



Options 2024-2026

Name:



Dear Parents and Students,

Deciding which subjects to study is an important and exciting part of being in Year 9, the choices you make will help you fulfil your future plans and aspirations. It is also necessary to recognise that things can change and studying a balanced Key Stage 4 curriculum, between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, can lead to many different routes a few years later.

Getting your options right is important and so our aim is that all students and their parents should be provided with enough information to make informed choices about their future.

Personalised advice and guidance will be provided by Form Tutors and others; please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor, Head of Year or ourselves by email or via the school office if you have any queries or feel you need some help in making final choices.

Once you have reached a decision, the completed option form should be returned to your form tutor by **Friday 12th April 2024**. We will then start work on constructing the timetable for next year. It may be necessary for some students to make alternative choices as some subject combinations may prove to be impossible to timetable or some class sizes may be too small to run. If this does happen, we will endeavour to explain the issues and the alternatives with the student promptly and give them the opportunity to discuss, consider and make a new choice.

The main message during the Options process is that if you have any questions or queries ask, so that you are able to make an informed decision.

Yours faithfully,

Dr S D Beach

Assistant Principal

Point of contact emails:

beachs@ormistonsandwell.org.uk

OUR CURRICULUM



AN OVERVIEW AND RATIONALE

At Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy we strive to ensure every child has the best opportunities to succeed in life. Our curriculum at KS4 is designed to provide each student with the options that will ensure both academic and personal success, not only at age 16 but well into the future.

All students take the required subjects, English, Mathematics and Science. Our options also ensure that students have the opportunity to study for the English baccalaureate.

At OSCA we believe academic success is really important, but we don't think it is everything. We want our young people to leave education feeling confident not only in knowledge, but also in personal skills and qualities. Students' curriculum experience will include non-examined elements including Character Development, RE and CORE PE. This broad and balanced curriculum built around the academy values is intended to allow students to learn for life and equip them with knowledge of the world, essential skills and a strong character. At its heart OSCA Curriculum is built around our four values of **Opportunity, Scholarship, Compassion and Aspiration**.

In addition to these mandatory subjects, you will have the opportunity to select 3 options which are right for their interests and aspirations.

| Mandatory Subjects | Options (3) | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | 1st Option Choice | 2nd & 3rd Options ** | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maths ✓ English ✓ Science ✓ Character Development ✓ Core PE ✓ Core RE | 1 option from: 1. Geography 2. History Please note you can pick History AND Geography if you pick them from the 2 nd or 3 rd option. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Art* • Art (3D Design)* • Art (Craft Design)* • Retail Business • Drama • Religious Studies • Dance • Sports Science • History • French • Geography • Photography | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music • Digital Information technology • Food Preparation and Nutrition • Triple Science • Computer Science • Creative Media |

PLEASE NOTE:

*Art **MAY NOT** be combined with 3D Art and Design AND/OR Art Craft

** Courses will only run with appropriate numbers and staffing



You should find out about:

- Qualifications
- What you will study on the course
- Entry requirements
- Implications for career choice – what you can do after the course

Remember – Our Careers Officer is always available to offer help and advice.

Advice on choosing your subjects

1. What do I want to do at 16+
 - Sixth Form?
 - Apprenticeship?
 - College?
2. Choose the subjects which will assist your intentions for 16+.
3. Choose a well-balanced timetable.
Try not to choose all of your subjects from the same area.
4. It is best not to pick a subject you are poor at.
5. **Do not** pick a subject because you work well for that teacher. It may be a different teacher taking that subject in years 9,10 and 11.
6. **Do not** pick a subject you have not studied before just because you like the sound of it. If you have not done it before find out as much as you can about it before making your decision.
7. **Do not** choose subjects just because your friends have chosen them.
8. **Do not** be afraid to choose unusual subjects.
9. Creative subjects are very useful.
10. **Do not** specialise too much.
11. Are you more suited to GCSE or BTEC method of learning?
12. Seek plenty of advice and ask lots of questions.



Some important points for Parents & Guardians

- Talk to your son/daughter about what their interests are.
- Find out what they would like to do in the future.
- Let them know that jobs for 16 year olds are now virtually non-existent. The key to their future is in good education, good training and developing skills and abilities that employers want and are prepared to pay for.
- If in doubt about your son/daughter's option choices, please contact the academy to make an appointment to see the Careers Adviser, your Child's Head of Year, Mrs Dickens (SENDSCO).
- Check that your son/daughter is choosing subjects for the right reasons.
- Try to encourage a variety in their choices – this will allow more choice at Post 16.

The wrong reasons would include:

- ✗ I like the teacher
- ✗ All the other choices are boring / too difficult
- ✗ All my friends are doing that subject
- ✗ I think it will help me get a job

The right reasons include:

- ✓ I am good at/enjoy that subject
- ✓ I know that these subjects will help my career choice, because I have found out about it
- ✓ I have achieved good marks and exam grades in the subject

If in doubt – ask for and get help!

Attendance

Our excellent attendance levels are only achieved by working in partnership with our parents and your support to both your child and the Academy is paramount in ensuring your child receives the best education available to them.

Good attendance is vital for students to achieve their full educational potential and enhance opportunities for further education and work placements.

As well as good attendance being a legal requirement, research has also proved that students with good attendance records benefit in the following ways:

- Improved performance in coursework tasks
- Enhanced performance in examinations
- Continuity of relationships and friendships
- Good references for further education or employment
- Good habits are formed for later life

Questions to ask yourself before making your decision.



On this page there are several questions you need to ask yourself, plus websites and videos to watch which will help you make an informed decision. You can access the links via the electronic version of the booklet – this has been emailed to both parents and students.

- **What subjects do you enjoy at the moment and why?** Knowing why you enjoy those lessons may help to identify what skills you have and want to develop and what other subjects they may link to and you'd enjoy. **Example- You enjoy maths for the problem solving and data- you may then enjoy computer science or statistics and chemistry.**
- **How will I know what subjects I can link my skills to?** You can read and list the subjects you like from the Year 9 options booklet or take a skills and job match quiz. The quizzes will link your interests and skills to industries and subject areas (quizzes links below). Knowing your skills and interests are important, they will lead you into certain careers.
 - [Careers Pilot Quizzes](#)
 - [Wheels of Strength](#)
 - [Prospects Job Match Quiz](#)
 - [National Careers Service Skills and Assessment quiz](#)
- **Identifying the areas you may feel you are not your strengths.** These are the areas of schooling you feel may be a challenge. You can then approach this in one of two ways. Turning that weakness area into your strength and choosing subjects and adopting techniques that will help you grow in these areas. Or you may want to consider other subjects you may be stronger in. You can always develop these areas later on.
- **If you are aware of the type of job role or careers you'd like to pursue,** you can explore the pathways into those careers and what GCSE's, Post 16 and Post 18 qualifications you'd be required to study.

For example; Harriet wants to be an Energy Engineer, after research discovers she'd need to study GCSE's such as maths, physics and chemistry, DT and Geography may also be helpful. Naseem would like to be a Graphic Designer, he may want to consider art and design, computer science, English and photography and creative imedia.
- **How will I find this information?** You can research some of the fantastic careers and education websites listed below.

Research careers and education websites.

- **Careers Pilot** and going to the jobs tab at the top. You can search for the different jobs from subjects at school. List down the jobs you like to sound of and what subjects they are linked to. [Click here](#)
- **BBC Bitesize Careers** to look at other job roles in the labour market including healthcare, creative industries and entrepreneurship ideas and stories from those who decided to work for themselves. This website will also offer you some videos and salary details to give you a really in depth insight to what the roles are about. [Click here](#)
- **ICOULD and careerbox** for more videos of the different job roles, listening to others experiences in different industries and how they got there. This will start to give you some idea of what you may enjoy. [Click here for ICOULD](#) [Click here for Careerbox](#)

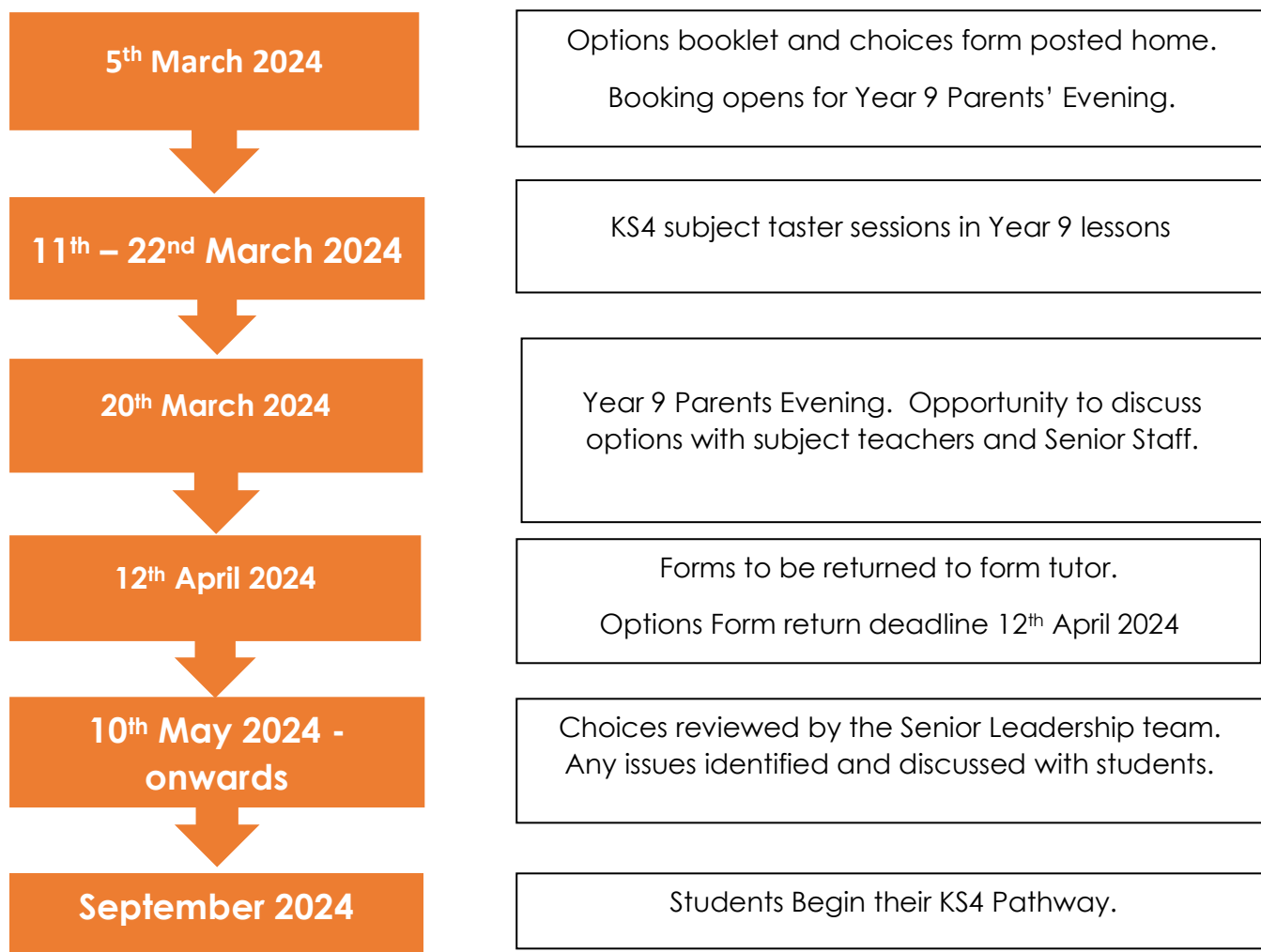
Explore post 16 by following these links to research where you can study after you have left OSCA:

- [POST 16 SANDWELL](#)
- **Apprenticeships** [Click here](#)
- **Apprenticeship Guides** [Click here](#)
- **UCAS** is the admission website for undergraduate degrees offered in the UK. If you know you would like to go to university, you can explore the degrees available and what the GCSE and Post 16 entry requirements would be. [Search UCAS undergraduate click here](#)

Videos that may be helpful when choosing your GCSE options.

- Life Coach Mark Anderson's advice on choosing GCSE subjects. [Click here](#)
- Do's and Don't to choosing GCSE subjects [Click here](#)
- Students share what they wish they'd known before choosing their GCSEs [Click here](#)

Options Timeline



The subjects that students choose to study at Key Stage 4 are extremely important. The decisions made now will affect the qualifications that they achieve at the end of their compulsory education and may therefore affect future opportunities and career choices.

For many students, this will be the first major decision about their future that they have to make. We hope that this decision will not be made lightly and that both students and parents will take the **opportunity to discuss the process** together and also with staff in school to enable an informed decision to be made.

The following pages of this book contain information about individual subjects, please do read these as a starting point for any decision you make.

At the end of the book you will find your choices form. This must be signed by yourself, your parents and your form tutor before being handed in. It will be signed off by a senior leader once your options have been confirmed.

Please do take time to consider and finalise your choices before submitting your form. There is no race to be the first form handed in!



OSCA OPTIONS

Mandatory Subject Information

Please be aware that due to the ever changing landscape in qualifications the awarding bodies displayed on the following pages may be subject to change

English Language

COURSE OUTLINE

AQA GCSE English Language is designed to allow you to explore a range of written texts, enabling you to develop the skills you need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods. You will also explore how to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

As a 100% untiered examination course, the specification features two equally-balanced papers. Paper 1, Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers; and Paper 2, Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time. The reading sources act as a stimulus for writing tasks, providing you with inspiration for your own creative responses.

Additionally, you will complete a practical Spoken Language Endorsement that will enable you to develop skills for public speaking and presentations that will be necessary in later life.

AWARDING BODY: AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (1hr 45 mins – 50%) Reading and analysing an unseen Literary fiction extract
Writing a piece of descriptive narrative writing

Paper 2: Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives (1hr 45 mins – 50%) Comparing two non-fiction extracts (19TH/20TH/21ST Century texts) Writing an argument/persuasive pieces.

Spoken Language Endorsement which is an audio-visual recording of a 5-minute presentation followed by 5-10 minutes of questioning (you will receive a separate certificate at Pass, Merit or Distinction).

Skills Acquired

- Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas.
- Select and synthesise evidence from different texts
- Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology.
- Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed across two or more texts.
- Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references.
- Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.
- Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.
- Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting.

English Literature

COURSE OUTLINE

AQA GCSE English Literature has been designed to allow you to study a cross section of both the Literary Heritage and contemporary authors.

Here at OSCA, you will study: Shakespeare's *Macbeth*; Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*; and AQA's *Power and Conflict* Cluster of poetry as well as an unseen poetry unit. We feel that our range of texts provides you with exam content that is accessible, inspiring and most importantly that you, as young people, can relate to.

As a 100% examination course, the specification features two weighted exam papers. Paper 1, Shakespeare and the 19TH Century Novel, will ask you to explore how writers use language and structure to impact upon readers within an extract and then more widely across the whole text. Paper 2, Modern Texts and Poetry, will explore your critical responses to a contemporary play and a selection of poetry – both seen and unseen.

As part of the Literature course, we will also read widely around our texts and explore how they fit into the social and historical contexts in which they have been written and performed.

Please note that this is an untiered and closed book specification which means all students will sit the same paper, regardless of ability, and that no texts can be taken into the exam room.

AWARDING BODY: AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century fiction (1hr 45 mins – 40%) Analysis of a Shakespeare play, Analysis of a 19th Century novel

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (2hr 15 mins – 60%) Analysis of a drama or novel Analysis of a collection of poems from an Anthology on Conflict Exploration of an unseen poem

Skills Acquired

- To respond to texts critically and in detail.
- To explain language and structure of texts.
- To explore relationships and comparisons of texts.
- To show understanding of the literary tradition.
- To understand the influence of social and historical contexts.

Maths

COURSE OUTLINE

GCSE Mathematics is an engaging course specifically designed to equip students with the essential skills they will need for their future destinations.

Students will gain mastery of fundamental areas of maths, including:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

The course places great emphasis on reasoning and problem solving.

There are two tiers of entry:

Foundation tier covers grades 1 to 5

Higher tier will cover grades 4 to 9.

AWARDING BODY: AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Examinations - 100%

Paper 1 **Non-calculator** (1½ hours)

Paper 2 **Calculator** (1½ hours)

Paper 3 **Calculator** (1½ hours)

Students are entered for one of two tiers, Foundation or Higher.

All 3 papers are equally weighted towards the final grade

The tier of entry will be determined by mock examination and other assessment results, and is finalised around March of Year 11.

Skills Acquired

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques
- Acquire a foundation of mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas
- Enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident to use mathematics to solve problems
- Appreciate the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

Combined Science (Trilogy)

COURSE OUTLINE

The new specification provides a challenging journey through all 3 sciences, focussing in on how science works, and your skills of scientific enquiry. Achieving higher grades (6,7,8 and 9) will allow you to progress on to A level at most Sixth Form institutions.

Biology

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

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

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

AWARDING BODY: AQA

**QUALIFICATION: GCSE
(Double Award, Trilogy)**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% Examination

Six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics.

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

Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.

Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks.

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

Students will gain 2 GCSEs after successfully completing the course.

Skills Acquired

Students will complete a total of 21 Required Practicals in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Required Practicals are clearly outlined in the specifications. As a result, students will acquire skills in planning, carrying out experiments, analysing data, and evaluating their experimental method in terms of its validity, reliability, and ultimately how successful it was overall. Students will also acquire knowledge and understanding relating to all 3 aspects of science and will learn how to apply this knowledge to the wider context of society, helping them to make more informed decisions about the real world.

Character Curriculum and RE

COURSE OUTLINE – non examined

Character curriculum helps to develop personal and interpersonal skills, allows students to develop and reflect on key qualities of resilience, leadership and independence and fills the gaps in an ordinary school curriculum; as it teaches students about topics other subjects or exam specifications might not cover but are important life skills.

This is not an examined subject, but the learning accomplished within the character curriculum will contribute to the overall success and achievement of each student.

The curriculum has been designed for our student's using expertise from a range of sources, including the University of Birmingham Jubilee centre. It is based around four virtues which are:

- Intellectual virtues such as learning how to question, gain knowledge effectively and revise
- Civic virtues such as being considerate, social expectation and understanding the community
- Moral virtues such as exploring important global issues and developing empathy for others
- Performance virtues such as how to present yourself and speak with confidence

Developing these skills and virtues throughout the character curriculum support our students within all of their other subjects and beyond into the world of further education and work.

For example, strategies on how to cope with exam stress and anxiety as well as how to improve memory and revision skills, how to present yourself during interviews and how to describe your skills and qualities, particularly of leadership and how to make informed life choices by being able to analyse news, media and breakdown stereotypical representations.

The curriculum also provides opportunities, through project work, group work and a variety of class tasks, to participate in social action and activities which will help each of our students demonstrate their skills and abilities in an application or interview. These skills and qualities will make them more informed, reflective and able citizens in the future.

The curriculum at KS4 builds upon the virtues and ideas that have been taught in KS3 and includes statutory RE and SRE elements as prescribed by the DfE.

PE – Core (non examined)

At KS4 pupils tackle complex and demanding physical activities. They perform in a range of activities that develops personal fitness and promotes an active, healthy lifestyle.

The amount of activities on offer allows all pupils to access the National Curriculum and receive a broad and balanced curriculum with the aim of allowing pupils to excel in a range of sports, enjoy participating in a range of sports and to promote life-long participation. The activities that we have offered to the pupils are long-standing, recognised, traditional activities, with well-established governing bodies that are at the forefront of sport in the media and our society and are also recognisable in world competitions such as; Olympics & Commonwealth games to inspire pupils to emulate roles models.



OSCA OPTIONS

Humanities Subject Information

Please be aware that due to the ever changing landscape in qualifications the awarding bodies displayed on the following pages may be subject to change

Geography

COURSE OUTLINE

The Geography GCSE course provides a fascinating and enriching area of study, which can give students a valuable understanding of how the world works. The course covers major global issues including global warming, deforestation, urban issues and natural disasters. The Geography Department uses the AQA specification A syllabus. The syllabus aims to build on from Key Stage 3, and lay a foundation for advanced study. There are 6 units and two fieldwork units, which will be covered across 3 examination papers.

Many of the skills that pupils develop while studying Geography will be of great use to them after they leave school, and are sought after by employers and universities alike, whatever path you choose. There are strong links between Geography and Geology, Biology, History, Sociology and Mathematics.

Students studying specification A will:

- Study physical processes and how they produce diverse and dynamic landscapes over time
- Learn about the interdependence of physical environments and the interaction between people and the environment
- Receive balanced and manageable coverage of both Physical and Human Geography.

Study of this course will give students the opportunity to develop:

- Understanding of the interrelationships between the human and physical world
- Communication skills, data analysis and spatial awareness skills
- Graphical and cartographical skills
- Technological skills including ICT and GIS
- Interpersonal skills through debate and discussion of current issues
- Literacy and numeracy skills
- Problem-solving and evaluation skills
- Entrepreneurial skills, changing economic structure of the UK and awareness of career possibilities

AWARDING BODY: AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Paper 1—35%

Living in the Physical World
(Natural Hazards, Living World and Physical Landscapes)

Paper 2—35%

Challenges to the Human World

(Urban Issues and Challenges, Changing Economic World and Managing Resources)

Paper 3—30%

Geographical Applications

(Issue Evaluation and Fieldwork)

History B (Schools History Project)

COURSE OUTLINE

GCSE History has long been seen as an intellectually rigorous and enabling subject that will open doors to a wide variety of professions. Students choosing to study GCSE History will combine traditional and innovative topic options including studies of 'The Elizabethans' and 'The Making of America'.

Students will explore the similarities and differences between lives in the past and their own lives now through a range of historical enquiries. Students will develop their curiosity and their own opinions based on a respect for evidence, and build a deeper understanding of the present by engaging with and questioning the past.

The specification is based on content which helps learners to address fundamental issues in human history. It brings together people, events and issues that learners will find fascinating and that will stimulate a desire to explore the similarities and differences between people's lives in the past and their own lives now.

AWARDING BODY:
EDEXCEL

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Paper 1 (40%):

Thematic Study - The People's Health c1250 to present.

Study of the historic environment of the First World War

Paper 2 (20%): British Depth Study – The Elizabethans, 1558 – 1588.

Period Study - The Making of America, 1835-1895.

Paper 3 (40%): World Depth Study – Living Under Nazi Rule, 1918 – 1939.

Skills Acquired

- Understand change and continuity across a long sweep of history.
- Consider about the relationship between past and present.
- Understand strong political elements, and consider the interplay between these and other aspects of society.
- Construction of argument and informed debate.
- Analysis and evaluation of a range of sources and points of view
- Understand strong political elements, and consider the interplay between these and other aspects of society.



OSCA OPTIONS

Free Choice Subject Information

Please be aware that due to the ever changing landscape in qualifications the awarding bodies displayed on the following pages may be subject to change

Art and Design (Fine Art)

COURSE OUTLINE

Fine Art is defined here as the practice of creating work that is primarily for aesthetic, intellectual or purely conceptual purposes, rather than purposes that have a necessarily practical function.

- Learners must explore, acquire and develop skills, knowledge and understanding through the application of techniques and processes specific to their chosen area of study Fine Art.
- Learners must explore practical and relevant critical and contextual sources such as the work of historical and contemporary fine artists and the different purposes, intentions and functions of fine art as appropriate to their own work.
- Learners must demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding through areas of Fine Art.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Coursework: 60 % of final mark

Unit 1: Art and Design Portfolio

Students will be asked to produce a portfolio of work developed from a theme. The focus is on including work that shows exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills in a range of Art processes.

Final Exam: 40% of final mark

Unit 2: Art and Design OCR-set Task

THIS IS NOT A WRITTEN EXAM IT IS A PRACTICAL TASK

Students will be given an exam paper with a series of themes to choose from. Students will select one theme that you will base a project on.

A period of time in which to plan and prepare a project that will be sketchbook based. Again the work will explore a range of Art techniques.

Students will be given ten hours of controlled time in which to work on a final piece.

Skills Acquired

Students will learn how to present their art work in a sketchbook. Students are also assessed on their research skills. In both units students will be asked to gain inspiration from the work of other artists and designers. From the work they produce on paper, students will then develop these ideas, using a wide variety of techniques. Once a body of work has been produced and developed, students will then produce a final piece using the skills they have learnt through the process. The course also enables students to extend on their evaluation skills. Part of the course assessment is how students can evaluate their own and others work through annotation, forming an opinion, comparing and critical analysis.

Art and Design (3D Design)

COURSE OUTLINE

3 Dimensional Design enables learners to explore the development of ideas using computer aided design, traditional sketching and modelling.

Learners will gain an appreciation of working with different materials, using a range of machinery and processes. Throughout the course learners will work through a number of projects which will involve undertaking detailed research, producing a wide range of design solutions and producing their designs in a 3 dimensional design environment. To support this learners will explore the work of historical and modern designers.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The GCSE has TWO components:

Component 01: Portfolio (60%)

Learners will produce a portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to a design problem throughout year 10 and 11. The portfolio will contain design ideas (sketches, photographs and digital evidence) and will show the process from an initial design to a final solution.

Component 02: Externally Set Task (40%)

Set by the exam board and completed in spring term of year 11.

Learners will be given 10 hours to produce a solution to a set design brief. Preparation time and the supervised time period is set by the centre.

Skills Acquired

- Develop their ideas through investigations informed by selecting and critically analysing sources.
- Apply an understanding of relevant art, craft and design practices to their work.
- Refine their work throughout the design process
- Recording of ideas, observations in appropriate ways.
- Develop skills in using a range of technological equipment, critically evaluating their work and identifying improvements

Art and Design (CRAFT AND DESIGN)

COURSE OUTLINE

Art, Craft and Design is a broad-based two-year course that promotes learning through various processes, tools, techniques, materials, and resources.

Students will acquire, explore, and develop skills, knowledge and understanding of two of these specialisms and combined them in a complementary way.

Within the portfolio of evidence and externally set task students must explore practical and relevant critical and contextual sources such as work of historical and contemporary practitioners and the different purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft, and design as appropriate to their own work. Students will communicate their ideas and thoughts through the use of visual language and written annotation through effective use of:

- Media
- Materials
- Techniques
- Processes

Through the learning journey students will need to evidence drawing skills for different needs and purposes, appropriate to the titles and areas of study used. Alongside this, students will also realise personal intentions in Art, Craft and Design, through the sustained application of art, craft, and design processes.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Coursework: 60 % of final mark

Unit 1: Art, Craft and Design Portfolio

Students will be asked to produce a portfolio of work developed from a theme. The focus is on including work that shows exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills in a range of Craft processes.

The final external exam is sat in the January of year 11.

Final Exam: 40% of final mark

Unit 2: Art, Craft and Design OCR-set Task

THIS IS NOT A WRITTEN EXAM IT IS A PRACTICAL TASK

Students will be given an exam paper with a series of themes to choose from. Students will select one theme that you will base a project on.

A period of time in which to plan and prepare a project that will be sketchbook based. Again the work will explore a range of Art/Craft techniques.

Students will be given ten hours of controlled time in which to work on a final piece.

Skills Acquired

Students will learn how to present their art work in a sketchbook. Students are also assessed on their research skills. In both units students will be asked to gain inspiration from the work of other artists and designers. From the work they produce on paper, students will then develop these ideas, using a wide variety of crafts. Once a body of work has been produced and developed, students will then produce a final piece using the skills they have learnt through the process in a multitude of craft/art forms. The course also enables students to extend on their evaluation skills. Part of the course assessment is how students can evaluate their own and others work through annotation, forming an opinion, comparing and critical analysis.

Retail Business

COURSE OUTLINE

In Retail Business you will apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary retail business issues and to different types and sizes of retail businesses in local, national and global contexts.

Students will develop the understanding and skills related to different areas in retail business. Students will also know and understand retail business concepts, retail business terminology. Students will gain knowledge, skills and understanding through tasks that have many of the characteristics of real work in retail businesses.

You will develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to plan activities, carry out and review outcomes. You will be able to apply and extend learning and have a broad appreciation of work in retail business related industries.

AWARDING BODY: WJEC

**QUALIFICATION:
Vocational**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Controlled Assessment (60%)

Examination (40%)

Unit 1

The Business of Retail (40%)

Controlled Assessment (60%)

Unit 2

Customer Service for Retail Business (30%)

Unit 3

Merchandising and Marketing Retail Products (30%)

Skills Acquired

- Develop as effective and independent learners.
- Use generic and transferable skills.
- Develop and apply quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.
- Develop problem-solving and decision-making skills relevant to retail business.
- Develop the skills of project – based research, development and presentation.

Computer Science

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is split into two different units:

Unit 1:

An examination covering the fundamentals of how computer systems work. This includes topics such as binary and hexadecimal number systems, hardware, software, databases and networking, including coverage of security techniques (hacking).

Unit 2:

An examination covering how computers are given and follow instructions. This includes topics such as algorithms, SQL and programming. The majority of this paper focuses on programming skills.

Careers and further study—Computer Science

Students undertaking the GCSE Computer Science course are challenged to be authors and creators, not merely consumers, innovators with the ideas to continue the computing revolution that has changed the modern world beyond recognition. It also a great qualification to enhance problem solving and logic skills, needed in careers such as Engineering or Medicine. Computer Science is an Ebacc subject and is highly regarded by universities and employers. A path through to post-16 study exists through the provision of A Level Computer Science, with BTEC IT also available.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Examinations (100%)

Unit 1 – Computer Systems

(90 minutes)

Unit 2 – Algorithms and Programming

(90 minutes)

Skills Acquired

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Computer Science will encourage students to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

Dance

COURSE OUTLINE

With a BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance), you are able to explore, challenge and realise your potential.

During the course, students can see whether the industry is one they want to be in, where they could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps. This course is designed to enhance performance skills. It is largely practical and encourages students to develop their confidence through performance.

Students will have the opportunity to work as a solo artist and as part of a group. They will develop a range of dance skills and techniques that will enable them to continue studying Dance at college. In turn, it will arm them with vital life skills and prepare them for the world of work. Budding actors will be able to learn more about the acting industry and develop a wider understanding of how you can build a career in the arts industry.

What's more, the transferable skills you will master during your studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will support your progress in the present and future.

AWARDING BODY: Pearson
QUALIFICATION: BTEC Tech Award

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The Core Units are:

Unit 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Unit 2: Developing Skills & Techniques

Unit 3: Performing to a brief (Externally Assessed)

Skills Acquired

Dance allows students to develop crucial lifelong skills. As well as building confidence, improving communication and enhancing team work and leadership skills, Dance encourages students to explore other cultures, examine important political, social and economic issues and debate ethical and moral matters. It promotes creativity, teaches analytical and evaluative skills and helps students to express their thoughts, feelings and opinions in a constructive and innovative way. Such skills are highly valued by colleges and universities.

Digital Information Technology

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is split into three different components:

During Component 1, students will:

- **Explore** user interface design and development principles
- **Investigate** how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project
- **Discover** how to develop and review a digital user interface

During Component 2, students will:

- Explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations
- Draw conclusions and make recommendations and data intelligence
- Develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools.

During Component 3, students will:

- Explore how modern information technology is evolving
- Consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing
- Understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

AWARDING BODY: Edexcel

QUALIFICATION: BTEC Tech Award

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Examinations (40%)

Effective Digital Working Practices
(90 minutes)

Controlled Assessment (60%)

Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques (30%)

Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data (30%)

Skills Acquired

This qualification aims to:

- develop key skills that prove aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data
- process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct
- attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

Drama

COURSE OUTLINE

With a BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Drama), you are able to explore, challenge and realise your potential.

During the course, students can see whether the industry is one they want to be in, where they could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps. This course is designed to enhance performance skills. It is largely practical and encourages students to develop their confidence through performance.

Students will have the opportunity to work as a solo artist and as part of a group. They will develop a range of acting skills and techniques that will enable them to continue studying Drama at college. In turn it will arm them with vital life skills and prepare them for the world of work. Budding actors will be able to learn more about the acting industry and develop a wider understanding of how you can build a career in the arts industry.

What's more, the transferable skills you will master during your studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will support your progress in the present and future.

AWARDING BODY: Pearson
QUALIFICATION: BTEC Tech Award

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The Core Units are:

Unit 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Unit 2: Developing Skills & Techniques

Unit 3: Performing to a brief (Externally Assessed)

Skills Acquired

Drama allows students to develop crucial lifelong skills. As well as building confidence, improving communication and enhancing team work and leadership skills, Drama encourages students to explore other cultures, examine important political, social and economic issues and debate ethical and moral matters. It promotes creativity, teaches analytical and evaluative skills and helps students to express their thoughts, feelings and opinions in a constructive and innovative way. Such skills are highly valued by colleges and universities.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is particularly suited to those students who enjoy cookery and working with food.

Studying Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to exciting and well-paid career options. Consumers are becoming increasingly reliant on the food industry to develop solutions for their nutritional needs. This course could lead you into roles such as a Chef, Food Product Developer, Buyer (who travels the world sourcing new food products for manufacturers), Food Safety Inspectors, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Quality Managers, Teacher, Food Engineer, Food Scientist, Food Technologist, Food Photographer, Food Stylist, Home Economist, Hotel and Restaurant Manager, Microbiologist, working in food magazines, radio and television.

Useful links & Publications

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585>

Food Careers

<http://tastycareers.org.uk/>

AWARDING BODY: AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Examinations (50%)

There are two assessed components of the course each accounting for 50% of the final GCSE grade

Component 1: Principles of Food, Preparation and Nutrition. A written examination, externally set and marked (1 hour 45 minutes)

Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action (50%)

Non-examination assessment- Internally assessed, externally moderated.

Assessment 1 **(15%)** of total qualification-A scientific food investigation.

Assessment 2: **(35%)** Food preparation assessment. This will require you to prepare, cook and present a menu, which assesses your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to preparing food.

Skills Acquired

- Develop culinary skills including dough making, reduction, filleting and then use these techniques to produce food to order.
- Apply knowledge and understanding of hygiene when preparing and presenting food.
- Plan, prepare, cook and present dishes to cater for various occasions.
- Analyse and evaluate different aspects of food to improve its sensory qualities.

Music

COURSE OUTLINE

The BTEC Tech Award is an introduction to vocational learning.

The qualification gives learners the opportunity to build skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely. The approach to BTEC Tech Award is based on well-established BTEC assessment approaches that are proven to be successful in building skills and motivating learners to engage fully with challenging study. There is no limit to progression options as the skills acquired are applicable to a range of post-16 study options.

There are a vast spectrum of careers within the music industry but a snapshot includes; performer, composer/song-writer, record producer, manager, music therapist, music journalist/blogger, live sound technician, promoter, concert manager, studio manager, radio presenter, music teacher, instrumental technician etc.

**AWARDING BODY:
EDEXCEL**

QUALIFICATION: BTEC

Component 1 (internally assessed):

Explore different styles and genres of Music. Take part in practical workshops to understand the music creation process. Learn about the different roles within the Music industry. Investigate relationships between different areas of the Music Industry.

Component 2 (internally assessed):

Reflect on your progress, and on areas for improvement. Choose a job role and explore the skills needed to fulfil it. Develop a range of musicianship skills. Apply skills and techniques in a music performance or creation.

Component 3 (externally assessed):

Choose an area of the industry that excites you (composer, performer, or producer). Explore the brief and come up with possible responses and ideas. Use relevant resources, skills, and techniques to develop and refine musical material. Present your response. Review and reflect your approach to the brief and your final outcome.

Skills Acquired

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how the Music Industry works and how jobs within the industry are connected.
- Plan, manage and review a musical event or product, including the marketing and funding of the project.
- Develop and apply performance and rehearsal skills to produce a detailed rehearsal log and musical performance.
- Explore and demonstrate compositional techniques to develop and present pieces of music in appropriate formats.

French

COURSE OUTLINE

Learning languages is all about communication. The skills you develop in a modern foreign languages classroom will help you to become an effective communicator. A language qualification is an increasingly important asset in many careers in the modern world. It will broaden your horizons and open doors to other cultures. You will be able to understand foreign films, songs, and travel and work in other countries.

Over this two-year course, you will study the following themes and topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Relationships with family and friends, socialising, personal interests, food and drink, shopping, social media and technology, celebrations and festivals, reading, music, sport, film and television.

Theme 2: Local area, holiday and travel

Holidays, travel and accommodation, directions, eating out, shopping, weather, places to see, things to do.

Theme 3: School

School day, subjects, rules and pressures, celebrating success, school trips, events and exchanges

Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work

Forming relationships, travel, employment, further study, volunteering, training, jobs, careers and professions

Theme 5: International and global dimension

Sports events, music events; campaigns and good causes, environmental issues.

**AWARDING BODY:
EDEXCEL**

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Paper 1: Listening and understanding in French (25%)
(Foundation and Higher tier)

Paper 2: Speaking in French (25%)
(Foundation and Higher tier)

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French (25%)
(Foundation and Higher tier)

Paper 4: Writing in French (25%)
(Foundation and Higher tier)

Skills Acquired

- Develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently
- Express thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- Literacy skills and a deeper knowledge about how language works
- Develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identities of the countries and communities where the language is spoken
- ICT skills through use of online language learning tools

Religious Studies

COURSE OUTLINE

GCSE Religious Studies provides an opportunity to explore some of the ethical and philosophical themes that may come up in everyday life. Religion is regarded as one of the driving forces within our world today and over the centuries gone by. This syllabus acknowledges that the main religious tradition of Great Britain is Christianity, and so this forms the basis of the course alongside another religion of your choosing. Whilst also considering non-religious view points from atheism and humanism too.

You will know and understand the influence beliefs and teachings have on the practices of individuals, communities and societies. Paper 1 is on the Study of religions where you will look at the beliefs and practices of Christians and another religion.

Paper 2 is on 'Thematic Studies' which includes a choice of units from Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Peace and Conflict, Crime and Punishment, Human Rights and Social Justice.

In GCSE Religious Studies, you will develop increased skills in both oral and written literacy. As well as deepening your analytical and evaluative skills, which will be split 50:50 between two examined areas.

AWARDING BODY: AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Examinations (100%)

Paper 1: Study of Religions: Beliefs and Teaching with Practices 50% (1 ¾ hours)

Paper 2: Thematic Studies: 50% (1 ¾ hours)

Skills Acquired

- Show knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practices across individual believers, communities and societies.
- Analytical skills of applying and evaluating religious scriptures and teachings from leaders.
- Analysing and evaluating aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.
- Listening to another's viewpoint, consideration of it and analysis and response to it. A level of understanding which builds empathy and tolerance of others who are different to yourself.

Sport Science

COURSE OUTLINE

The world of elite sport is fast expanding and has embraced sport science disciplines wholeheartedly in the past few decades. The OCR Cambridge Nationals in Sport Science offers students the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles, and technological advancement in sport and sports performance. All skills taught are transferable across other subjects.

Sport Science is a vocationally related qualification and a very interesting course that engages students by teaching the theory content in a practical way. Students will develop the understanding and application of a wide range of topics that are suitable not just for the sports sector but related to other qualifications and the wider world.

The Sport Science course offers the students the chance to develop a wide range of highly desirable, transferable skills that are delivered in a practical context and then evidenced using a variety of different means. This results in students of all abilities being effectively engaged and inspired to achieve due to the creative and innovative delivery of the course.

Do this course if:

- You have an interest in Sport and/or Health and Fitness
- You want to gain life experiences through external trips and visitors
- You are keen to gain additional qualifications such as, first aid certification
- You like to participate in practical lessons
- You prefer courses that are not assessed by 100% exam.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

QUALIFICATION:

L2 Certificate (Cambridge Nationals)

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The course is **75% coursework** and **25% exam**.

The students will complete four units.

There are two mandatory units:

- **Reducing the risk of sports injuries** (examination- 60 marks)
- **Applying principles of training** (coursework)

Plus:

- **Nutrition in sport** (coursework)
- **Technology in sport** (coursework)

Skills Acquired

- Spoken communication to be able to express your ideas clearly and confidently in speech
- Teamwork enhancing the ability to work confidently within a group
- Analysing and investigating through problem solving and gathering information systematically to establish facts
- The ability to express yourself clearly in writing through written communications
- Planning and organising gaining the skills to plan activities and carry them through effectively
- Adaptability to be successful in changing situations and environments
- Time management skills to be able to prioritise tasks and work to deadlines.

Photography

COURSE OUTLINE

Candidates are introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of lens-based and light-based media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies.

They explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to lens-based and light-based media from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples.

Candidates must show a knowledge and understanding of: how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed and interpreted in images, artefacts and products in their chosen area(s) of study in Photography:

- lens-based and light-based media historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres in relation to Photography: lens-based and light-based media
- how images, artefacts and products relate to social, historical, vocational and cultural contexts
- a variety of approaches, methods and intentions of contemporary and historical artists, craftspeople and designers from different cultures and their contribution to continuity and change in society within their chosen area(s) of study in Photography: lens-based and light-based media
- a working vocabulary and knowledge of specialist terms.

AWARDING BODY: AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Coursework: 60 % of final mark

Unit 1: Portfolio

Candidate portfolio selected from work undertaken during course of study and must include **more** than one project.

Final Exam: 40% of final mark

Unit 2: Set Task

THIS IS NOT A WRITTEN EXAM IT IS A PRACTICAL TASK

Unlimited preparation time.
10 hours of sustained focused study.
Candidates respond to their chosen starting point.

Skills Acquired

- the ability to explore formal elements of visual language; line, form, colour, tone, pattern, texture, in the context of lens-based and light-based media
- investigating different ways of working as appropriate to their chosen area (s) of study
- responding to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or working to a design brief
- showing in their work the use of viewpoint, composition, focus control, depth of field, movement and narrative
- using appropriate techniques, technologies and equipment for recording images and lighting subjects within their chosen area
- showing an understanding of the developing, printing, manipulation and production qualities of still and moving images where appropriate
- understanding the value of working individually and as a member of a team within their chosen area
- Providing evidence of the use of safe working practices.

Creative Media

COURSE OUTLINE

You will explore key fundamentals of media practice. The course is aimed at those who may be interested in pursuing a career in creative media production. The qualification helps you to explore the sector by undertaking practical media projects.

You will investigate different media products, such as audio/moving image, publishing, and interactive design, considering their style, design, audience, and context:

- Exploring creative media production processes and practices by generating ideas, and planning production and post-production processes and
- Developing digital media production skills and techniques.

AWARDING BODY:

BTEC

QUALIFICATION: Level 2

ASSESSMENT METHOD

You will complete three coursework components as part of the course focussing on theoretical and practical approaches to Media and understanding the world around them. The qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE.

Component 1 Exploring media products

Component 2 Developing digital media production skills

Both Components are internally assessed assignments

Component 3 Create a media product in response to a brief
Assessment: externally assessed task where students respond to a brief to create a media product.

Skills Acquired

- Graphic design, Publishing, Post production, Production and Pre production skills. Image manipulation. Extended writing, Analysis skills, Evaluation skills.
- Creative investigation and ideas generation, communication, using creative development processes, developing and applying practical skills and using productive working skills and practice

Triple Science

COURSE OUTLINE

The new specification provides a challenging journey through all 3 sciences, focussing in on how science works, and your skills of scientific enquiry. Achieving higher grades (6,7,8 and 9) will allow you to progress on to A level at most Sixth Form institutions.

Biology

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

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

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

AWARDING BODY: AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% Examination

Six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics.

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

Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks.

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

Students will gain 3 GCSEs after successfully completing the course.

Skills Acquired

Students will complete a total of 26 Required Practicals in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Required Practicals are clearly outlined in the specifications. As a result, students will acquire skills in planning, carrying out experiments, analysing data, and evaluating their experimental method in terms of its validity, reliability, and ultimately how successful it was overall. Students will also acquire knowledge and understanding relating to all 3 aspects of science and will learn how to apply this knowledge to the wider context of society, helping them to make more informed decisions about the real world.



KS4 Options 2024-2026



| | | | |
|------|--|-------------|--|
| Name | | Tutor Group | |
|------|--|-------------|--|

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mandatory Subjects | GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Maths, GCSE Science, Character Curriculum, Core RE and PE Core |
|---------------------------|---|

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Humanities (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) | Geography | |
| | History | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Free Choice: (pick TWO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and a reserve 'R') | Art (3D Design) * | | Drama | | Religious Studies | |
| | Art (Fine Art) * | | Food Preparation and Nutrition | | Retail Business | |
| | Art (Craft and Design) * | | French | | Sport Science | |
| | Computer Science | | Geography | | Triple Science | |
| | Creative Media | | History | | | |
| | Dance | | Music | | | |
| | Digital Information Technology | | Photography | | | |

***You can only select one of the 3 Art subjects**

It will not be possible for us to provide every subject combination, as some may lead to classes that are too small, or it does not fit with the final timetabled subject groups. If you choose such a combination, you will be advised of this and asked to make an alternative choice.

| | | | |
|---|--|------|--|
| Student Signature | | Date | |
| Parent Signature | | Date | |
| Form Tutor Signature | | Date | |
| Senior Leader Signature (after the form has been checked) | | Date | |

**Return to form
tutor by**

12th April 2024

| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------|--|
| Date Received | | Time Received | |