

MY OPTIONS MY CHOICE MY FUTURE

Year 9



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DEAR STUDENT



Over the past few weeks you spent a lot of time focusing on key skills and the world of work.

In this booklet you will find information about all of the courses which will run at Dormers Wells High School next year. You will have choices to make which are amongst the most important decisions you will make whilst at school. You will be able to choose from a wide range of subjects.

Everyone must study:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical education
- CPSHE
- Religious education

You will then have to make up to three additional choices.

The school will help you as much as it can so that you can start Year 10 with the best selection of courses for you. Just a word of warning, we will be restricted by numbers. We may need to ask you to take up your reserve choices. You should not be disappointed by this – whatever happens, we will help you make the best choices possible.

For many students, it is the expectation that two of these choices will be Ebacc subjects, this will include a language, science and a humanities subject. The Ebacc is a measure of academic success. In order to gain this qualification students need to secure a good grade in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography or History
- French or Spanish

Make sure you read this booklet carefully to find out as much as you can about all of these subjects before you make a choice. Make sure that you ask for, and listen to advice from teachers in subject areas, Mr Parmar, Ms Konieczna and our connexions advisor, Ms Kaur. The Connexions service will be able to advise you in particular about your plans for further education and your future career.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher

CHARACTER VALUES

Our vision is to empower students so that they are able to take control of their own future and have enhanced life chances as a result of learning with us. We are academically ambitious for our students: everyone matters.

Our staff and students worked together to identify the values that sum us up our character as a school. The executive student council made the final decision that these were the values we all strive to embody at Dormers Wells High School, in everything we do:

- Determination: We never give up
- Wisdom: We respond to problems in a calm and balanced way
- Honesty: We are open and true to ourselves and others
- Service: We contribute to our school and to the wider community

Dormers Wells High School students are independent learners, who are critical in their thinking, informed in their choices and confident in their ability to succeed in the modern world. Our students are respectful and tolerant, driven and confident, and who strive for the best. In addition to their academic lives. Our students benefit from extra-curricular experiences in the arts, sport and culture, which will help them become well rounded balanced adults.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE English Language

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Students will:

- Cover a range of texts and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts
- Have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage enquiry into different topics and themes
- Learn how to write imaginatively while demonstrating confident control of Standard English, using grammatically correct sentences
- Learn how to analyse texts using a critical style

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

The assessment is 100% exam with the 1-9 grading system.

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks (50% of GCSE)

Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)

1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks (50% of GCSE)

Non-examination assessment: Spoken Language (0% of GCSE)

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Visit the website below, where there is up-to-date information on the 1-9 specification for English Language.

<https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zcbchv4>

Ask your English teacher to see an example 'Paper 1' for English Language.

CAREERS LINKS

- Writing
- Journalism
- Law
- Marketing and PR
- Editing
- Education
- Media
- Web content management



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE English Literature

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The current GCSE English Literature syllabus is designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, no matter what their level of ability.

Students will:

- Study a range of modern and pre-1914 literature, including 19th-century novels and Shakespeare
- Look closely at literary conventions and authorial voice in poetry, prose and drama
- Develop an imaginative and exploratory approach to critical reading and writing
- Learn strategies that support their achievement in an untiered (no Foundation/Higher), closed-book exam through the use of extract-based questions

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

The assessment is 100% exam with the 1-9 grading system.

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

1 hour 50 minutes

64 marks (40% of GCSE)

Paper 2 – Modern texts and poetry

2 hour 15 minutes

96 marks (60% of GCSE)

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

Visit the website below where there is up-to-date information on the 1-9 specification for English Literature.

<https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zxqncwx>,

Ask your English teacher or the librarian for a book recommendation to prepare you for GCSE English Literature.

TEXTS ON THE COURSE

- Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'
- 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
- 'An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestley
- 'Power and Conflict' poetry cluster
- Thematic poetry anthology

CAREERS LINKS

- Writing
- Journalism
- Law
- Marketing and PR
- Editing
- Education
- Media
- Web content management

CHALLENGE

Write a short review and be ready to discuss it with your teacher .

- 'Bleak House' by Charles Dickens
- 'The Dark is Rising' by Susan Cooper
- 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley
- 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell (political fable – 'An Inspector Calls')
- 'North and South' by Elizabeth Gaskell (social class and the Industrial Revolution 'An Inspector Calls')
- 'All Quiet On The Western Front' by Erich Maria Remarque (war – Power and Conflict poetry)

LIBRARY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 'Gaslight' by Eloise Williams (Victorian London)
- 'The Last of the Spirits' by Chris Priestley (Victorian London, Ghost story)
- 'The Snow Sister' by Emma Carroll (Christmas)
- 'Box of Delights' by John Masefield (Christmas)
- 'Ruby in the Smoke' by Philip Pullman (Victorian London)
- 'The Clockwork Crow' by Catherine Fisher (Victorian London, Christmas)
- 'Twelve Minutes to Midnight' by Christopher Edge (Victorian London)
- 'Street Child' Berlie Doherty (Victorian London)



MATHEMATICS

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Mathematics

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The content has been organised into the following broad topic areas listed below.

The weighting of the topic areas has been prescribed by Ofqual and is common to all exam boards. The table below shows the approximate weighting.

Topic area:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio
- Geometry
- Probability and statistics

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Two tier papers – higher (grades 4-9) and foundation (grades 1-5).

Students will sit the linear exam which is based on three written assessments. The questions will be 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. All content can be assessed on any of the three question papers. As such, some questions will draw together elements of maths from different topic areas.

Paper 1: Calculator not allowed

33⅓% of the total marks

1 hour 30 minute exam (80 marks available).

Paper 2: Calculator allowed

33⅓% of the total marks

1 hour 30 minute exam (80 marks available).

Paper 3: Calculator allowed

33⅓% of the total marks

1 hour 30 minute exam (80 marks available).

CAREERS LINKS

- Accountancy
- Architecture
- Banking and Finance/ Economics
- Biology / Chemistry / Physics / Medicine
- Computing/Computer Sciences
- Electrical/Electronic Engineering
- Education
- Environmental Sciences
- Marine Engineering

CHALLENGE

The sum of two numbers a and b is 7 and the difference between them is 2. What is the product ab ?



SEPARATE SCIENCES

Examination board: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE Biology, Chemistry & Physics

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

If you study Separate Sciences, you will study the 3 GCSE Sciences, biology, chemistry and physics in greater depth. This course will suit those students who are considering studying sciences at A Level and beyond, and have a strong interest in science. In addition to the combined science content, separate scientists will learn additional topics including polymers, astronomy and brain function. Due to the demanding nature of the course, students who take Separate Science would need to be performing highly in Science, Maths and English. All students will study the GCSE Combined Science content until the end of Year 9, all of which appears in the Separate Science course. At the end of Year 9, the top performing students will be selected to complete Separate Sciences. Separate Sciences is not an option, but is based on students' performance across Year 9. Only those suitable for the course will be selected. For more detail on the additional topics taught in Separate Sciences, please view the specifications on the Edexcel website.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

All students will sit six examinations (2 in Biology, 2 in Chemistry, 2 in Physics) across the 3 GCSEs at the end of Year 11. Each paper is an hour and 45 minutes long. Each subject will have questions covering the following assessment objectives:

40% AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, techniques and procedures.

40% AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, enquiry, techniques and procedures.

20% AO3: Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate, make judgments and draw conclusions, develop and improve experimental procedures.

CAREERS LINKS

- Agricultural Scientist
- Archaeologist
- Biology Researcher
- Biomechanics Engineer
- Biomedical Engineer /Researcher / Scientist
- Cytologist
- Data Analyst / Ecologist, Education
- Forensic Psychologist Scientist
- Gene Analyst/Geneticist, Genomics Researcher
- Immunologist
- Marine Biologist
- Microbiologist
- Molecular Biologist
- Mycologist
- Oceanographer
- Pathologist
- Pharmacologist
- Pharmacist
- Toxicologist
- Veterinarian,
- Virologist
- Zoologist

CHALLENGE

- Scans of the brain are able to show us blood clots, haemorrhage, tissue damage and cancer growth. What are the different types of brain scan and how do they work?
- Flame tests can be used to identify the presence of certain ions in a solid. What are flame tests and how do the ions cause the flame to change colour?
- What is the expected life cycle of a star larger than our sun?



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Non examined

Core

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

All students in Year 10 and Year 11 will participate in one hour of Religious Studies a fortnight. You will take an active part in exploring the role of religion today on a local, national and global level. We will look at ethical issues, philosophical issues and religion in the news today.

TOPICS WHICH ARE COVERED INCLUDE:

- The Parables of Jesus: The Good Samaritan
- The Pro-Life/Pro-Choice debate: What do different religions teach about the sanctity of life?
- Pacifism: Students will look at the views of pacifists and how these fit with religious teaching. They will study the life of Desmond Doss
- Euthanasia and assisted dying - do people have a right to die?
- Abortion - should it be legal and issues surrounding sanctity of life?
- Shamima Begum the Isis bride - should she be allowed to return to the UK?
- The study of rebirth and reincarnation through the film Groundhog day.
- The study of the Christian concept of God; Trinity through the film The Shack.

CAREERS LINKS

- Law eg. Solicitor, Barrister, Legal Executive
- Psychologist eg. Forensic Psychologist, CBT Therapist, Child Psychologist
- Cognitive Psychologist
- Teacher
- Banking
- Politics
- Accountancy,
- Consultancy
- Youth Worker
- Charity Sector
- Clergy

CHALLENGE

- What are the views of a pacifist?
- Can you find out what makes Desmond Doss so special?



Non examined

Core

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

All students study this course. The course offers a curriculum that aims to provide the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for students to make informed choices about their lives and their future. For example, students will investigate issues surrounding parenthood and exploitation, as well as investigating options for transition after Year 11. Students use multimedia to investigate homophobic bullying, options for year 12 and developing emotional health. Citizenship issues such as government, the European Union, United Nations and the law are also explored.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

CPSHE is assessed internally.

CAREERS LINKS

The course is a sound basis for future training, higher education or employment. It will develop the thinking skills and understanding that underpin a range of careers, including law, teaching, armed forces, politics, police, social work or civil service.

CHALLENGE

- Create a campaign to raise awareness of an issue that is important to you.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Non examined

Core

AIMS

Throughout year 10 and 11 all students will take part in compulsory Physical Education lessons, the aims of these lessons are as follows:

- Develop competitive play in a variety of activities
- Promote a healthy lifestyle
- Offer a range of activities
- Promote lifelong participation in sport
- Develop teamwork and communication skills

CONTENT

Students will be given different options every half term; these will reflect the needs of the students and the facilities that are available. Activities include: exercise to music, aerobics, handball, netball, football, basketball, badminton.

WILL THERE BE AN EXAM FOR THIS SUBJECT?

Students may have the opportunity to complete sports leaders/officiating qualifications during their Physical Education lessons, however this is not an exam subject.

CAREERS LINKS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| • Physiotherapy | • Sport Analyst |
| • Police | • Nutritionist |
| • Sport Psychologist | • Sport journalist |
| • Psychologist | • PE Teacher |
| • Sports Coach | • Education |
| • Sports Scientist | |

CHALLENGE

- Name the agonist and the antagonist muscles used when performing a bicep curl.
- The heart has four main chambers, What are the chambers names?



ART AND DESIGN

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Art

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

- In the GCSE Art and Design course students will enjoy:
- Practicing ideas and techniques with imagination
- Developing ideas within a chosen theme
- Exploring and experimenting with a variety of materials
- Drawing, sketching, pastel work, painting, ICT, print making, graphics
- 3-D work including clay, plaster, papier maché and wire.

The broad themes are project based and have a starting point from real life. We look at the work of artists and designers, and artwork from other cultures to support the projects. This includes the school environment, local culture and visits to art galleries and museums. This is a totally practical subject and students will need to do extra practical work at home. Home learning is set each week and is essential as it contributes to the coursework. Students will be working in sketchbooks which have to be submitted along with other coursework.

Further art education is very rewarding and competitive. As well as an art and design qualification students will need good results in other subjects to go on to art school. Whether students are thinking of a career in art in the future or not, GCSE Art & Design will be highly enjoyable and will provide a useful and highly valued qualification.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Controlled Assessment – set and marked by centre and moderated by AQA. 96 marks – 60%

Students will produce a portfolio of work consisting of a sustained project and a selection of further work.

Externally Set Task - question papers issued in January.

Marked by centre and moderated by AQA. 96 marks – 40%

Students respond to their chosen starting point in a 10 hour exam.

The grade awarded will depend upon the extent to which the student has met the assessment objectives.

CAREERS LINKS

Fine artist, Illustrator, Photographer, Animator, Graphic Designer, Arts Administrator, Exhibition Designer, Education, Community Arts Worker, Art Gallery Manager

CHALLENGE

- Research some artists whose artwork you admire.
- Create a piece of artwork influenced by an artist of your choice.
- Analyse how different mediums can create textures similar to the artists you researched.



CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Qualification: L1/L2 GCSE (9-1) Citizenship Studies

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Citizenship Studies is about how people take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally. Students will learn about power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system, and the role of the UK in the wider world. They will explore and learn about different controversial and topical issues with political, social, ethical, economic and environmental dimensions in a local to global context. They will experience taking citizenship action and learn from making a difference in society themselves.

Unit 1 Year 10

Theme A: Living together in the UK

Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK

Theme C: Law and justice

Unit 2 Year 11

Theme D: Power and influence

Theme E: Taking citizenship action

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

There are three assessment objectives:

AO1- Engage with topical citizenship issues and contribute to debates on challenges facing society involving a wide range of political, social and ethical ideas, issues and problems in different contexts.

AO2- Develop and apply understanding of key citizenship concepts to deepen understanding of society and how communities change over time.

AO3- Develop the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to take action with others to address citizenship issues in communities.

All topics are examined at the end of the course in two separate paper 1 hour and 45 minute exam papers, worth 100% of the grade.

CAREERS LINKS

The course is a sound basis for future training, higher education or employment. It will develop the thinking skills and understanding that underpin a range of careers, including law, teaching, armed forces, politics, police, social work or civil service.

CHALLENGE

- What are the views of a capitalist and a socialist?
- Does your local area have a good sense of community?
- How would the British public react if the government banned immigration to the UK?
- Can rights in the workplace ever be successful without responsibilities in the workplace?



COMBINED SCIENCE

Examination board: Edexcel (Pearson)

Qualification: GCSE Combined Science

You will earn 2 GCSE grades. Students who take Combined Science can still progress onto A Levels if they achieve at least one grade 6.

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Science is a compulsory core subject divided broadly into Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Teaching for the Combined Science GCSE starts at the beginning of Year 9. Students will study a wide breadth of topics in all 3 subjects including cells and control in Biology, extracting metals and equilibria in Chemistry and light and the electromagnetic spectrum in Physics. For more detail please view the specification on the Edexcel website. For information on Triple Science please see the "Triple Science" page.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

All students will sit six examinations (2 in Biology, 2 in Chemistry, 2 in Physics) in combined science at the end of Year 11. Each paper is an hour and 10 minutes long. Each subject will have questions covering the following assessment objectives:

40% AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, techniques and procedures.

40% AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, enquiry, techniques and procedures.

20% AO3: Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate, make judgments and draw conclusions, develop and improve experimental procedures.

CAREERS LINKS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Agricultural scientist | • Scientist |
| • Archaeologist | • Gene Analyst/Geneticist |
| • Biology Researcher | • Genomics Researcher |
| • Biomechanics Engineer | • Immunologist |
| • Biomedical Engineer | • Marine Biologist |
| • Conservationist | • Microbiologist |
| • Cytologist | • Molecular Biologist |
| • Data Analyst/Scientist | • Mycologist |
| • Ecologist | • Oceanographer |
| • Forensic Psychologist | • Pathologist |

CHALLENGE

- What is mitosis?
- What is its role in the development of cancer?
- Why is crude oil in such high demand?
- How do we know the core of the Earth is magnetic?



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Examination board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE Computer Science

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

We aim to give learners a real in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will gain an insight into what goes on "behind the monitor" by looking at hardware components, networks and CPU architecture. They will also look at systems software and development methodologies. Students will spend a significant amount of time programming.

This course provides an excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. They will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.

Students will be expected to immerse themselves in programming, including practice at home. (They will have to install software and configure their personal computer to do so.)

COURSE OUTLINE

The course consists of three units, the assessment is outlined below. Students will build upon the programming skills they have developed in year 9 by learning more advanced techniques. They will then apply their knowledge in developing algorithms providing solutions to a widening range of problems of increasing difficulty. This will help them to develop the resilience and thinking skills to work independently on their programming project, and prepare them for their unit 2 examination.

Students will also have discrete theory lessons where they will cover hardware, the functions of systems software, network architecture, binary arithmetic, hexadecimal, data representation and other topics. This will prepare students for both unit 1 and 2 examinations.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Pupils will be entered for three units:

Unit 1 - Computer Systems - Exam (1½ hours) worth 50% of the total GCSE marks

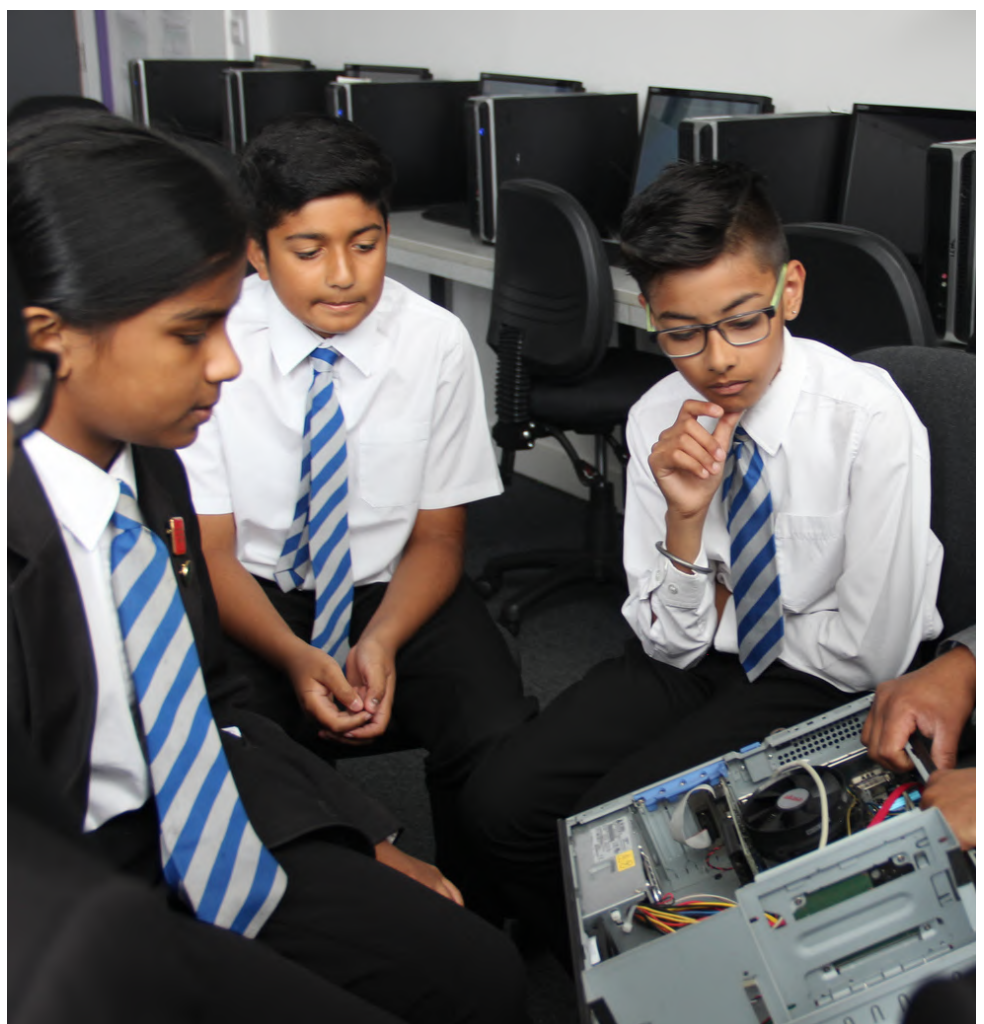
Unit 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - Exam (1½ hours) worth 50% of the total GCSE marks

CAREERS LINKS

Software Developer, Database Administrator, Computer Hardware Engineer, Computer Systems Analyst, Computer Network Architect, Education, Web Developer, Information Security Analyst, Computer Programmer.

CHALLENGE

- What programming languages do we teach at DWHS and why?



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Design & Technology

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

You will have the opportunity to design products using technical skills, working in a wide range of materials to model, prototype and manufacture your designs into a outcome. Through designing and making, you will look at product issues and demonstrate skills in communication, investigation, analysis, design, manufacture and evaluation. You will be expected to choose and work with appropriate materials, components, tools and equipment, use specialist techniques and processes to shape, construct and assemble a high-quality prototype, appropriate to the materials and/or components used.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 (50%):

Design and Technology (Written examination) 2 hours- 100 marks
A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing your knowledge and understanding of:

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Along with your ability to analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology

Component 2 (50%):

Design and make task (Non-exam assessment)

Approximately 35 hours- 100 marks

A design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board, assessing your ability to:

- Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes
- Analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

CHALLENGE

Develop a food product with a packaging solution that minimises environmental impact. Research how sustainable brands meet customer needs and apply this to your design. You could also create 3D prototypes or CAD designs of your packaging.

CAREERS LINKS

- Fashion Designer
- Illustrator
- Printer
- Architecture
- Animation
- Product Design
- Aerodynamic Design



DRAMA

Examination board: EDUQAS

Qualification: GCSE Drama

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

GCSE Drama is an exciting course which allows students the opportunity to explore a variety of performance styles and texts. Students are able to create their own pieces of theatre, perform existing play texts and analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others. The course also involves trips to the theatre to see live performances.

Component 1: Devising

Learners will research and explore a stimulus, then work collaboratively to create their own unique devised performance. These performances are performed to an audience. Students will create an accompanying portfolio (that details their devising process) and write an evaluation of the final performance. Students can either choose to be a performer or a designer for this unit. Designers can specialise in costume, lighting or sound. This unit is assessed internally and is worth 40% of the GCSE grade.

Component 2: Performing a text

Students will perform two short extracts from a play text. Students will rehearse and perform with the aim of achieving their chosen artistic intentions. Students can either choose to be a performer or a designer for this unit. Designers can specialise in costume, lighting or sound. This unit is assessed internally and is worth 20% of the GCSE grade.

Component 3: Written Exam

Section A: Learners will practically explore a modern, exciting and challenging performance text (play). Students will have to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how this play can be performed in a written exam. Students will need to answer questions from the perspective of an actor, director and designer. **Section B:** Learners will visit the theatre to watch a professional, live performance. Students will be required to analyse and evaluate this live theatre performance. This is assessed as an essay question in the written paper. This unit is assessed externally and is worth 40% of the GCSE grade.

What can the qualification lead to?

Taking a Drama GCSE enables learners to develop their interpersonal and communication skills. Students are required to develop their creative thinking and their ability to work collaboratively with others, as well as their academic and literacy skills. The skills and knowledge learnt during a Drama GCSE are transferable to a variety of A-Levels, University degrees and careers beyond school.

CAREERS LINKS

- Director
- Performer
- Designer
- Lawyer
- Drama Therapist,
- Performance Artist
- Artistic Director
- Events Manager
- Teacher
- Lecturer
- Producer
- TV / Radio Presenter



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

You will gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. This will enable you to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows you to acquire knowledge in order to be able to cook affordably and nutritiously.

You will learn to develop food preparation skills and techniques through a series of units which cover starch, protein, fats and oils, pastry making and cake making.

You will have the opportunity to prepare and make food products whilst learning various processes as well as the functions of ingredients. You will learn how to explore food products and develop new food products.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

50% Component 1:

Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

(Written examination)

This component will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content:

1. Food commodities
2. Principles of nutrition
3. Diet and good health
4. The science of food
5. Where food comes from
6. Cooking and food preparation

50% Component 2:

Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action (Non-examination assessment)

Assessment 1 (15%): The Food Investigation Assessment

A Food Investigation will be set that will require you to:

- Research and plan a task
- Investigate the working characteristics, function and chemical properties of ingredients through practical experimentation and use the findings to achieve a particular result
- Analyse and evaluate the task
- Produce a report which evidences all of the above and includes photographs and/or visual recordings to support your investigation

Assessment 2 (35%): The Food Preparation Assessment

This assessment will require you to:

- Plan, prepare, cook and present a selection of dishes, to meet particular requirements such as a dietary need, lifestyle choice or specific context

CAREERS LINKS

- Baker
- Barista
- Chef
- Restaurant Manager
- Food scientist
- Food technologist
- Nutritional Therapist
- Education
- Hospitality and Catering
- Buyer.

CHALLENGE

- Research the different types of sugar in different packets of food and analyse what each of them are used for.



FRENCH

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE French

WHAT EXAMINATION BOARD SETS THE SYLLABUS? EDEXCEL

WHAT QUALIFICATION WILL I GAIN? GCSE French

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Assessment is set in the context of these themes.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

GCSE students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge of grammar throughout their course. The grammar requirements for GCSE are set out in two tiers: Foundation and Higher.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Students may be entered for either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier, but they must enter at the same tier for all four skills.

Listening 25%

Section A: Students respond to multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions are set in English, and students produce all responses in English.

Section B: Dictation Students are assessed on their ability to transcribe spoken French into written French.

Speaking 25% (conducted by your teacher)

Task 1: Read aloud. Read aloud a short text and undertake a short, unprepared interaction relating to the text.

Task 2: Role play

Task 3: Picture task with conversation

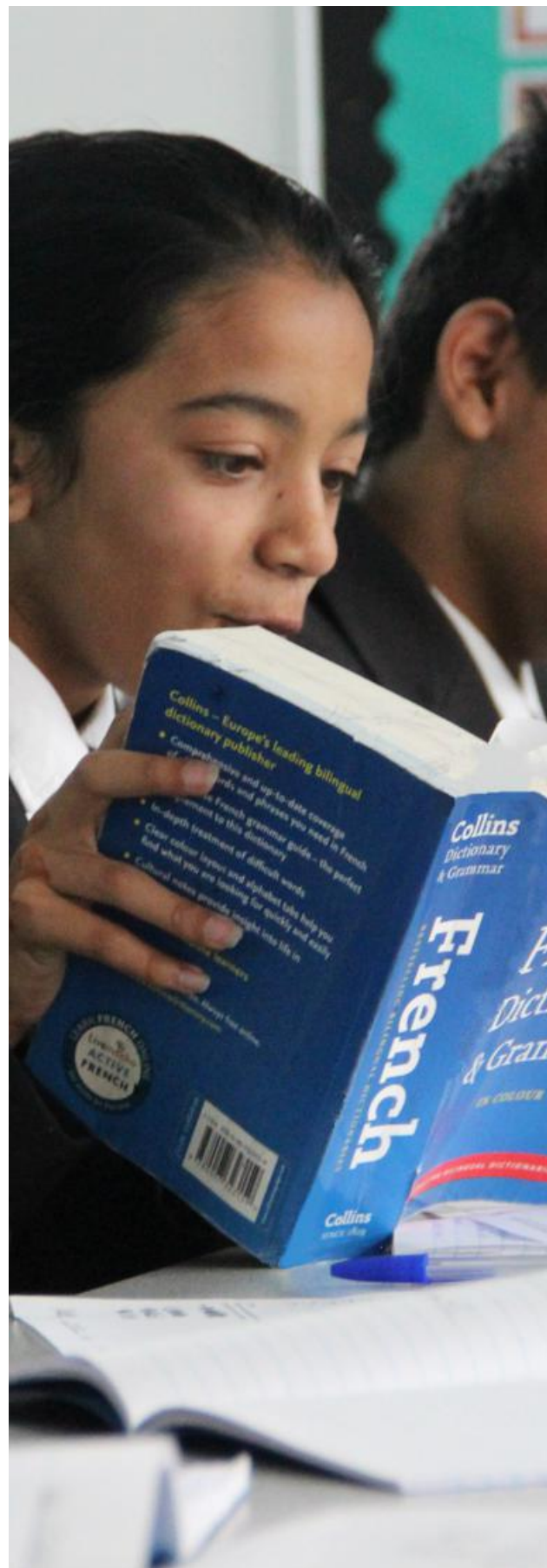
Reading 25%

Section A: Reading and understanding. Students respond to multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions based on these texts.

Section B: Translation into English

Writing 25%

Students are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in French for different purposes and audiences. Students are required to produce responses of varying lengths and types to express ideas and opinions in French. Includes a translation into French.



GEOGRAPHY

Examination board: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE Geography

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The syllabus provides a balanced coverage of physical, environmental and human aspects of the subject and is studied through three units:

Paper 1: The physical environment

Section A: The changing landscapes of the UK

Section B: Weather hazards and climate change

Section C: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Paper 2: The Human environment

Section A: Changing cities

Section B: Global development

Section C: Resource management

Paper 3: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

Section A: Geographical investigations Physical environments

Section B: Geographical investigations Human environments

Section C: UK challenges

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

75% external examination, through two written papers, and a 25% external examination based on a field work investigation undertaken in year 10 or 11.

Students will be required to take all papers (unit 1, 2 and 3) at the end of year 11.

In Paper 1, students will be required to answer three sections on the topics they have covered. The exam is out of 94 and lasts 90 minutes.

In Paper 2, students are required to answer three sections on the topics they have covered. The exam is out of 94 and lasts 90 minutes.

In Paper 3, students are required to answer three sections on the topics they have covered. The exam is out of 65 and lasts 90 minutes.

The investigation assessment element is one investigation marked internally: The skills learnt through the local fieldwork investigation are then examined in a 1hr 30 minute exam in year 11.

The external exams are made up of three papers made up of multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose questions.

CAREERS LINKS

- Environmental Consultant
- Town Planner
- Geographical Information Systems Officer
- Conservation Officer
- Recycling Officer
- Landscape Architect
- Education

CHALLENGE

Please investigate the recent migration patterns around the world. Try to find out which people are moving, where to and why?



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

BTEC LEVEL 2

Examination board: Pearson

Qualification: BTEC Health and Social Care

The BTEC Tech Award in health and social care has been developed to provide an engaging introduction to the health and social care sector for young people. This qualification provides learners with an appreciation of the importance of health and social care values and communication in the sector.

Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. Social care employees, such as care assistants and social workers work with individuals to support them to be as independent as possible in their own homes, in care homes or nursing homes. Healthcare employees, such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and physiotherapists, work with individuals to enhance their quality of life by improving their health. Approximately 3 million people are currently employed in the sector. In 2019, it was estimated that by 2035 approximately 2.17 million health and social care job vacancies will need to be filled.

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

This course is equivalent to 1 GCSE. Students will gain a qualification in the Pearson BTEC Tech Level 1/2 Award in Health and Social Care.

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge in the following areas:

- the life stages and key characteristics in the physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development classifications and the different factors that can affect an individual's growth and development
- different life events and how individuals can adapt or be supported through changes caused by life events
- health and social care conditions, how they can be managed by the individual and the different health and social care services that are available
- the barriers and obstacles an individual may encounter and how these can be overcome
- the skills, attributes and values required to give care and how these benefit the individual
- how factors can affect an individual's current health and wellbeing
- how physiological indicators and an individual's lifestyle choices determine physical health
- the use of the person-centred approach
- recommendations and actions to improving health and wellbeing and the barriers or obstacles individuals may face when following recommendations and the support available to overcome.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development
(Controlled Assessment: 35%)

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values (Controlled Assessment: 35%)

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing (Exam: 45%)

Students will need to complete all the course components to pass the overall qualification. Students will be awarded with an overall grade for their qualification. The grading criteria is Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Careers Links

- Education
- Health Care Assistant
- Social Care
- Paramedics
- Psychology
- Social Worker

CHALLENGE

Youtube Recommendations

The Extraordinary Case of Alex Lewis – based on a true story, Alex Lewis had a common cold, which quickly developed into septicaemia and toxic shock syndrome.



HISTORY

Examination board: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE History

The History course offered at GCSE is specifically designed to be both engaging and challenging to students. Those skills learnt at Key Stage 3, such as source analysis, historical enquiry, and interpretation evaluation, are developed further at GCSE through a diverse selection of both British and global topics.

In Year 10 students will get to study the history of medicine in Britain, which traces the nature of medical practice from the Middle Ages up to the present day. This topic enables students to better understand the process of change over a large period of time, whilst also tying in well with GCSE Science and particularly helping those students interested in future careers in the Sciences or Medicine.

The second Year 10 topic is an in-depth study that looks at Germany in the short period of time between World War One and World War Two when the Nazis gained power. This popular topic uses sources from the period to better enable students to understand the Nazis' rise to power and the impact which their actions had on the rest of the world.

Students then start Year 11 with another 20th century topic; the Middle East conflict. The controversy surrounding this area of study is precisely what makes it so fascinating, and through developing their ability to wrestle with contrasting interpretations students are able to form a much deeper understanding of the situation that still greatly impacts on the world they live in.

The final GCSE topic comes back to Britain and focuses on the country during the reign of the Tudor monarch Elizabeth I. This was an exciting time in Britain, both in regards to religion and literature, as well as politics and exploration. Thus through studying this short period of British history in-depth students discover many of the foundations of the country we know today.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

All four topics are examined at the end of the course in three separate papers:

Paper 1 (30%) – Thematic Study

Medicine Through Time: 1250-present (20%)

Historical Environment Study - The British

Sector of the Western Front: Injuries,

Treatments and the Trenches (10%)

Paper 2 (40%) – Period Study and British Depth Study

Conflict in the Middle East: 1945-1995 (20%)

Early Elizabethan England: 1558-1588 (20%)

Paper 3 (30%) – Modern Depth Study

Nazi Germany: 1918-1939

CAREERS LINKS

- Law
- Marketing
- Advertising
- Public Relations
- Politics
- Teaching and Research
- Archiving and Heritage

CHALLENGE

Make sure that at Options Evening you ask your teacher about how studying History at GCSE, A Level and even university can link to future careers. In the meantime you could investigate which famous people studied History at university. Here are a few to start you off: Louis Theroux, Jonathan Ross, Sacha Baron Cohen.....



PHOTOGRAPHY

Examination board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE Photography

WHAT IS GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY?

GCSE Photography is an exciting and creative course designed for students with an interest in visual storytelling, image-making, and the art of photography. This course provides a strong foundation in both the technical and artistic aspects of photography, encouraging students to develop their skills and personal style.

COURSE CONTENT

The GCSE Photography course covers a wide range of topics and skills, including:

- **Camera Techniques:** Understanding the functions and settings of a camera, including aperture, shutter speed, ISO, and composition.
- **Digital Editing:** Learning to use software such as Adobe Photoshop to enhance and manipulate images.
- **Photographic Genres:** Exploring various genres of photography, such as portraiture, landscape, documentary, and experimental photography.
- **History of Photography:** Studying the development of photography and influential photographers.
- **Creative Projects:** Developing personal projects that showcase individual creativity and technical skills.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

The GCSE Photography course is assessed through two main components:

1. **Portfolio (60%):** Students produce a portfolio of work that demonstrates their skills, creativity, and understanding of photography. This portfolio includes a range of photographic work and supporting studies.
2. **Externally Set Assignment (40%):** This component involves a practical photography project set by the exam board. Students will have a preparatory period to develop ideas, followed by a timed practical exam to produce their final piece.

Both components are worth a total of 96 marks.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

Students will gain valuable skills through this course, such as:

- Technical proficiency in using cameras and editing software.
- Creative thinking and problem-solving.
- Research and analytical skills.
- Visual communication and storytelling.
- Time management and project organisation.

EQUIPMENT

Students will be required to purchase sketchbooks. Students are also encouraged to have access to a digital camera. The school will provide equipment and software access, but personal equipment does allow for more practice and exploration.

CHALLENGE

Choose a theme (Nature's Details, Urban Life, Light and Shadow, or Reflections) and create a series of 5-7 photographs that tell a story. Write 100-150 words explaining how the photographs you have taken represent your chosen theme.



CAREERS LINKS

Professional Photographer, Film/Video Editor, Location Manager, Press Photographer, Advertising, Website design, Publishing, Journalism, Programme Researcher, Broadcasting /Film /Video Television, Camera Operator, Architect, Architectural Photographer

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Examination board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE PE

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The GCSE PE course is broken down into 5 sections.

Section 1 is applied anatomy and physiology. In this section the students study; the skeletal system, muscular system, how we create movement, the cardiovascular system, the respiratory system and how exercise effects our body in the long and short term.

Section 2 is physical training. In this section the students study; the components of fitness, the principles of training to improve our fitness and how we can reduce the chance of injury during physical activity.

Section 3 is socio-cultural influence. In this section the students study; engagement patterns in sport, the commercialisation of sport, and ethical and socio-cultural issues in sport.

Section 4 is sports psychology. In this section the students study; how we characterise movement, effective goal setting, how we can mentally prepare for sport and ways in which coaches can give guidance and feedback.

Section 5 is health and fitness. In this section the students study; how we can improve our health, fitness and well-being, and diet and nutrition.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Two written exams worth 30% each, 10% on a personal exercise program and 30% for Practical assessment.

CHALLENGE

- Name a sport that's most important component of fitness is co-ordination?
- How can eating too much food affect our ability to perform in sport in the immediate, mid and long-term?

CAREERS LINKS

- Physiotherapy
- Police
- Sport Psychologist
- Psychologist
- Sports Coach
- Sports Scientist
- Nutritionist
- Sport Journalist
- PE Teacher
- Education



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS, BELIEFS, TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES THEMATIC STUDIES

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Religious Studies

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

This course will be studied in Year 10 and Year 11. The exam consists of two papers; Islamic and Christian beliefs and practices and Ethical considerations within Islam and Christianity (Themes)

Paper one focuses on the beliefs, teaching and practices within two of the 6 major world religions and paper two follows a multi-faith approach and responds to ethical dilemmas we face in our society today. Students will be drawing on current news stories to explore each topic.

The Study of Religions, Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

This course looks at different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. Students gain a knowledge of the diversity of religious traditions in Great Britain with a focus on two of the six major world religions

Thematic Studies

The course encourages students to look at what it means to be a citizen from a religious point of view. It explores religious attitudes to Relationships and Families, Peace and Conflict, Religion and Life and Existence of God and Revelation.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

100% written examination

Two exams of 1 hour 45 minutes at the end of Year 11

The exam follows a series of short answer questions and an evaluative question of 12 marks

CHALLENGE

- Jesus is seen as the Son of God in Christianity, however, in Islam it is a big sin to say this – where do you think the truth is?

CAREERS LINKS

- Law eg. Solicitor
- Barrister
- Legal executive
- Psychologist
- Forensic Psychologist
- CBT Therapist
- Child Psychologist
- Cognitive Psychologist
- Teacher
- Banking
- Accountancy
- Consultancy
- Youth Worker
- Charity Sector
- Clergy
- Police
- Any senior leadership roles
- Public relations



SOCIOLOGY

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Sociology

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Sociology is the study of society and of people and their behaviour. If you want to understand yourself and others around you, this is a great subject to study

Unit 1 Year 10

- Introduction to sociology
- Research methods
- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education

Unit 2 Year 11

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Revision.

Students should develop their knowledge of the world in which they live and their ability to understand and analyse it critically. There is a great deal of reading and writing involved in the GCSE so a good standard of English is required.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

There are three assessment objectives:

AO1 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts.

AO2 - Apply knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods

AO3 - Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods in order to construct arguments, make judgments and draw conclusions

100% written examination

2 exams of 1 hour 45 minutes each

Students will sit both exams in Year 11

CHALLENGE

- Watch the Youtube video from Crash Course in Sociology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>

- Ask yourself the question 'Am I interested in the way people behave in our society?'
- Write a list of 3 top questions you want answering about studying GCSE sociology to bring to the Y9 options fair.

CAREERS LINKS

- Law and the Legal Professions
- Journalism
- Criminology
- Prison Work
- Teaching
- Social work
- Nursing
- Physiotherapist
- Public Relations
- Marketing and Advertising
- Politics
- Civil Service
- Therapist
- Human Resources
- Market Research
- Media Planner



SPANISH

Examination board: AQA or Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE Spanish

WHAT EXAMINATION BOARD SETS THE SYLLABUS? EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Assessment is set in the context of these themes.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Students may be entered for either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier, but they must enter at the same tier for all four skills.

Listening 25%

Section A: Students respond to multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions are set in English, and students produce all responses in English.

Section B: Dictation Students are assessed on their ability to transcribe spoken Spanish into written Spanish.

Speaking 25% (conducted by your teacher)

Task 1: Read aloud. Read aloud a short text and undertake a short, unprepared interaction relating to the text.

Task 2: Role play

Task 3: Picture task with conversation

WHAT QUALIFICATION WILL I GAIN? GCSE Spanish

GCSE students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge of grammar throughout their course. The grammar requirements for GCSE are set out in two tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Reading 25%

Section A: Reading and understanding. Students respond to multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions based on these texts.

Section B: Translation into English

Writing 25%

Students are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in Spanish for different purposes and audiences. Students are required to produce responses of varying lengths and types to express ideas and opinions in Spanish. Includes a translation into French.



SPORTS BTEC

Examination board: BTEC/Pearson

Qualification: BTEC Sport

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

This course will help you to develop and demonstrate a range of skills. You will study the following 3 components.

- Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity.
- Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance.
- Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity.

HOW WILL THIS SUBJECT BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 and 2 are assessed internally and then moderated externally by the exam board. Component 3 is a written exam at the end of year 11.

WHAT CAN THIS QUALIFICATION LEAD TO?

Study at post-16 in a range of routes designed to lead to work, progression to employment, apprenticeships or to further study at Level 3.

CAREERS LINKS

- Physiotherapy
- Sport Psychologist
- Psychologist
- Sports Coach
- Sports Scientist
- Sports Centre Management
- Sports Centre Management
- Sport Analyst
- Nutritionist
- Sport Journalist
- PE Teacher
- Education

CHALLENGE

Name the agonist and the antagonist muscles used when performing a bicep curl.

The heart has four main chambers. What are the names of the chambers?



EXAMINATION ENTRIES

Acceptance on a course does not guarantee that a student will automatically be entered for a public examination in the relevant Summer Examination Series.

Reasonable levels of attainment must be maintained over the whole of the course and students must reach a standard acceptable to both the school and the examination boards before they are entered for any public examination. The school reserves the right to refuse to enter any student who has not reached the agreed acceptable level. This is particularly the case where a defined amount of coursework/controlled assessment is required to be completed before the end of the course.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

HOW MANY GCSES WILL I BE STUDYING?

Most students will study a total of 8 GCSEs.

WHY DO I HAVE TO CHOOSE RESERVE SUBJECTS IN ADDITION TO MY INITIAL CHOICES?

It is not always possible to give students their first choice subjects; this may be for a number of reasons such as not enough people choosing the subject, subjects clashing in the option blocks or other situations. If you know what your reserve choices are, we can try to make these fit.

WHEN WILL I FIND OUT WHICH SUBJECT CHOICES I HAVE BEEN GIVEN?

We will confirm your choices after the subject blocks have been finalised. This will be in the summer term.

WHAT IS THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE?

In order to gain this qualification, students need to secure a good grade in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography or History
- French or Spanish

If you have any more questions, don't forget to ask your Form Tutor, Mr Parmar, Ms Konieczna and our connexions advisor, Ms Kaur.

SUBJECT ZONES

LIBRARY:

French

Spanish

English

PE

Sport BTEC (*Y9 options only*)

PERFORMING ARTS POD:

Drama

Music

CPSHE ROOM:

Citizenship (*Y9 options only*)

ART POD:

Art & Design: Art 1

Photography: Art 3

Health and Social Care BTEC Art 4 (*Y9 options only*)

GRAPHICS MEDIA ROOM:

Computer Science

DT POD:

Design & Technology

Food and Nutrition

DINING ROOM:

Science

Maths

Religious Studies

History (*Y9 options only*)

Geography (*Y9 options only*)

Sociology (*Y9 options only*)