in areas such as:

Performing (solo or group)

Composing and songwriting

Music production and recording

Music technology and sequencing

Choose skills that match your **strengths/interests**

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief (Externally assessed)

Work to a real-world style music brief set by Pearson

Plan, create and refine a musical product

Develop time management, problem-solving and professional working skills

How is the course assessed?

60% coursework (practical and written assignments)

40% external assessment (set task completed in class)

Grades awarded: **Level 1 Pass – Level 2**

Distinction*

What skills will you develop?

Musical performance, composition & production skills

Confidence and communication

Teamwork and collaboration

Creativity and self-expression

Organisation and independent learning

Where can this course take you?

 Educational progression

The BTEC Music Practice course provides a strong foundation for: - BTEC Level 3 Music / Music Technology - A Levels in Music or Music Technology - Performing Arts or Creative Media course

 Career pathways

Skills gained are relevant to many careers, including: - Musician or performer - Music producer or sound engineer - Composer or songwriter - DJ or live sound technician - Music for film, games or media - Creative industries, events or media roles.

Who is this course for?

Students who enjoy **practical music-making**

Those who want to develop performance, composition or production skills

Learners interested in **creative or vocational pathways**

Anyone motivated to work independently and collaboratively

BTEC Music Practice is about creativity, skills and real-world music. If you enjoy making music and want a course that reflects how the music industry really works, this could be the perfect choice.

Contact Mr Turner, Head of music, for more information



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GCSE Photography



What will I study?

You will have an opportunity to develop your creative skills exploring a wide variety of camera and editing techniques.

Developing your own ideas creating photographs based on different themes.

You will have an opportunity to learn about a range of different photographers and artists.

This course is ideal for you if you:

- have an interest in photography and writing about imagery.
- are creative and want to develop your Photoshop and ICT skills.
- like to develop your own ideas.
- are practical minded and like to be 'hands on' as well as enjoy writing about your own ideas and the work of other photographers.
- have an interest in different styles of photography.
- enjoy evaluating photographs and analysing how photographs look.
- enjoy learning in a practical environment.
- enjoy experimenting and exploring visual effects to use in your final pieces.

How will I be assessed?

- AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate skills, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.
- Techniques and processes.
- You will cover two units - these will include planning / research a final piece.).
- Unit 1, Portfolio (60%).
- Unit 2, Externally set task. (40%).
- Possible grade GCSE in Photography 9-1



Contact Miss Wright, Head of Photography, for more information.



GCSE Physical Education/Sport Science

Why choose PE or Sport Science?

Are you interested in a career in sports coaching, becoming a personal trainer or any another sport related career? Would you like to know how to improve your sporting ability? Are you passionate about health and fitness? Do you want to know how to improve the health and well-being of both yourself and those around you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this option could be for you.

As a PE department we are offering two courses which will allow you to explore the theory around physical activity and sport. You will leave with the knowledge of how to improve sporting ability/physical activity levels and keep performers in peak physical condition through bespoke training programmes, as well as combine this with the latest in sport psychology, sports nutrition and body systems. You will need to have a keen interest in sport and physical activity, as well regularly taking part in PE lessons.

Course Content:

Y10/11 OCR Cambridge National Sports Science	Y10/11 OCR GCSE PE
Students who move on to study this course will begin to apply the theory of training and nutrition they have learnt to case studies that make up two coursework based written assessments. They will also prepare for the written exam unit based on reducing the risk of injuries.	This course will to work through the theory elements in physiology, socio cultural factors, sport psychology and training in preparation for 2 exams and 1 piece of written coursework by the end of year 11. Students will also continue to develop their sporting ability through a bi-weekly practical lesson from which their final best three activities will be put forward for practical assessment. To progress onto this course we would expect students to be playing competitively for school or club on a regular basis.
OCR Cambridge National Sports Science	OCR GCSE PE
Students complete 3 units. Reducing the risk of sports injuries (worth 40%) one hour exam Applying the principles of training (worth 40%) written assessment Nutrition and sports performance (worth 20%) written assessment	Theory 60% (30% each paper) Paper 1 1-hour EXAM Paper 2 1-hour EXAM Practical 30% (10% each sport) 1 team sport 1 individual sport 1 from either category Coursework 10% Written piece analysing the strengths and weaknesses of performance and creating an action plan to improve.



Contact Mrs Boulton-Ward, Head of PE, for more information.



GCSE Product Design & Technology

Why study Design Technology ?

AQA GCSE Product Design and Technology places great emphasis on academic knowledge and understanding alongside applying iterative design processes. Students will use their knowledge, creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

In order to make effective design choices students will need a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding that consists of:

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy storage and generation

Modern and smart materials

- Systems approach to designing
- Mechanical devices



Written Exam	Non Exam based Project (Non-Examined Assessment)
What is assessed: • Core technical principles • Specialist technical principles • Designing and making principles Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks) A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding. Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks) Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles. Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks) A mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12-mark design question. Maths principles in this course include; trigonometry, area, percentages, data analysis, ratios, volume, graphs.	Task: Substantial design and manufacture task 100 Marks 30-35 Hours Assessment criteria: • Investigating • Designing • Making • Analysing and Evaluating • Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages) This requires: • Research and analytical skills • Creative and problem-solving skills • Design skills and drawing ability • The ability to make a variety of iterative models that represent design ideas. • Interactions with a client/user • Planning and manufacturing a product to a design and manufacturing specification. • Evaluation skills



Please see Mr. Brough for more information

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GCSE Spanish

What will I be studying in Years 10 and 11?

Build on the foundations laid in KS3 to become a more confident and competent communicator. Demonstrate to employers that you have problem-solving skills and resilience. Improve your fluency in speaking and writing and advance your reading and listening skills. Understand the world and appreciate different cultures, open your eyes to global opportunities. The GCSE curriculum is based around the following thematic contexts:

- My Personal World
- Studying and my future
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- Travel and tourism

This means that you will studying vocabulary and grammatical structures in lessons, and for homework, relating to the following topics, for example:

- Describing your identity
- Talking about your online habits
- Talking about earning money
- Describing holiday activities

Why Spanish at GCSE?

Studying a Foreign Language will provide you with access to the highly prestigious EBACC qualification. Employers are always looking for people who speak more than one language to join their teams, therefore you will be one step ahead of the competition. Also, when on holiday abroad, a good understanding of the languages means a more enjoyable and fruitful experience.



What are my career options?

Many companies have offices abroad, or deal with other companies that are based abroad, therefore, there are a wide-range of avenues a linguist can pursue after school. Some options include:

- Translation and Interpreting
- Medicine
- Marketing and Sales
- Scientific and Social research
- Finance and banking

How will I be assessed?

We use the Pearson Examination Board. You will be examined in all four disciplines. The Reading, Listening, and Writing papers take the format of written examinations. The Speaking exam will be conducted by your class teacher. Each skill has an equal weighting of 25%.

For any additional information, speak to Miss Milnes, the Head of Languages, or your Spanish teacher.



GCSE Textiles

Why Study Textiles?

If you have an interest in either the creative side of textiles or the technical side involving production and construction, then this course is for you!

Exploring creativity and practicality through textiles, in component one and two, you will be required to work in **one or more** of the following areas:

- ◆ Art textiles
- ◆ Fashion design and illustration
- ◆ Costume design
- ◆ Constructed textiles
- ◆ Printed and dyed textiles
- ◆ Surface pattern
- ◆ Stitched and/or embellished textiles
- ◆ Soft furnishings and/or textile interiors
- ◆ Digital textiles
- ◆ Installed textiles

You will learn, develop and experiment creative approaches to textiles, using technical skills involved with making a range of textile products, this could include for example, soft furnishings, pattern cutting and garment construction.

How will I be assessed?

The course is split into two components:

Component one, 60%; A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the end piece and a selection of further work undertaken during the course of study.

Component two, 40%; Response to a chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to a chosen subject title, evidencing all four assessment objectives. You will create a final piece in 10 hours supervised time at the end of year 11.

The assessment grid:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| AO1 | Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources |
| AO2 | Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. |
| AO3 | Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses |
| AO4 | Present a person and meaningful response that realises the intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language |

For more information, please contact Mr. Brough, Head of DT, or Mrs Jones, Teacher of Textiles/DT.



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*****Students cannot study both GCSE textiles and GCSE Art**

GCSE Triple Science

The Qualification: 3 GCSE qualifications: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

We offer this course to students by combining our compulsory science course with this optional course. Selecting Triple science will use only 1 option choice.

The Triple Science is a **3 GCSE** qualification and is another name for “Separate Sciences”. Students will leave with GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Triple Science is a highly regarded qualification, and a perfect course for those who want to study A’ Level Sciences or who want to work in a science related job. Whatever career you are considering, whether involving science or not, taking Triple Science GCSEs will set you up well for later life. A host of employers are crying out for candidates with science-based skills.

Course Content and Practicals

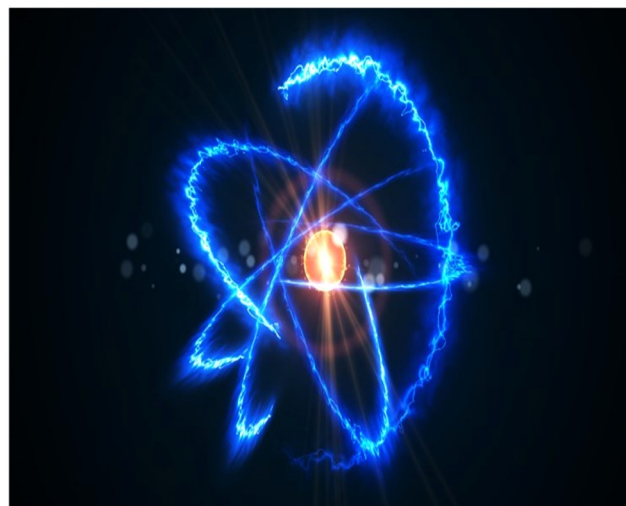
Students have separate lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics during which they complete Core Practical Tasks. These are practicals the exam board

tell us students must complete. The skills and knowledge gained from these practicals will be examined in the final examination papers.

Assessment Information

Written Exams: 100 %

All exams contributing towards the final grade will be sat at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework. Students sit 6 exams in total, 2 exams for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



Contact Mr Such, Head of Science, for more information.



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