



Year 9 Options Parent Booklet 2025





Introduction

As you will now be aware, we are ready to begin our Options Programme for 2025. This programme is designed to guide you and your child in choosing what to study during Key Stage 4.

This is an important point in your child's education as, for the first time in their school life, they will have some choice over what you to study. From now on in their education, they will gradually take more and more responsibility for deciding which routes they will follow. Whilst this can be a daunting time, this booklet and the options process are designed to help you and your child make decisions about their future learning. The choices you make now are important, so please use all the information and guidance available to you. This includes: information from this booklet, advice from your teachers, and support from home.

So, what do I do now?

1. Carefully read the pages that follow. They will explain what your curriculum will be and support you in making those crucial choices.

2. Ensure you submit your completed electronic form by 5/3/25.

What is Key Stage 4?

The curriculum at Key Stage 4 consists of a mixture of core subjects (that everyone has to study) and options subjects (that you choose to study). The options subjects should be chosen according to your strengths and interests. You will be guided through your choices by subject teachers to ensure they are appropriate.

What are GCSEs and BTEC qualifications?

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. This qualification is important as it is required for future study and employment. Most GCSE subjects include theory work, and some include practical work.

BTEC qualifications (for example, Health & Social Care) are work-related courses that have been designed to equip students with skills and knowledge that are important for workplaces.



Some Advice and Tips for Choosing Subjects

Your child will ultimately decide the options subjects to study. However, your child should seek advice and guidance teachers, your parents / carers, and Form Tutors. You could also take advice from older students including those in the Sixth Form.

Think hard, take advice, then fill in the form!

Do:

- Choose subjects you enjoy
- Choose subjects you are successful at
- Choose subjects you may need for a future career or further education
- Find out as much information as possible about a subject before choosing it
- Listen to the advice of others
- Ask questions if you are not sure

Don't:

- Choose a subject just because your best friend is choosing it
- Choose a subject because you like (or dislike) the teacher this year - you may not have the same teacher next year.



Key Dates

Week Beginning 27/1/25

Curriculum based student assemblies introduced by specialist staff on;

- **Wednesday 29/1/25** (Business/RE)
- **Wednesday 5/2/25** (Media Studies)
- **Wednesday 12/2/25** (Health and Social Care/Sociology)
- **Wednesday 26/2/25** (Further career pathways)

Week Beginning 3/2/25

Week 1 (3/2/25)

Tutor activities commence including; progress review, subject analysis, learning style evaluation.

Week 2 (10/2/25)

Further activities including; factfinding research, further research activities using JED (Job Explorer Database), career pathway action planning.

Week Beginning 10/2/25

Guided Student Interviews will commence with allocated times. Interviews will include discussion on progress data and associated pathways with the Senior Leadership Team and Progress Leader.

Wednesday 26/2/25

Year 9 Options and Parents Evening (4-7pm). Parents evening appointments for English, Maths, and Science.

Career presentations at 4.15pm/5.15pm/6.15pm with Mrs Tasker (Deputy Headteacher).

Options applications open, launched via School Website

Wednesday 5/3/25

Final deadline for applications



To Do Checklist

I have:

- Read through this options booklet carefully
- Checked which subjects are compulsory (these subjects must be taken)
- Completed the preparation activities with my tutor and parents/carers
- Looked at my progress check to see which subjects I might be best suited for
- Discussed my ideas with my parents/carers
- Discussed my ideas with my tutor
- Discussed options with other students in my tutor group
- Discussed subjects I am interested in with students who are currently taking them
- Asked my teachers if they think that I am suitable for their subject
- Researched options subjects carefully at the options fayre
- Seen the relevant teachers at the parents evening
- Chosen subjects which give me a balanced range of subjects to study and will keep my options open in the future
- Submitted my online options form through the school website



Subject Guides

Contents

Geography (Pearson Edexcel B)	7
History (AQA)	8
Physics (AQA)	9
Biology (AQA)	10
Chemistry (AQA)	11
French (AQA)	12
Spanish (AQA)	13
Graphic Communication (AQA)	14
Textiles (AQA)	15
Art (AQA)	16
Media Studies (Eduqas)	17
Music (OCR)	18
Drama (OCR)	19
Photography (AQA)	20
PE (Pearson)	21
Sociology (AQA)	22
Business Studies (Eduqas)	23
Computer Science (OCR)	24
BTEC Health and Social Care (Pearson)	25
Hospitality and Catering (WJEC Vocational Award)	26
Engineering (WJEC Vocational Award)	27
Design & Technology (AQA)	28



Geography (Pearson Edexcel B)

Assessment Method

- **Paper 1: Global Geographical Issues** – Hazardous World, Development Dynamics, Challenges of an Urbanising World
- **Paper 2: UK Geographical Issues** – UK's Physical Landscape (Rivers & Coasts), UK's Human Landscape (Birmingham as a dynamic city), Fieldwork (Visits to Carding Mill Valley & Birmingham)
- **Paper 3 People & Environmental Issues** – People & the Biosphere, Forests Under Threat, Consuming Energy Resources

Specification Link: [Geography B \(9-1\) from 2016 | Pearson qualifications](#)

Why Should I Follow This Course?

Geography GCSE is an engaging subject that helps you understand the world and how people interact with it. You'll explore physical landscapes, global challenges, and human geography, building analytical and problem-solving skills. This course is ideal for curious learners who enjoy investigating pressing environmental and societal issues.

What Will I Learn?

- How physical processes shape landscapes, such as rivers, coasts, and tectonic features.
- The relationship between humans and their environments, like urbanization, trade, and migration.
- Understand global challenges, including climate change, resource management, and sustainability.
- How to conduct and analyse fieldwork in both physical and human geography settings.
- Skills in interpreting and presenting geographical data using maps, charts, and GIS tools.

What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?

Fieldwork: Participate in hands-on investigations to explore local and regional environments.

Data Analysis: Develop skills to interpret maps, graphs, and statistics.

Interactive Learning: Use case studies, simulations, and digital tools to understand global topics.

Group Collaboration: Work in teams to tackle geographical challenges and projects.

Where Will This Qualification Take Me?

Town Planner, Cartographer, Environmental Consultant, Hydrologist, Climate Researcher, Wildlife Manager, Tourism Manager, Travel Consultant, Meteorologist, GIS Specialist, Remote Sensing Analyst, Development Officer.



History (AQA)	
Assessment Method	
Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World – 84 marks, lasts 2 hours. Paper 2: Shaping the Nation – 84 marks, also lasts 2 hours. Specification Link: AQA History GCSE GCSE History	
Why Should I Follow This Course?	What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?
History is a fascinating subject that helps you understand how past events have shaped our modern world. You'll explore conflicts, revolutions, and social changes, learning how societies evolved over time. This course develops your critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills—perfect for anyone with a curious mind and interest in understanding the world around them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Source Analysis: Practice examining historical evidence to uncover the past.• Debate and Discussion: Build arguments and evaluate different viewpoints on historical issues.• Project-Based Learning: Work individually or in groups on engaging research tasks.• Interactive Lessons: Use digital tools and timelines to visualize historical events.
What Will I Learn?	Where Will This Qualification Take Me?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key global events such as World Wars and their impact on the modern world.• Britain's history covering topics like the Industrial Revolution and its role in global trade and colonization.• The rise and fall of empires, dictatorships, and movements for equality.• How to interpret and evaluate historical sources, developing critical thinking.	Solicitor, journalist, archivist, museum curator, political advisor, historian, archaeologist, teacher, heritage manager, diplomat, researcher, policy analyst, conservation officer, travel consultant, and author or academic writer. Whether navigating current affairs, law, education, or creative industries.



Physics (AQA)	
Assessment Method	
100% Examination of 2 papers (100 marks each and 1 hour and 45 minutes each)	
Meeting the criteria to study Biology GCSE: Ideally 'Mastery Level' in English and Maths in Year 9. 'Established Level' will be considered with the class teacher's input).	
Specification link: AQA Physics GCSE GCSE Physics	
Why Should I Follow This Course?	What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?
GCSE Physics is a fascinating course that explores the fundamental principles governing the universe, from forces and energy to the behavior of waves and particles. It equips you with problem-solving, analytical, and mathematical skills that are essential in many STEM careers. This subject is ideal for students who are curious about how the world works and are considering further studies in science, engineering, or technology.	Practical Experiments: Conduct hands-on investigations to understand key physics concepts. Problem-Solving Activities: Apply mathematical equations to real-world physics problems. Digital Simulations: Use virtual tools to model and visualize complex systems. Group Work: Collaborate on experiments and projects to develop teamwork skills. Visual Resources: Diagrams, animations, and models to illustrate challenging concepts. Feedback and Support: Personalized guidance to refine your knowledge and practical skills.
What Will I Learn?	Where Will This Qualification Take Me?
Energy: Types of energy, energy transfers, and efficiency. Electricity: Circuits, resistance, and electrical power. Particle Model of Matter: States of matter and density. Atomic Structure: Nuclear models, radioactive decay. Forces: Motion, Newton's laws, and momentum. Waves: Properties of waves, sound, light, and the electromagnetic spectrum. Magnetism and Electromagnetism: Magnetic fields and their applications. Space Physics: The life cycle of stars and the structure of the universe. Required Practicals: Investigations such as measuring resistance, wave properties, and density.	Physicist, engineer, astronomer, data analyst, radiographer, pilot, robotics engineer, acoustic engineer, renewable energy specialist, forensic scientist, meteorologist, astrophysicist, aerospace engineer, nuclear physicist, geophysicist, or material scientist. These roles span a variety of industries, including healthcare, technology, energy, and research.



<h2>Biology (AQA)</h2>	
<h3>Assessment Method</h3> <p>100% Examination of 2 papers (100 marks each and 1 hour and 45 minutes each)</p> <p>Meeting the criteria to study Biology GCSE: Ideally 'Mastery Level' in English and Maths in Year 9. 'Established Level' will be considered with the class teacher's input).</p> <p>Specification link: AQA Biology GCSE GCSE Biology</p>	
<h3>Why Should I Follow This Course?</h3> <p>GCSE Biology explores the fascinating world of living organisms, from the smallest cells to entire ecosystems. This course equips you with a strong foundation in scientific concepts, critical thinking, and practical problem-solving skills. It's perfect for students interested in understanding the natural world and pursuing science-related careers.</p>	<h3>What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?</h3> <p>Practical Experiments: Conduct hands-on investigations to explore biological concepts.</p> <p>Group Work: Collaborate on discussions and projects about biological processes.</p> <p>Data Analysis: Learn to interpret graphs, charts, and experiment results.</p> <p>Digital Simulations: Use online tools to visualize complex biological processes.</p> <p>Visual Learning: Diagrams, animations, and models to simplify challenging topics.</p> <p>Personalized Feedback: Receive tailored guidance to improve understanding and practical skills.</p>
<h3>What Will I Learn?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell Biology: • Organisation: • Infection and Response: • Bioenergetics: • Homeostasis and Response: • Inheritance, Variation, and Evolution: • Ecology: • Required Practicals: 	<h3>Where Will This Qualification Take Me?</h3> <p>Doctor, Biomedical Scientist, Veterinarian, Pharmacist, Ecologist, Microbiologist, Geneticist, Forensic Scientist, Environmental Scientist, or Conservation Biologist. Wildlife Biologist, Veterinary Nurse, Agricultural Scientist, Clinical Research Associate, Entomologist, Botanist, Tissue Engineer, Oceanographer, Science Communicator, or Health and Safety Officer.</p>



Chemistry (AQA)	
Assessment Method	
100% Examination of 2 papers (100 marks each and 1 hour and 45 minutes each)	
To choose Chemistry, the criteria of ideally 'Mastery Level' or 'Established Level' (with class teacher's input) in English and Maths. Please refer to the progress data for your child.	
Specification link: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification	
Why Should I Follow This Course?	What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?
<p>GCSE Chemistry helps you understand the world at a molecular level, from the air we breathe to the food we eat.</p> <p>GCSE Chemistry develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills while providing hands-on, practical experience. Chemistry opens up a range of future opportunities in fields like medicine, engineering, environmental science, and research. It also lays the foundation for further study in A-Level Chemistry, Biology, or Physics, and offers transferable skills that are valued in many careers.</p>	<p>Practical Experiments and Demonstrations: Hands-on experiments and live demos to see chemistry in action.</p> <p>Visual Learning: Diagrams, animations, and models to explain complex concepts.</p> <p>Active Revision: Quizzes, practice papers, and mind maps to reinforce learning.</p> <p>Personalized Feedback: Individual support from teachers to improve understanding.</p> <p>Use of Digital Tools: Online resources and simulations to complement learning.</p>
What Will I Learn?	Where Will This Qualification Take Me?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table• Bonding and Structure• Chemical Reactions• Quantitative Chemistry• Organic Chemistry• Chemical Analysis• The Earth's Resources• Chemical Energy• The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change• Required Practical related to the above topics	<p>Further Education: It provides a pathway to A-Level Chemistry and other science subjects, as well as courses in Medicine, Engineering, Pharmacy, and Environmental Sciences.</p> <p>Careers in Science: It leads to roles in pharmaceuticals, forensic science, biotechnology, environmental science, and research.</p> <p>Employability: Chemistry knowledge is valued in healthcare, sales, and teaching, among other sectors.</p> <p>Science-Related Jobs: Potential careers include Pharmacist, Chemical Engineer, Forensic Scientist, Environmental Scientist, and more.</p>



French (AQA)

Assessment Method

- **25% Listening** – Understanding and responding to spoken French.
- **25% Speaking** – Conducting a conversation and a role-play in French.
- **25% Reading** – Understanding and responding to written French texts.
- **25% Writing** – Composing essays and responses in French.

Specification link:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/french/specifications/AQA-8652-SP-2024.pdf>

Why Should I Follow This Course?

Studying French GCSE opens up a world of opportunities. Not only does it enhance communication skills, but it also develops your understanding of French-speaking cultures and broadens your global perspective. French is one of the most widely spoken languages, offering an edge in international careers. The course fosters important skills such as critical thinking, memory, and adaptability, which are valuable in any field.

What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?

Interactive Lessons – Use audio, video, and digital tools to practice French communication.

Speaking Activities – Engage in conversation practice to enhance fluency and pronunciation.

Grammar Workshops – Build a strong foundation in French grammar and sentence structure.

Cultural Studies – Explore French culture, traditions, and history to broaden understanding.

Writing Exercises – Develop skills in essay writing, translation, dictation and creative tasks.

What Will I Learn?

- Essential vocabulary and everyday phrases.
- Topics including personal identity, media and technology, the environment, and popular cultural.
- Grammar areas such as verb conjugations (past, present, future), sentence structures, and idiomatic expressions.
- Comprehension skills for listening to native speakers and reading authentic French materials.
- Writing techniques for formal letters, emails, and creative pieces.

Where Will This Qualification Take Me?

Language Teacher, Translator, Interpreter, Diplomat, Tour Manager, Hospitality Manager, Marketing Specialist, International Relations Officer, Export Sales Manager, Travel Journalist, Cultural Advisor.



Spanish (AQA)	
Assessment Method	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25% Listening – Understanding and responding to spoken Spanish.• 25% Speaking – Conducting a conversation and role-play in Spanish.• 25% Reading – Understanding and responding to written Spanish texts.• 25% Writing – Composing essays and responses in Spanish.	
Specification link: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/spanish/specifications/AQA-8692-SP-2024.PDF	
Why Should I Follow This Course?	What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?
Studying Spanish GCSE AQA helps you connect with over 500 million Spanish speakers worldwide, opening doors to global communication and understanding diverse cultures. It builds confidence in real-world interactions, enhances your problem-solving and memory skills, and stands out as a valuable asset in careers like international business, teaching, and tourism. Learning Spanish can broaden your horizons and provide exciting opportunities both personally and professionally.	<i>Speaking Practice:</i> Conversations and role-plays. <i>Listening:</i> Spanish audio materials. <i>Reading:</i> Articles, stories, and real-world texts. <i>Writing Tasks:</i> Build grammar and expression. <i>Interactive Tools:</i> Apps and simulation
What Will I Learn?	Where Will This Qualification Take Me?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vocabulary for everyday conversations and key topics.• Themes such as family, school, people and lifestyle, media and technology, the environment, and popular cultural.• Grammar study including verb tenses, subjunctive mood, and syntax.• Listening comprehension with focus on different Spanish accents and dialects.• Writing formats including formal and informal letters, emails, and dialogues.	Translator, interpreter, language teacher, tour guide, international sales consultant, diplomat, travel agent, flight attendant, journalist, international relations specialist, marketing manager, export coordinator, humanitarian aid worker, cultural advisor, event organizer.



Graphic Communication (AQA)

Assessment Method

- **60% Coursework Portfolio** – Showcase your skills and creativity through a series of projects.
- **40% Externally Set Task** – Work on a final project based on a theme provided by AQA. This includes 10 hours of supervised time to create a final piece.
- **Specification Link:** https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201/specification/subject-content/graphic-communication#Graphic_communication

Why Should I Follow This Course?

Graphic Communication is an exciting subject that allows you to explore creative ways to communicate ideas visually. It's perfect for anyone who enjoys designing, drawing, or working with digital tools. By taking this course, you'll develop practical skills and creative thinking that can lead to diverse career opportunities in the world of art and design.

What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?

- **Practical Workshops** – Learn essential skills like illustration, typography, and digital design.
- **Creative Exploration** – Experiment with a variety of media, including sketches, digital tools, and photography.
- **Project-Based Learning** – Work on real-world design briefs to apply your knowledge and skills.
- **Critique Sessions** – Share your work and receive feedback to refine your designs and concepts.
- **Artistic Research** – Study and take inspiration from iconic designers and creative movements.

What Will I Learn?

How to use traditional and digital techniques to create impactful visual designs.

Designing logos, posters, packaging, promotional materials, and digital content.

The principles of layout, composition, and typography in visual communication.

How to meet client briefs by developing creative solutions.

Visual storytelling and the ability to convey complex ideas through design.

How to present, evaluate, and improve your work using feedback and self-critique.

Where Will This Qualification Take Me?

Graphic designer, digital illustrator, UX/UI designer, motion graphics artist, web designer, creative director, brand identity designer, social media content creator, 3D modeler, visual effects (VFX) artist, augmented reality (AR) designer, game designer, infographic designer, packaging designer, and environmental graphic designer.



Textiles (AQA)	
Assessment Method	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 60% Coursework Portfolio – Showcase your creativity and technical skills through a series of photography projects.• 40% Externally Set Task – Complete a final project based on an assigned theme during a 10-hour supervised session.• Specification Link: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201/specification/subject-content/textile-design#Textile_design	
Why Should I Follow This Course?	What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?
Engage in hands-on workshops to learn textile techniques like embroidery, screen printing, and fabric manipulation. Experiment with different materials and processes and use both traditional and digital tools to bring your ideas to life. Research iconic designers to inspire your creations and work through feedback sessions to refine your ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical Workshops – Learn essential skills like of sewing machines, hand sewing, marbling, dyeing fabric and other fabric manipulation methods.• Creative Exploration – Experiment with a variety of materials and processes.• Project-Based Learning – Work on projects to apply your knowledge and skills.• Critique Sessions – Share your work and receive feedback to refine your designs and concepts.• Artistic Research – Study and take inspiration from iconic designers and creative movements.
What Will I Learn?	Where Will This Qualification Take Me?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to create innovative textile designs using a variety of techniques.• Skills in surface decoration, dyeing, and construction methods.• An understanding of fashion and textile trends to inform your designs.• Presentation and evaluation skills to enhance your projects.• Study areas such as fabric technology, surface pattern design, ethical and sustainable fashion, colour theory, and design history.• Exploration of construction techniques, textile innovation, and digital textile design.	Fashion designer, textile artist, costume designer, fabric technologist, interior designer, accessories designer, surface pattern designer, textile conservator, merchandiser, sustainable fashion consultant, design lecturer, product developer, fashion illustrator, technical pattern cutter, haute couture specialist.



<h2>Art (AQA)</h2>	
<h3>Assessment Method</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% Coursework Portfolio – Showcase your skills and creativity through a series of projects. • 40% Externally Set Task – Work on a final project based on a theme provided by AQA. This includes 10 hours of supervised time to create a final piece. • Specification Link: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201/specification/subject-content/fine-art#Fine_art 	
<h3>Why Should I Follow This Course?</h3> <p>GCSE Art fosters creativity, imagination, and self-expression. It helps you develop visual communication skills, critical thinking, and the ability to analyse art and culture. This course suits anyone passionate about creating art or exploring the world through a creative lens. It provides a solid foundation for careers or further education in the arts.</p>	<h3>What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiment with various materials and techniques, including drawing, painting, and digital media. • Study and take inspiration from classical and modern artists. • Collaborate in discussions and critiques to improve and refine your work. • Keep a sketchbook to track your ideas, progress, and development. • Showcase your creations in displays or exhibitions.
<h3>What Will I Learn?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Techniques in drawing, painting, and sculpture • How to develop visual ideas from concept to final artwork • Experimentation with media, materials, and processes • Analytical skills to evaluate your own work and the work of others • How to work to a brief and produce outcomes under time constraints • Appreciation of art and culture from historical and contemporary perspectives • The ability to express ideas visually in unique and personal ways 	<h3>Where Will This Qualification Take Me?</h3> <p>Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Fine Artist, Art Therapist, Fashion Designer, Interior Designer, Animator, Photographer, Product Designer, Curator, Art Teacher, Digital Marketer, Art Conservator, Concept Artist, Freelance Artist</p>



Media Studies (Eduqas)

Assessment Method

- **30% Coursework:** Create a media product based on a brief provided by the exam board. This involves planning, designing, and producing a final piece.
- **70% Assessed Exam:** Two written papers evaluating your knowledge and understanding of media forms, industries, audiences, and key concepts, relating to key texts set by the exam board.

Specification Link: [GCSE Media Studies | Eduqas](#)

Why Should I Follow This Course?

GCSE Media Studies offers an engaging opportunity to understand how media shapes our world while building essential skills for the future. You'll develop creativity, critical thinking, and technical abilities like video editing and graphic design, alongside learning to analyse how media influences audiences and reflects society. Combining theory with practical work, this course is perfect for students passionate about the media industry and the world around us, as well as creating media products.

What Will I Learn?

Media Representation: Explore how individuals, groups, events, and issues are portrayed across media.

Media Audiences: Understand how media products target specific audiences and how audiences respond.

Media Industries: Learn about the workings of the film, television, gaming, and advertising sectors.

Media Language: Gain knowledge of the codes, conventions, and techniques used in creating media products.

Media Production: Develop practical skills using cameras, software, and digital tools to create media content.

Media Regulation: Study how media is controlled and how social and ethical factors influence production.

What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?

Workshops: Learn photography, editing, graphic design, and sound creation.

Media Analysis: Explore how media texts engage audiences and communicate messages.

Creative Projects: Create media content using digital software.

Real-World Tasks: Build skills through projects meeting creative briefs.

Feedback Sessions: Share work and refine it with teacher input.

Research: Study media history, theory, and industry influence.

Where Will This Qualification Take Me?

Content creator, film director, screenwriter, journalist, social media manager, marketing executive, digital video editor, advertising copywriter, public relations consultant, graphic designer, TV producer, cinematographer, animator, game developer, or media researcher. These roles span industries like film, television, publishing, advertising, and digital marketing, offering exciting opportunities in the rapidly evolving media landscape.



<h2>Music (OCR)</h2>	
<h3>Assessment Method</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance (30%): Students are assessed on solo and ensemble performances or sequenced performances for students that would prefer a tech pathway. These are recorded and marked based on technique, expression, and accuracy. • Composition (30%): Students create two compositions – one free choice and one based on a brief set by the exam board. • Listening and Appraising (40%): A written exam lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes, which includes questions on listening to music, understanding musical styles across 4 Areas of Study. <p>Link to OCR GCSE Music Specification https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/219378-specification-accredited-gcse-music-j536.pdf</p>	
<h3>Why Should I Follow This Course?</h3> <p>GCSE Music is an exciting option for students who are enthusiastic about exploring the world of sound, performance, and composition. This course blends hands-on experiences with exploring different musical styles, offering a well-rounded approach to understanding and making music. Whether you enjoy performing, experimenting with instruments and technology, or learning how music reflects culture and emotion, GCSE Music helps you nurture your creative talents while building valuable skills for the future.</p>	<h3>What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used</h3> <p>Performance Sessions: Improve your playing or singing, solo or in groups.</p> <p>Composition Workshops: Create music with instruments and digital tools.</p> <p>Listening and Analysis: Study and interpret various musical genres.</p> <p>Technology Integration: Record and produce music using modern software.</p> <p>Collaborative Projects: Work with peers on performances or scores.</p> <p>Personalised Feedback: Get tailored advice to enhance your skills.</p>
<h3>What Will I Learn?</h3> <p>Performance: Build technique and confidence in playing or singing.</p> <p>Theory: Study rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.</p> <p>Composition: how to create your own music, freely or to a brief.</p> <p>Contexts: Learn about styles and traditions.</p> <p>Listening: Analyse and critique music.</p> <p>Technology: Recording and editing music using state of the art Music Tech in our Mac Suite.</p>	<h3>Where Will This Qualification Take Me?</h3> <p>Further study at KS5 – RSL level 3 Music Performance or Technology at WCA, musician, composer, music teacher, sound engineer, music therapist, producer, conductor, musical director, event manager, arts administrator, music journalist, orchestral performer, studio technician, A&R (Artists and Repertoire) representative, or even a film or video game score composer.</p>



<h2>Drama (OCR)</h2>	
<h3>Assessment Method</h3> <p>100% Coursework and Examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1: Devising Drama (30%) – Create and perform a piece of original theatre and submit a portfolio documenting your creative process. • Component 2: Presenting and Performing Texts (30%) – Perform two extracts from a published play and be assessed on your acting skills. • Component 3: Drama: Performance and Response (40%) – Written exam, including evaluation of a live performance and analysis of a set text. <p>Specification Link: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/drama-j316-from-2016/</p>	
<h3>Why Should I Follow This Course?</h3> <p>GCSE Drama develops creativity, confidence, and communication skills, making it an excellent choice for students who enjoy performance and storytelling. You'll explore theatre styles, work collaboratively, and gain insight into the creative processes behind dramatic productions. This subject equips you with skills valued in the arts, media, and many other industries.</p>	<h3>What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?</h3> <p>Practical Workshops: Engage in acting, devising, and directing activities to develop performance skills.</p> <p>Group Work: Collaborate with peers to create and rehearse original pieces.</p> <p>Textual Analysis: Study and interpret scripts to explore themes and character development.</p> <p>Live Theatre Visits: Analyse and evaluate professional productions.</p> <p>Portfolio Development: Document your creative process and reflections in coursework.</p> <p>Feedback and Coaching: Receive tailored guidance to refine acting techniques and performance styles.</p>
<h3>What Will I Learn?</h3> <p>Devising Skills: How to create original performances from a stimulus.</p> <p>Acting Techniques: Develop vocal, physical, and interpretive skills for stage performance.</p> <p>Textual Interpretation: Understand dramatic texts and explore themes, characters, and staging.</p> <p>Production Roles: Gain insight into directing, lighting, costume, and set design.</p> <p>Critical Evaluation: Learn to analyze and critique live and recorded performances.</p> <p>Collaborative Skills: Work effectively as part of a creative team.</p>	<h3>Where Will This Qualification Take Me?</h3> <p>Actor, director, playwright, screenwriter, stage manager, lighting designer, sound technician, theatre producer, drama therapist, arts administrator, casting director, teacher, or TV and film producer, retail, travel and tourism, event organizer, law</p>



<h2>Photography (AQA)</h2>	
<h3>Assessment Method</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 60% Coursework Portfolio – Showcase your creativity and technical skills through a series of photography projects.• 40% Externally Set Task – Complete a final project based on an assigned theme during a 10-hour supervised session. <p>Specification Link: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201/specification/subject-content/photography#Photography</p>	
<h3>Why Should I Follow This Course?</h3> <p>Learn through hands-on photography workshops, experimenting with both digital and traditional film techniques. Use editing software to transform your images and explore topics such as composition, lighting, and visual storytelling. Collaborate with peers during feedback sessions to refine your work and study the styles of influential photographers to inspire your projects.</p>	<h3>What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical Workshops – Learn essential skills like Photoshop, using DSLR's and studio lighting.• Creative Exploration – Experiment with a variety of media including alternative methods and surfaces as well as digital tools.• Project-Based Learning – Work to set themes to apply your knowledge and skills.• Critique Sessions – Share your work and receive feedback to refine your designs and concepts.• Artistic Research – Study and take inspiration from artists and photographers.
<h3>What Will I Learn?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Techniques in digital photography, film photography, and post-production editing.• Composition principles, lighting techniques, and image manipulation.• How to analyze and critique photographic works.• Developing skills in storytelling, portrait, landscape, and macro photography.• Areas of study including traditional techniques, digital file management, contemporary photography, visual communication, studio photography, and experimental photography.	<h3>Where Will This Qualification Take Me?</h3> <p>Photographer, gallery curator, creative director Digital content creator, social media manager, visual merchandiser, art therapist, forensic photographer, photo editor, photography equipment technician, photography teacher, visual effects artist.</p>



PE (Pearson)	
Assessment Method	
<p>Practical Performance: Assessed in three different sports, making up 30% of the final grade.</p> <p>Coursework: Written PEP (Personal Exercise Plan)</p> <p>Theory: Two written examinations. Component 1: 80 marks and 1 hour 30 minutes). Component 2: 60 marks (1 hour 15 minutes), contributing 60% of the overall final grade.</p> <p>Meeting the criteria to choose GCSE PE: Perform 3 physical activities to a good standard (see the specification link for further details of which physical activities are accepted). You must participate in a sport outside of school to a good standard.</p> <p>Specification Link: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/physical-education-2016.html</p>	
Why Should I Follow This Course?	What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?
<p>GCSE Physical Education is a dynamic course blending practical and theoretical knowledge of sports, health, and fitness. Students explore how the body works, fitness maintenance, and the impact of psychology on performance. It develops teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while fostering a lifelong commitment to wellness, preparing students for further study and careers in sports, health sciences, or coaching.</p>	<p>Practical Sessions: Engage in various sports activities to improve performance and skills. You will only have 1 practical lesson from 5 lessons per fortnight</p> <p>Group Activities: Collaborate with peers to analyse, critique, and enhance performance.</p> <p>Interactive Classes: Explore topics like anatomy, fitness, and sports ethics in an engaging way.</p> <p>Personalized Feedback: Receive tailored support to improve theoretical understanding and practical skills.</p> <p>Scenario-Based Learning: Apply knowledge to real-world challenges in fitness and performance evaluation.</p>
What Will I Learn?	Where Will This Qualification Take Me?
<p>Applied Anatomy and Physiology: Study how body systems contribute to movement and performance.</p> <p>Movement Analysis: Explore biomechanics to optimize physical activities.</p> <p>Physical Training: Learn how to design and apply effective fitness routines.</p> <p>Sports Psychology: Understand how the mind influences motivation and performance.</p> <p>Socio-Cultural Influences: Examine how society impacts participation in sports.</p> <p>Health, Fitness, and Wellbeing: Discover how to maintain mental and physical health through active living.</p>	<p>Personal trainer, physiotherapist, sports coach, fitness instructor, PE teacher, sports psychologist, nutritionist, sports analyst, event manager, recreational therapist, occupational therapist, physiologist, strength and conditioning coach, sports photographer, and sports journalist</p>



<h2>Sociology (AQA)</h2>	
<h3>Assessment Method</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education (50%, 1 hour 45 minutes). • Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification (50%, 1 hour 45 minutes). 	
<p>Exam board link: AQA Sociology GCSE GCSE Sociology</p>	
<h3>Why Should I Follow This Course?</h3> <p>GCSE Sociology helps you understand how society works and how people interact. It builds critical thinking, analytical, and writing skills while encouraging empathy and cultural awareness. Ideal for those curious about social issues, human behaviour, and societal change, this course suits anyone passionate about exploring inequality, social policies, or debating current topics.</p>	<h3>What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?</h3> <p>Case studies: Analyse real-life scenarios related to family structures, crime, and inequality.</p> <p>Group Discussions: Debate differing Sociological perspectives on a range of societal issues.</p> <p>Exam based focus: develop skills throughout your lessons</p>
<h3>What Will I Learn?</h3> <p>The Sociology of Families: Explore the structure and role of families and how they have changed over time.</p> <p>Education: Examine the role of education in society, the factors influencing achievement, and how social class, gender, and ethnicity are linked to performance.</p> <p>Crime and Deviance: Study the causes and consequences of crime, theories about deviance, and how it is tackled in society.</p> <p>Social Stratification: Understand how society is layered, including aspects like class, power, and inequality.</p> <p>Sociological Theories and Perspectives: Learn about key thinkers and concepts in Sociology, including functionalism, Marxism, and feminist approaches.</p> <p>Research Methods: Gain insight into how sociologists conduct research and analyse data.</p>	<h3>Where Will This Qualification Take Me?</h3> <p>Social worker, human resources officer, psychologist, teacher, journalist, market researcher, probation officer, youth worker, community development officer, public relations officer, civil servant, lawyer, sociologist, counsellor, or charity worker. These professions span industries such as education, government, healthcare, media, and social services.</p>



<h2>Business Studies (Eduqas)</h2>	
<h3>Assessment Method</h3> <p>100% Examination of 2 papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1: Business Dynamics (62.5%, 2 hours). • Component 2: Business Considerations (37.5%, 1 hour 30 minutes). <p>Specification link: GCSE Specification</p>	
<h3>Why Should I Follow This Course?</h3> <p>This course will provide students with all the business knowledge and skills required for working in a business environment, running a business or just interacting with businesses as part of your daily life.</p> <p>What is particularly desirable about studying Business at GCSE is the insight it gives to real life situations, and key aspects of the real Business world.</p>	<h3>What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?</h3> <p>Case Studies: Explore real-world examples of business decisions.</p> <p>Interactive Learning: Participate in discussions.</p> <p>Numerical Analysis: Develop skills to interpret financial and business data.</p> <p>Personalized Feedback: Receive individual guidance to strengthen exam techniques.</p>
<h3>What Will I Learn?</h3> <p>Business Activity: Compare sole traders, partnerships, and corporations.</p> <p>Operations: Understand production methods, quality and supply chains.</p> <p>Human Resources: Discover recruitment processes, employee motivation, and training.</p> <p>Finance: Explore profit calculations, break-even analysis, and cash flow.</p> <p>Marketing: Learn how markets are segmented and about the marketing mix.</p> <p>Influences: Analyse how businesses respond to economic factors, environmental, technological, ethical, legal challenges and the impact of globalisation.</p>	<h3>Where Will This Qualification Take Me?</h3> <p>Possible careers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accountancy, Banking and Finance ▪ Business Management ▪ Retail ▪ Sales and Marketing ▪ Engineering and Operations Management ▪ Small Business Ownership <p>Further education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Level Business Studies ▪ BTEC Business Courses ▪ A Level Accounting and Finance ▪ Professional Courses



<h2>Computer Science (OCR)</h2>	
Assessment Method	
100% Examination of 2 papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 1 – Computer Systems (50%, 1 Hour 30 Minutes).• Component 2 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (50%, 1 Hour 30 Minutes). Specification link: GCSE Specification Template	
Why Should I Follow This Course?	What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?
<p>Computing affects so many parts of our lives. Whether you wish to continue with your studies or go into the work place, you will benefit from a better understanding of Computer Science by completing this course.</p> <p>Employers place enormous value on Computer Science skills, and this course will stand you in good stead for entering into employment.</p> <p>Computer Science itself is also offered by universities, either as a subject in its own right or in a combination with other subjects. This course may also lead to other computing-based courses such as software design.</p>	<p>Theory Lessons: Lessons in the theory behind different topics</p> <p>Practical Programming: The opportunity to undertake programming tasks</p> <p>Personalized Feedback: Receive individual guidance to strengthen exam techniques.</p>
What Will I Learn?	Where Will This Qualification Take Me?
<p>A variety of topics are taught across the two papers including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security, system software, ethical, legal, cultural, environmental concerns• computational thinking, algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators	<p>Possible careers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Software Developer and Tester▪ System Analyst▪ Engineer▪ Web Developer▪ Games Designer▪ Ethical Hackers <p>Further education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A Level Computer Science▪ Degree Courses



<h2>BTEC Health and Social Care (Pearson)</h2>	
<h3>Assessment Method</h3> <p>Two internal assessments (coursework) and one external examination. Units studied:</p> <p>Unit 1- Human Lifespan and Development (controlled assessment) Unit 2 – Health and Social Care Service and Values (controlled assessment) Unit 3 – Health and Wellbeing (external exam)</p> <p>Exam board link: Health & Social Care (2022) BTEC Tech Award Pearson qualifications</p>	
<h3>Why Should I Follow This Course?</h3> <p>BTEC Health and Social Care is an excellent choice for students interested in understanding how to support individuals across different stages of life. This course builds knowledge about human development, health and social care practices, and the skills needed to provide effective support to others. It prepares students for both higher education and practical roles in the healthcare and social care sectors.</p>	<h3>What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?</h3> <p>Case Studies and Role-Playing: Understand real-life scenarios in health and social care.</p> <p>Group Projects: Collaborate with peers working on a range of Health and Social care topics.</p> <p>Hands-On Practical Work: chance to work with equipment that is used by health care professionals</p> <p>Guest Lectures and Workshops: Insights from professionals in health and social care fields.</p>
<h3>What Will I Learn?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Lifespan Development • Health and Social Care Services and Values • Effective Communication in Health and Social Care • Promoting Health and Wellbeing • Equality, Diversity, and Rights • The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing 	<h3>Where Will This Qualification Take Me?</h3> <p>Health: Nursing, Midwife, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, paramedic Early Years: Nursery Nurse, Nursery Teacher, Play worker, Teaching Assistant, teacher</p> <p>Social Care: Social worker, Youth Worker, Care Assistant, Care Home Manager</p>



Hospitality and Catering (WJEC Vocational Award)

Assessment Method

- **Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40%):** A written exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, testing theoretical knowledge of the industry.
- **Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action (60%):** A controlled assessment where students plan, prepare, and cook dishes to meet a specific brief.

Specification link [WJEC ENTRY LEVEL FRAMEWORK SPECIFICATION](#)

Why Should I Follow This Course?

This course is ideal for students who are passionate about food, customer service, and understanding the hospitality industry. It offers practical cooking skills alongside an understanding of how the hospitality sector operates, including nutrition, menu planning, and event organization. The course is a great foundation for careers in food service, event management, or professional catering.

What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?

Practical Cooking Sessions: Hands-on practice in food preparation and presentation techniques.

Theory Lessons: Understanding the principles of nutrition, hygiene, and the hospitality industry.

Group Projects: Collaborative tasks such as menu planning and event organization.

Industry Insights: Guest speakers and case studies to learn from real-world experiences.

Problem-Solving Tasks: Designing solutions for industry-specific challenges like dietary needs or service styles.

Personalized Feedback: Regular teacher support to improve both practical and theoretical skills.

What Will I Learn?

Hospitality and Catering Industry: Understanding business operations, job roles, and industry challenges.

Food Preparation and Cooking Skills: Practical skills in handling ingredients, using equipment, and presenting dishes.

Menu Planning: Designing menus for specific dietary needs and customer requirements.

Health and Safety: Best practices in hygiene, food safety, and workplace safety.

Nutrition and Diet: Understanding balanced diets and the impact of food on health.

Environmental and Ethical Issues: Exploring sustainable and ethical practices in the industry.

Where Will This Qualification Take Me?

Chef, preparing delicious meals in various settings; Restaurant Manager, overseeing operations and ensuring customer satisfaction; Event Planner, organizing and coordinating events; Hotel Manager, managing hotel operations and guest services; Catering Manager, planning and executing catering services; Food and Beverage Manager, supervising food and drink services; Pastry Chef, specializing in baking and desserts; Barista, crafting coffee and beverages; Sommelier, advising on wine selections; and Hospitality Consultant, providing expert advice to improve hospitality businesses.



Engineering (WJEC Vocational Award)

Assessment Method

- **Controlled Assessment (40%):** A practical design and make task based on a brief set by WJEC.
- **Written Examination (60%):** A 2-hour exam assessing knowledge and understanding of engineering principles.

Specification link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-engineering/#tab_keydocuments

Why Should I Follow This Course?

Engineering with WJEC is a fantastic choice for building essential skills and a solid foundation for the future. This course emphasizes hands-on learning, helping you develop key practical skills like problem-solving, technical knowledge, and design expertise. It prepares you for exciting careers in industries such as aerospace, mechanical, electrical, or renewable energy engineering. The mix of real-world applications and theory ensures that you're ready for further education or to step straight into employment. Engineering skills remain highly relevant and in demand across many growing industries, making this qualification a versatile and valuable steppingstone for your ambitions.

What Will I Learn?

Engineering Design: Principles of design and innovation.

Materials and Manufacturing Processes: Understanding materials, their properties, and manufacturing techniques.

Engineering Systems: Study of mechanical, electrical, and electronic systems.

CAD and CAM: Introduction to computer-aided design and manufacturing tools.

Sustainability in Engineering: Exploring environmental and ethical considerations in engineering.

Health and Safety: Understanding safe working practices in engineering environments.

What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?

Practical Workshops: Hands-on experience in designing and creating engineering solutions.

Team Projects: Collaborative tasks to solve real-world engineering challenges.

Digital Tools: Use of CAD (Computer-Aided Design) software and simulations.

Case Studies: Learning from real-world engineering projects and innovations.

Problem-Solving Tasks: Applying mathematical and scientific principles to design challenges.

Feedback and Reflection: Regular assessments to refine practical and theoretical skills.

Where Will This Qualification Take Me?

Mechanical Engineer, designing and developing machinery; Electrical Engineer, working with electrical systems and components; Civil Engineer, planning and constructing infrastructure projects; Aerospace Engineer, focusing on aircraft and spacecraft; Automotive Engineer, innovating in vehicle design and production; Renewable Energy Engineer, developing sustainable energy solutions; Robotics Engineer, creating automated systems; Manufacturing Engineer, optimizing production processes; Quality Control Engineer, ensuring product standards; and Maintenance Engineer, maintaining and improving equipment performance.



Design & Technology (AQA)

Assessment Method

- **50% Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)** – Focus on designing and making a prototype in response to a contextual challenge.
- **50% Written Exam** – Test knowledge of core technical and designing principles (2 hours).

Specification link:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification>

Why Should I Follow This Course?

Design and Technology GCSE is perfect for students interested in understanding how products are designed and manufactured. It combines creativity with practical skills, encouraging innovation and problem-solving. This course is ideal for those who enjoy working with materials and technology to create functional and aesthetic products.

What Teaching and Learning Methods Will Be Used?

- **Practical Workshops:** Engage in hands-on projects to design and create products.
- **Design Challenges:** Solve real-world problems through innovative design solutions.
- **Digital Tools:** Use CAD software to develop and test design ideas.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Work in teams to tackle design briefs and projects.

What Will I Learn?

- The design process from concept to creation, including research, prototyping, and evaluation.
- How to use a variety of materials and tools safely and effectively.
- The impact of design and technology on society and the environment.
- Skills in using digital technologies for design and manufacturing.

Where Will This Qualification Take Me?

Product Designer, Architect, Interior Designer, Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Fashion Designer, Graphic Designer, Manufacturing Engineer, CAD Technician, Industrial Designer, Automotive Engineer, Packaging Designer, UX/UI Designer, Furniture Designer, Set Designer, Sustainability Consultant, Robotics Technician, 3D Printing Specialist, and Visual Merchandiser.