

Macmillan
Academy

YEAR 9 ROUTES

2024



Inspiring every student to succeed

Introduction

Dear student,

You are entering an exciting time; over the next few weeks you will make some very important decisions. These decisions will shape the next two years of your education; they will have an impact on the qualifications you achieve, what you do after Year 11, and will influence your future career.

This booklet has been written to help guide you through this process. There are a number of staff in the academy ready to support you, from your tutor, Head of Year, subject teachers, to heads of department, careers advisors and senior leaders. All staff know how important it is that you make the right choices, and are ready to help you, so you just need to ask!

The Year 9 Routes video that accompanies this booklet explains the different qualifications that students can study in Key Stage 4, the different routes that students can take and how the Key Stage 4 curriculum fits together.

As part of the options process you will be invited to meet a senior member of staff to discuss your choices. Parents are very welcome to attend this meeting; it is a great opportunity to ask questions about the curriculum and qualifications on offer.

Our aim is to make sure that you complete Year 11 in the best possible position to continue your learning, whether that is in employment, an apprenticeship, or in Post 16 education. To access the level 3 Post 16 courses at Macmillan you will need to obtain 5 or more good grades, and to choose from the full range of courses you will need to have at least a grade 4 in GCSE English and mathematics.

In Key Stage 4 English language, English literature, mathematics, science and PE are compulsory subjects that all students must study. Other important subjects such as PSHE are taught through the tutorial programme, broadcasts and special events.

This year we have assigned every student a route. There are different guidelines to follow depending on the route you have been assigned.

	Alternate Provision	Ebacc Option	Full Ebacc
A	✓	~	~
B		~	~
C		✓	~
D			✓

Route A: These are the students accessing alternate provision in Year 9. These students are welcome to study an Ebacc subject or to do the full English Baccalaureate should they wish.

Route B: These students are welcome to study an Ebacc subject or to do the full English Baccalaureate should they wish.

Route C: These students must choose at least one Ebacc subject in their options. They are welcome to do the full English Baccalaureate should they wish.

Route D: These students must do the full English Baccalaureate as part of their options

The Ebacc subjects are computing, geography, history, French, Mandarin & Spanish.

To attain the full English Baccalaureate you must choose a humanities subject (geography or history) and a language (French, Mandarin or Spanish) as well as studying English, mathematics and science.

A	B	C	D
Art (G)		Art (G)	
Business Studies (G)		Business Studies (G)	
	Computing (G)		Computing (G)
	Design Technology(G)		Design Technology(G)
Drama (G)		Drama (G)	
Engineering (V)		Engineering (V)	
	Food & Nutrition (G)		Food & Nutrition (G)
French (G)		French (G)	
	Geography (G)		
Health & Social Care (V)		Health & Social Care (V)	
	History (G)		History (G)
iMedia (V)		iMedia (V)	
		Mandarin (G)	
			Media Studies (G)
Music (G)			
	Photography(G)		Photography(G)
	Physical Education (G)		Physical Education (G)
	Religious Studies (G)		Religious Studies (G)
Spanish (G)		Spanish (G)	
	Sports Studies (V)		Sports Studies (V)
Textiles (G)		Textiles (G)	
Triple Science (G)		Triple Science (G)	

You may have noticed that after each subject there is a code. This tells you the type of qualification on offer.

Code	Qualification
G	GCSE
V	Vocational

Key	
	Ebacc Subjects
	Non-Ebacc Subjects

BTECs and Cambridge Nationals are vocational qualifications that are assessed differently to GCSEs. In general, a greater proportion of the course is assessed by coursework, and there are fewer exams compared with GCSEs.

The choice is vast, but as I mentioned earlier, there are many experienced staff at the academy ready to guide you. It is important that have prepared well for your 1:1 appointment. Students get the best out of this meeting if they have thought carefully about their options and discussed them with their parents, teachers, and friends. For more specialist help you are most welcome to contact me by telephone or email.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Stott
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

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Art and Design (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

We live in a diverse world; everywhere you look is influenced by creativity, for example, architecture, interiors, games, fashion, marketing and media, textiles and the contemporary artworld. Studying art, craft and design can support you to develop the skills in order to compete in this market. Art, craft and design is also hugely enjoyable and can enable you to express yourself and support you in looking after your mental well-being. You will see your practice improve rapidly and you will receive regular feedback on your progress. Your knowledge of artists, craftspeople and visual cultures will broaden and deepen and you will become increasingly inventive after linking your work with that of established practitioners, both historical and contemporary.

All art, craft and design teachers are practitioners and produce their own work. Indeed our facilities are set up as studios enabling you to be artists, crafts people and designers.

What will I study on this course?

- Skills development - drawing, painting, sculpture, textiles, photography, digital media.
- Exploring the work of other artists.
- Learn about historical and contemporary art, craft and design.
- Themes for projects are generated by what is happening in the artworld.

How will I be assessed on this course?

40% externally set assignment, 60% portfolio (coursework).

The externally set assignment has a preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time.



What qualifications will I get at the end of the course?

GCSE Art and Design (Art, craft and design) awarded by AQA

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Jobs in the creative industries amount to the third largest contributor to our nation's wealth every year. In the visual arts and design there are four main strands; fine art, fashion and textiles, graphic design and communications and film/industrial design and crafts. Creative people are adaptable and as a result very employable.

Some of our art students have gone on to study art at university and some have pursued successful careers in:

- Architecture and interior architecture
- Jewellery and fashion design
- Games design
- Graphic design
- Product design
- Theatre, stage and costume design
- Teaching- early years, primary and secondary
- Nursing (mental health)
- Paramedic
- Physiology
- Marketing

See an art and design specialist in the art department to get a list of potential careers that are too numerous to list here.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs A Charlton - Head of Art

Visit the AQA website - [click here](#)

Business Studies (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

GCSE business studies is an exciting subject that is grounded in the real world. Students of GCSE business studies will:

Actively engage in the study of business and economics to develop as effective and independent students and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

Use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, build arguments and make informed judgements.

Develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts.

Appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities.

Consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

What will I study on this course?

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Marketing
- Human resources
- Finance and economics

How will I be assessed on this course?

2 examinations in Year 11 equally weighted.

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Any career will benefit from an understanding of how organisations work. You could go on to study A levels or BTEC diplomas in business, law or economics, a business studies qualification would be useful when applying for a business related course but would also help support application for many subjects.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Miss Glasgow for further information.

Visit the Edexcel website - [click here](#)



Computing (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Do you enjoy solving problems?

Are you interested in finding out about the latest gadgets and technology?

Are you interested in finding out how things work?

Do you want to create the next great phone app, computer game or software?

Do you want to help shape the future with technology?

Do you want to gain an insight into the area of robotics and artificial intelligence?

What will I study on this course?

- Learn how to create your own programs and games using new programming languages.
- Find out about computer architectures.
- Look at past and emerging technologies around the world.
- How networks such as the internet work, and what they will look like in the future.
- How to write and understand computer languages.
- How new software is developed and created.

How will I be assessed on this course?

At GCSE the course is based upon:

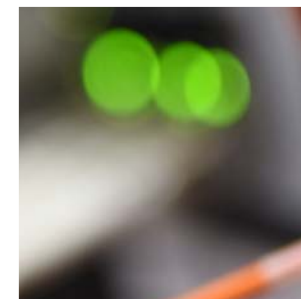
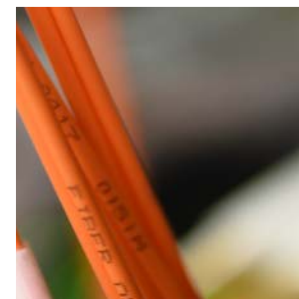
- 100% examination

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

You could become a software developer, creating the next big computer game or phone app. Computing could lead to you working in web design, creating new websites and applications for millions of people to use on the internet. You could use your skills as a developer to help create programming and networking solutions for the medical profession, armed forces or work in a science background developing technologies that could impact of our lives in the future.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Miss Glasgow for further information.



Design Technology (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

GCSE design and technology enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.

Design and technology can set you up for a career in a wide variety of industries such as product design, architecture, engineering, fashion design, carpentry, interior design, industrial design, plus many more.

What will I study on this course?

Students will acquire subject knowledge in design and technology that builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make, with confidence, prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities. Students learn how to take design risks, helping them to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens. They should develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. Through the critique of the outcomes of design and technology activity, both historic and present day, students should develop an understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world and understand that high-quality design and technology is important to the creativity, culture, sustainability, wealth and wellbeing of the nation and the global community.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Component 1 – Written examination: 50 % of GCSE

The paper consists of two sections:

Section A: Core This section is 40 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 10 marks of calculation questions in Section A.

Section B: Material categories This section is 60 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 5 marks of calculation questions in Section B.

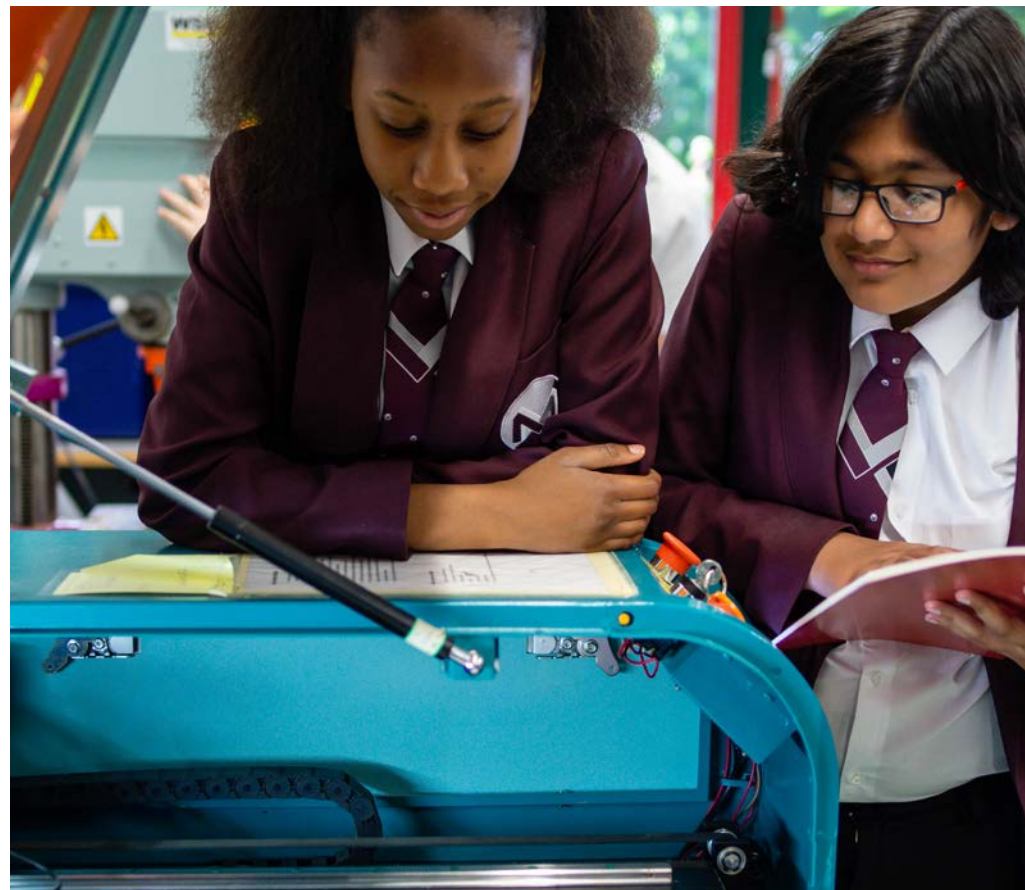
Component 2 - Non-exam assessment: 50% of GCSE

There are four parts to the assessment:

1. **Investigate** This includes investigation of needs and research, and a product specification.
2. **Design** This includes producing different design ideas, review of initial ideas, development of design ideas into a chosen design, communication of design ideas and review of the chosen design.
3. **Make** This includes manufacture, quality and accuracy.
4. **Evaluate** This includes testing and evaluation.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs Cottle for more information.



Drama (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Do you enjoy practical and creative activities?
Do you enjoy working as part of a team?
Do you want to develop your skills of analysis and evaluation?
Do you want to learn about directing and design for theatre?

If you answer yes to these questions then GCSE drama could be the course for you.

What will I study on this course?

In Year 10, you will explore different stimuli and play texts in order to develop your skills and understanding of the medium and elements of drama. During the first year of the GCSE you will devise a performance for component 1 and complete written portfolio evidence.

In Year 11, you will explore both a set text and attend a live theatre performance in preparation for the written examination. The remainder of the course will involve rehearsing or designing for a scripted performance assessed by an external examiner.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Component 1: Devising (40%)

The creation, development and performance of a devised piece of drama based on stimulus material.

An evaluation and analysis of the process and performance through either written and/or recorded evidence.

Component 2: Performance of text (20%)

The performance of two key extracts from a play, assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: Theatre makers in practice (40%)

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Questions based on the study of a complete performance text, explored practically during the course.

An analysis and evaluation of a live theatre performance seen as part of the course.

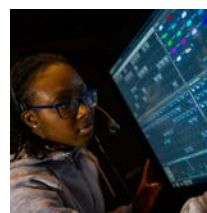
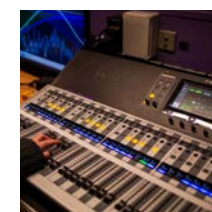
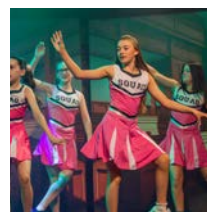
What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Studying drama can lead to a number of careers within the creative and entertainment industries, including acting, directing, and design to name a few. Drama is also recognised and valued for its contribution to the development of skills needed for a wide range of future employment, including: interpersonal skills, group working skills and communication.

At Post 16 level: A Level drama and theatre is available. This course allows you to continue developing your practical skills and learn about theatre practitioners in more depth, as well as developing a greater understanding of how theatre works.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs Slee for further information.



Engineering Manufacture (Technical Award)

Why study this subject?

The UK is regarded as a world leader in engineering, which covers a wide range of exciting and rapidly developing areas such as renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, automotive, agri-food and bioscience. People with engineering skills are always in demand. Middlesbrough and the wider Teesside area have a history of engineering excellence which is well known throughout the world.

Engineering manufacture will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the engineering, manufacturing, process and control sector and more widely. It will prepare you for either a route into further education or an engineering apprenticeship.

What will I study on this course?

This qualification will enable you to learn about the process of engineering manufacture, and understand the different materials that can be used to manufacture products. You will develop the ability to plan the production of a one-off product using a range of hand held pieces of equipment and machining methods. You will also learn how to program CNC equipment to manufacture.

Students will have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate skills that are transferable to different real-life contexts, roles or employment.

How will I be assessed on the course?

You will study the key aspects of engineering manufacture, and have the opportunity to apply what you learn through a number of practical experiences.

This will involve you studying three mandatory units:

Principles of engineering manufacture - *This is assessed by an exam.*

In this unit you will learn about the different types of manufacturing processes, and the different materials that can be used within manufacturing.



This question paper has two parts:

- Part A – includes 10 multiple choice questions (MCQs)
- Part B – includes short answer questions and extended response questions. One extended response question.

Manufacturing a one-off product - *This set assignment contains 5 practical tasks.*

In this unit you will learn how to safely plan and produce a one-off product by using appropriate processes, tools and equipment.

Manufacturing in quantity - *This set assignment contains 5 practical tasks.*

In this unit you will learn how to manufacture using simple jigs and templates to support manufacturing in volume using Computer Aided Design (CAD) software and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) equipment.

Where can I find out more information about this qualification?

Contact Mrs Cottle for further information.



English Language (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

English is one of the key qualifications required by colleges, universities and employers.

The study of English will support your other GCSE choices as you will learn to read in-depth, analyse texts and express yourself clearly in writing as well as speech. You will learn to explore contemporary texts as well as texts from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries which will build your independent analytical skills as well as exposing you to other viewpoints on the world. As a writer, you will develop your skills to suit different forms, genres, audiences and purposes through experimenting with language and structural choices.

What will I study on this course?

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Speaking and listening presentations
- Reading and writing skills

How will I be assessed on this course?

GCSE English language: 100% examination + Non-Examined Speaking and Listening Endorsement

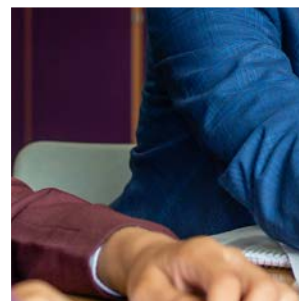
What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

At Post 16, we offer A levels in English language and English literature. These courses develop analytical skills and your own critical writing. The work is extremely varied; you will have the opportunity to study texts in detail, to produce original writing and hopefully visit the theatre. Your final grades will result from both examinations and coursework.

English is such a wide subject that it can lead to all sorts of courses as well as the traditional English routes. You could study linguistics, communication studies, media studies, cultural studies, gender studies, women's studies or TEFL (which is teaching English as a foreign language). The universities regard English as a sound basis for other, completely different degree courses such as law, economics and management.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Ms Colabella for further information.



English Literature (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

English literature GCSE allows you to study engaging and powerful novels, plays and poetry from across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. You will be exposed to key societal moments from different time periods and you will learn to appreciate the role that literature has in society. Importantly, literature not only teaches you about the content of texts, but also to write extended essays with a clear argument running throughout.

How will I be assessed on this course?

GCSE English literature: 100% examination

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

At Post 16, we offer A levels in English language and English literature. These courses develop analytical skills and your own critical writing. The work is extremely varied; you will have the opportunity to study texts in detail, to produce original writing and hopefully visit the theatre. Your final grades will result from both examinations and coursework.

English is such a wide subject that it can lead to all sorts of courses as well as the traditional English routes. You could study linguistics, communication studies, media studies, cultural studies, gender studies, women's studies or TEFL (which is teaching English as a foreign language). The universities regard English as a sound basis for other, completely different degree courses such as law, economics and management.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Ms Colabella for further information.



Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

GCSE food preparation and nutrition is a new, exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. This qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

What will I study on this course?

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

1. Food, nutrition and health: macro nutrients, micro nutrients, nutritional needs and health.
2. Food science: cooking of food, heat transfer and the functional and chemical properties of food.
3. Food safety: food spoilage, contamination and the principles of food safety
4. Food choice: factors affecting food choice, British and international cuisines, sensory evaluation, food labelling and marketing.
5. Food provenance: environmental impact and sustainability of food, food processing and production.

How will I be assessed on this course?

EXAM: Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition (50%) written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes.

NON- EXAM ASSESSMENT (NEA): Task 1: Food investigation (15%) written report

Students must show an understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Students will submit a written report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

NON- EXAM ASSESSMENT (NEA): Task 2: Food preparation assessment (35%) Written Portfolio

Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. Students will submit a written portfolio (15 A4 pages) including photographic evidence.

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

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. For more information on food careers please visit www.tastycareers.org.uk

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs Garbutt for further information.



Geography (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Geography will appeal to you if:

- You are curious about the world, people and environments.
- You like asking questions and finding answers.
- You enjoy practical, hands-on work.
- You are interested in local, regional and global issues.
- You have the ability to think independently.
- You want a well-respected, broad qualification to prepare you for many future courses or employment.

What will I study on this course?

Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Students will be assessed on their exam performance only, (no coursework). All exams will take place at the end of the course. Students will take three exams:

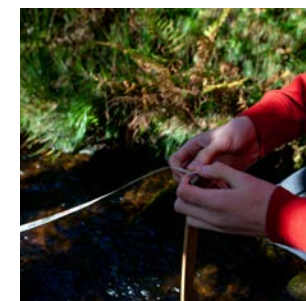
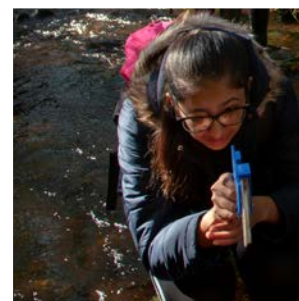
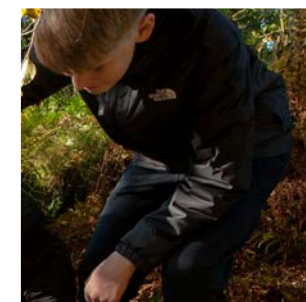
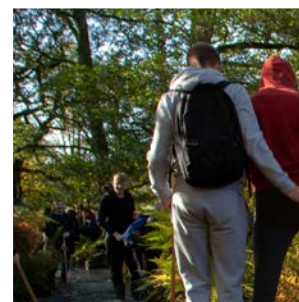
- Physical geography (90mins)
- Human geography (90mins)
- An issue evaluation, skills and fieldwork (90 mins)

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

You will find that studying geography is a brilliant step towards a wider range of courses and/or employment opportunities. Geography is a well-respected facilitating subject leading into many diverse careers including; advertising, education, environmental management, finance, law, marketing, retail, sales, and social/health services.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mr Cox for further information.



Health and Social Care (OCR Nationals)

Why study this subject?

The health and social care sectors are the largest employers in the UK. They offer a wide range of roles that are suitable for an array of interests. By studying this course it can not only help to learn about health and social care but can help build skills and knowledge for understanding how to be successful in life's ventures.

Health and social care can help to improve how students communicate and understand the people around them, building positive relationships and promoting health and wellbeing to the community.

What will I study on this course?

There are three components to the course.

1. R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings
2. R033: Supporting individuals through life events
3. R035: Health promotion campaigns

How will I be assessed on this course?

R032 and R035 are internally assessed assignments set at specific times through OCR.

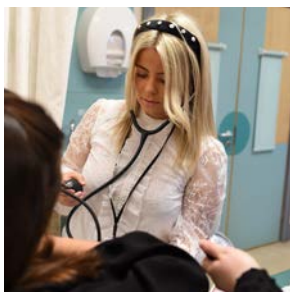
R032 will be an externally assessed assessment set by OCR.

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

With this course you can continue on to level 3 at the academy and then onto university for nursing, midwifery, paramedic, dental nurse, physiotherapy, radiography, social work, primary school teaching and so much more.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Miss Hargreaves or other health and social care staff for further information. Visit the OCR website - [click here](#)



History (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

History is the story of who we are and where we came from. An exciting adventure across the world and through the ages. Journeying into the past enables us to understand our own identities and the modern world we live in. It helps us to recognise the warning signs of past mistakes and inspires us to build a more positive future.

History is one of the most useful disciplines because it develops a vast array of skills, from analysing conflicting interpretations and evaluating the significance of evidence, to shaping arguments and reaching balanced conclusions.

Where will your journey take you...

What will I study on this course?

Paper 1:

- **America 1920-1973:** A 'Land of Opportunity' which promised riches and excitement, but at the same time fostered vast inequalities.
- **Conflict and Tension 1918-1939:** The end of WW1 offered the world an opportunity to reflect and build a better future. Unfortunately, the selfishness of individuals, groups and countries led to a repeat of the horrors of world war.

Paper 2:

- **Health and the People c1000 to the present day:** From superstitions and herbal remedies to anaesthetics and laser surgery. Medicine, surgery, and public health have transformed over the course of the last 1000 years..
- **Elizabethan England:** Henry VIII lived in fear of leaving his crown to a daughter, and yet, the Elizabethan Age is considered to be one of the greatest in English history.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Paper 1: Written examination (50%)

Paper 2: Written examination (50%)

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

History is a highly respected academic subject which prepares students for any career or A-level course which requires the ability to carry out research, put together a convincing argument, write analytically, and assess reliability and bias.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs Dixon for further information.



Mathematics (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Mathematics is the language of the universe. Everything around us has a foundation in mathematics in one way or another, from aeroplanes flying to the number of petals on a flower.

Mathematics is applied in many other subjects from physics to ICT to art and design. You wouldn't have a mobile phone or a computer if it wasn't for the application of mathematics.

What will I study on this course?

The course will cover number, algebra, ratio/proportion, probability, statistics, geometry and measures.

How will I be assessed on this course?

The course is assessed 100% by examinations taken in Year 11.

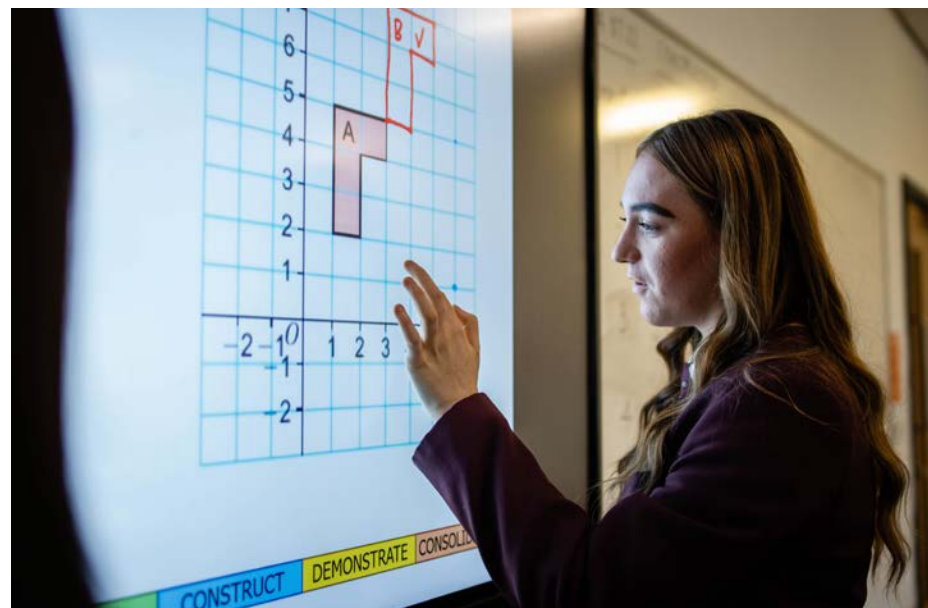


What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Mathematics is such an important part of our life that trained experts will be found in almost all career paths, including; business, academia, computer design, architecture, accountancy, teaching, law, travel and construction. At Post 16, A level mathematics and A level further mathematics are available. This course can lead to many university qualifications.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mr Syed, Mrs Smith or Mrs Ashton for further information.



Media Studies (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Media is exciting, contemporary, and interactive. If you decide to take GCSE media studies, then the first thing you will learn is the different between watching media and reading it. Television, film, magazines, games, newspapers, and online content can all be watched and enjoyed, but they can also be read, deciphered, and interpreted using the skills you will gain through studying media. You will learn to deconstruct, decode, and analyse media products and texts through in-depth study skills which will help you to explore sophisticated meaning within all the key media forms. This course helps you become a meaning finder and a meaning maker!

What will I study on this course?

You will study a range of media products in order to prepare for exams. These products will require thorough study and by using the key concepts you will be analysing them in depth enough to perform well in the two examinations

There are 4 Key Concepts:

- Media Representation
- Media Audience
- Media Industries
- Media Language

How will I be assessed on this course?

At the end of Year 11 you will sit two external examinations and submit coursework which is assessed by your media teacher. Each written exam will be 1 hour 30 minutes and is 35% of GCSE.

2 Exams: These are known as Media One and Media Two. Both 35% each, with a range of short, medium and extended response questions.

Coursework is from a choice of one of five annually changing briefs, set by AQA. This is worth 60 marks and is 30% of the GCSE.

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

This would be an excellent route into A Level media studies that the academy already has enormous success with!

It is a truly contemporary subject which is relevant to all our lives. The media saturates everything we do in the developed world in the 21st Century. It can lead to professions such as: Journalism, Marketing, Media Production, Teaching, Game Designer, Advertising, multiplatform and mobile journalism, information officer and many more!

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mr D. Wilson-Stonestreet for further information.



iMedia (OCR)

Why study this subject?

ICT is everywhere. Use of ICT is moving at such a fast pace that people without relevant skills are being left behind. Every industry will use ICT in some capacity and employers are looking for highly trained young professionals who have relevant ICT skills. ICT capability is fundamental to participation and engagement in modern society.

- Can you think of one workplace that will not use ICT in some way?
- Are you keen to work in the digital job sector which is growing twice as fast as the economy as a whole?
- What would life be like without the internet, your Xbox or Playstation and your mobile phone?

What will I study on this course?

The qualification is achieved by completing three units of study.

1. Create iMedia in the media industry
2. Visual identity and digital graphics
3. Interactive digital media

How will I be assessed on this course?

Unit 1 will be assessed through a written exam (40% of your overall grade).

Unit 2 will be assessed through a controlled assessment within lessons (25%).

Unit 3 will be assessed through a controlled assessment within lessons (35%).

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

ICT is such an important part of our life that trained experts will be found in almost all career paths including; television, film, advertising, radio, publishing, games authoring, software development and web design.

At Post 16, A level computing, BTEC ICT and A level media are available. Computing covers the more theoretical side of the subject and offers you the chance to undertake a major project of computer programming. ICT concentrates on improving your understanding, knowledge and practical skills. All of these courses can lead to university qualifications.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Miss Glasgow for further information.



Modern Foreign Languages (French or Spanish - GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Communication skills: Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills that you will need in both your personal and professional life. As a result of learning a new language and your new ways of thinking, not only will you find that you can express yourself much better and even become a more effective communicator in English, but you will also be able to create connections with a broader range of people across the globe. This will also expand your cultural understanding of other people and how they see the world making you more empathetic and ultimately a better employee!

Problem solving: Language learning enhances your critical and creative thinking skills and fine-tunes your ability to make decisions through enhanced concentration, multi-tasking capabilities, and greater listening skills.

Stand out from the crowd: Speaking a second language is one of the top skills requested by employers in today's job market, regardless of job sector or skill level. Having a second or third language under your belt will solidify your competitive edge over other candidates when you are looking for your future dream job, not to mention the higher salary rates you can look forward to!

Entry Requirements

This course is suitable for students of all abilities but a having a good command of English will support your development.

What will I study on this course?

The 6 key themes at GCSE that you will develop from Key Stage 3 are:

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

You will be able to participate in many cultural events throughout your course and may have the opportunity to visit France or Spain or work with students from abroad.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 3: Writing
5 mins reading time included Section A: Listening - multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions set in English. Section B: Dictation	Task 1: Read aloud and 2 short unprepared questions Task 2: Role play in a transactional setting Task 3: Picture description, 2 short unprepared questions and follow-on conversation	Section A: Reading - multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions set in English. Section B: Translation into English	Picture task (Foundation tier only) Two writing responses (both tiers, with a choice of two options for each question) Translation into French/Spanish (both tiers)
25% of GCSE Summer Year 11 exam Marked externally	25% of GCSE Summer Year 11 exam Conducted internally with class teacher Marked externally	25% of GCSE Summer Year 11 exam Marked externally	25% of GCSE Summer Year 11 exam Marked externally

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Language learning helps you build and develop skills beyond the classroom. You could be one of the few who can help the UK companies which are currently losing 20% of their business annually because they lack employees with language skills. You can focus on one language or more and it could be the key component of your future employment or an additional skill you possess. The choice is yours! You'll get to learn more about yourself, meet new people, and perhaps travel to places you would have never dared to visit before. Language skills are regarded favourably by universities and the most competitive organisations within a range of contexts such as business, politics, law, sport or the media.

At Post 16 A levels in both languages are available. You will study a wide range of topical issues and can focus on your own interests in the speaking examination. You will have the opportunity to work with the foreign language assistant and may complete work experience in either France or Spain. Both of these courses can lead to university qualifications.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs Watson and /or Mrs Storey for further information.

Modern Foreign Languages (Mandarin - GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Communication skills: Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills that you will need in both your personal and professional life. As a result of learning a new language and your new ways of thinking, not only will you find that you can express yourself much better and even become a more effective communicator in English, but you will also be able to create connections with a broader range of people across the globe. This will also expand your cultural understanding of other people and how they see the world, making you more empathetic and ultimately a better employee!

Problem solving: Language learning enhances your critical and creative thinking skills and fine-tunes your ability to make decisions through enhanced concentration, multi-tasking capabilities, and greater listening skills. Learning Mandarin also demonstrates adaptability and a willingness to tackle challenges. It's a tonal language with a unique writing system, making it distinct from other European languages. Acquiring these skills can enhance cognitive abilities and demonstrate intellectual flexibility.

Stand out from the crowd: Speaking a second language is one of the top skills requested by employers in today's job market, regardless of job sector or skill level. Having a second or third language under your belt will solidify your competitive edge over other candidates when you are looking for your future dream job, not to mention the higher salary rates you can look forward to!

Entry Requirements

This course is suitable for students who have studied Mandarin at Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9). Having a good command of English will also support your development in this subject.

What will I study on this course?

The 5 key themes at GCSE that you will develop from Key Stage 3 are:

- Identity and culture (friends and family, daily and cultural life);
- Local area, holiday and travel;
- School;
- Future aspirations, study and work;
- International and global dimension (including environmental issues).

You may have already had the opportunity to visit China in Year 9. In Years 10 and 11, you will be able to participate in many cultural events throughout your course and may have the opportunity to work with students from abroad, complete some work experience with a local Chinese company, or work with a foreign language assistant.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 3: Writing
<p>Foundation tier: 35m Higher tier: 45m (5 mins reading time included for both tiers)</p> <p>Listening - multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions set and responded to in English.</p>	<p>Foundation tier: 7-9 minutes plus 12 minutes prep time Higher tier: 10-12 minutes plus 12 minutes prep time</p> <p>Task 1: Role play – asking and answering questions based on a scenario</p> <p>Task 2: Picture-based task – describe a picture and answer questions.</p> <p>Task 3: Conversation based on two themes</p>	<p>Foundation tier: 50 m Higher tier: 65m</p> <p>Section A: Reading - multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions set in English.</p> <p>Section B: Chinese translation into English</p>	<p>Foundation tier: 75 m Higher tier: 85m</p> <p>Foundation tier: 4 questions. Q1: open-response description/ giving opinions. Q2-3: open-response questions, with a choice of two options. Q4: translate 5 sentences into Chinese.</p> <p>Higher tier: 3 questions. Q1-2: open-response questions, with a choice of two options. Q3: translate a short paragraph from English to Chinese.</p>
25% of GCSE Summer Year 11 exam Marked externally	25% of GCSE Summer Year 11 exam Conducted internally with class teacher Marked externally	25% of GCSE Summer Year 11 exam Marked externally	25% of GCSE Summer Year 11 exam Marked externally

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Language learning helps you build and develop skills beyond the classroom. You could be one of the few who can help the UK companies which are currently losing 20% of their business annually because they lack employees with language skills. You can focus on one language or more and it could be the key component of your future employment or an additional skill you possess. The choice is yours! You'll get to learn more about yourself, meet new people, and perhaps travel to places you would have never dared to visit before. Language skills are regarded favourably by universities and the most competitive organisations within a range of contexts such as business, politics, law, sport or the media.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs Watson and /or Miss Fleming for further information.

Music (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Do you enjoy listening to music?

Do you enjoy performing music?

Do you enjoy learning new skills and being creative?

Your answers to these questions may persuade you that music is for you.

What will I study on this course?

In Year 10, you will:

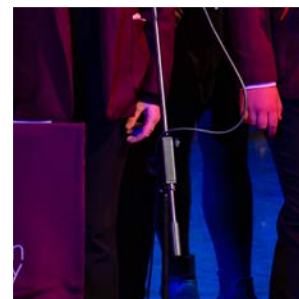
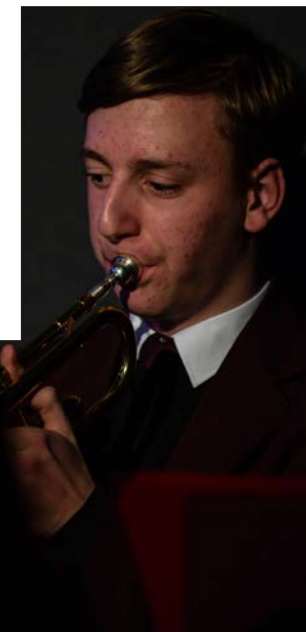
- Develop knowledge of music through musical workshops.
- Have plenty of opportunities to perform both in class and to the wider community.
- Produce a musical composition on a genre of your choice.
- Listen to and appraise music from a variety of sources.

In Year 11, you will

- Record your prepared performance pieces which you work on in your peripatetic lessons.
- Complete a second composition based on a set brief.
- Learn 2 set works which will appear in 2 out of 8 questions in your examination.
- Sit the listening and appraising examination.

How will I be assessed on this course?

The course is 30% composing coursework which is internally assessed. 30% performance recording (this is done in the academy by the music staff). 40% for the written listening and appraising examination.



What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

A GCSE in music also prepares students for A level music. At Post 16 an A level in music can allow you to take your degree in music. This allows you to access a wide range of graduate careers. Even if you do not go on to take A level, music provides variety and a sense of commitment which looks good on any CV.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mr Taylor for further information.

Photography (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

We live in a visual world where the printed image is utilised to communicate and celebrate the colour, shape, form and textures of the environment in which we live. Studying photography will support you to expand your understanding of contemporary and historical photographers, allowing you to create a professional portfolio of work, whilst developing the skills to analyse, experiment, create and present a personal response. This will provide a foundation on which to build a career see list opposite. You will also have the ability to develop practical skills in taking and editing photographs.

What will I study on this course?

- Skills development -Taking photographs, using Photoshop and Editing software.
- Learn about the formal elements of photography including drawing with light, perspective, using the focus.
- Exploring the work of other photographers.
- Exploring traditional, scientific and non-digital experimental techniques such as cyanotypes and photograms
- Projects are responsive to contemporary photography practice in the field.

How will I be assessed on this course?

40% externally set assignment, 60% portfolio (coursework).

The externally set assignment has a preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time.



What qualifications will I get at the end of the course?

GCSE Photography awarded by AQA

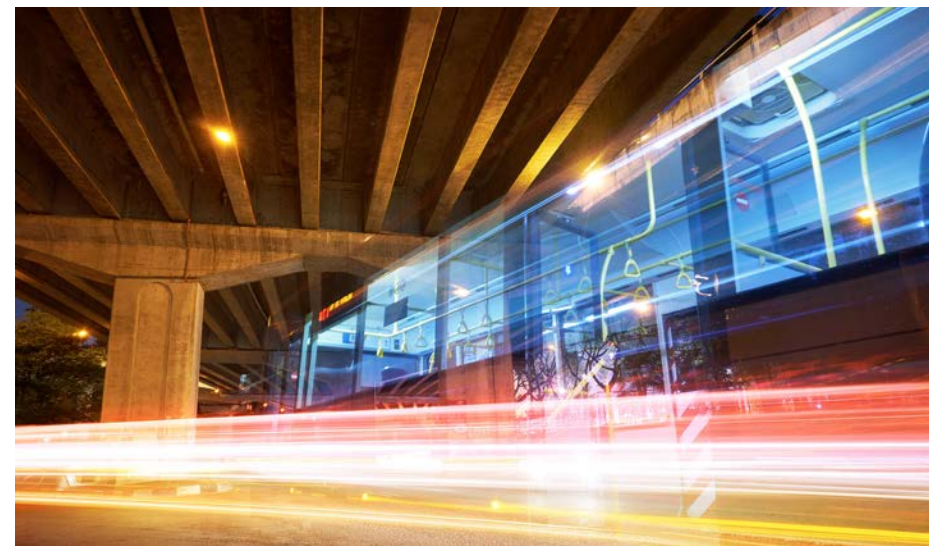
What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

- Fashion
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Advertising
- Film and Television
- Sports
- Magazines
- Wedding
- Drones
- Police
- Portraiture
- Animation and games design
- Product design
-

See an art and design specialist in the art department to get a list of potential careers that are too numerous to list here.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs A Charlton - Head of Art



Physical Education (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

If you love playing sports and enjoying learning about the science behind it then studying PE at GCSE could be a good move for you. Physical education is not just about sports though. You will learn a lot about health, well-being, the human body and apply a range of skills that will help you in your future career.

Entry Requirement

As the course requires you to be assessed in three sports it is important that to be successful you are currently regularly participating in competitive sport either for the academy or an external club. You should also be committed to continuing this participation throughout Key Stage 4 as some elements will be covered during enrichment time, for example rock climbing. Students who perform best on the course are usually in set one PE classes.

What skills will I gain from this course?

As well as developing your theoretical knowledge of sport, physical activity and health you will also gain many valuable skills from studying PE that will help you in other GCSE subjects, as well as your future career. Some of the skills that you will develop include:

- **Communications skills:** Many aspects of PE involve working in teams towards a common goal.
- **Social skills:** PE is a very social subject and can involve a lot of group work.
- **Analysis and evaluation:** GCSE PE involves analysing your own and others' performance while looking for ways it could be improved – like being your very own pundit!
- **Physical fitness:** As a PE student, you'll also benefit from being physically fit. Not only will this help you in the physical side of the subject itself, but it will also improve your general well-being and boost your brain power!



How will I be assessed on this course?

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport	Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport	Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport
What's assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied anatomy and physiology • Movement analysis • Physical training • Use of data 	What's assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports psychology • Socio-cultural influences health, fitness and well-being • Use of data 	What's assessed? <p>Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either one).</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.</p>
How it is assessed Written exam: 1 hour 15 mins 78 marks 30% of GCSE	How it is assessed Written exam: 1 hour 15 mins 78 marks 30% of GCSE	How it is assessed Assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA 100 marks 40% of GCSE

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Physical education lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries that you may not have considered before. For example, did you know that many nutritionists, physical therapists and chiropractors have a degree in PE?

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mr Coates or your PE teacher for more information.

Religious Studies (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Religious studies impacts on everyday life across the country and all over the world. There are links to news items every day.

Do you understand where other people are coming from and what makes them tick?
Do you have strong views, enjoy debates and have questions on current moral issues?
Do you like to be in touch with what is happening in the world?
Whether you have religious faith or not – are you prepared to listen to others?

Your answers to these questions may persuade you that religious studies is for you.

There are over 7 billion people on the planet, over 6 and a half billion are religious; whether you are or not doesn't change this figure – find out what most of the world follow.

We aim to improve your knowledge and understanding on a variety of topics and 2 major world religions. We also wish to improve your ability to see both sides of a situation – even if you disagree, foster tolerance, sympathy and empathy and enable better essay writing skills that will help not only for GCSE but A level and beyond.

What will I study on this course?

A: 2 main world religions (Paper 1)

- Christian beliefs and practices
- Islamic beliefs and practices

B: Themes (Paper 2)

- Matters of life (eg abortion, euthanasia, animal rights)
- Crime and punishment (eg reasons for crime, punishment, death penalty)
- Human rights and social justice (eg prejudice, discrimination, exploitation, poverty)
- Relationships and family life (eg marriage, contraception, divorce)

How will I be assessed on this course?

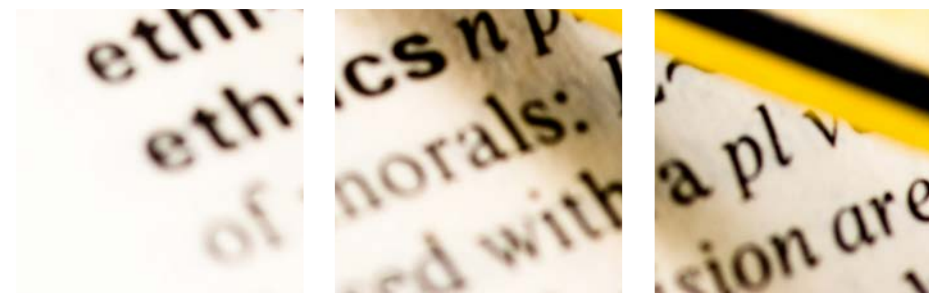
100% examination involving two separate papers (Paper 1 and 2) in Year 11.

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

A wide range of careers, including jobs that involve making tough decisions and communicating effectively with others, such as; jobs in the armed forces, forensic science, the police, youth work, journalism, retailing, social work, nursing, public health, medicine, law, and the media. A-Level religious studies, complements a range of subjects including; humanities, sciences, law, art, engineering, health and social care. Any related degree course. The skills gained from GCSE religious studies are regarded favourably by many universities.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact any member of the religious studies department for further information.



Science – Combined AQA Trilogy (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Can you think of one workplace that will not use science in some way? Do you enjoy learning new skills and being practical?

What would life be like without knowing about your planet, how physical concepts work, and amazing experiments?

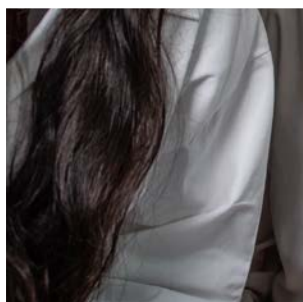
Your answers to these questions may persuade you that science is for you.

Entry Requirements

This course is suitable for students of all ability.

What will I study on this course?

Over the two years you will study ten biology modules, ten chemistry and ten physics modules. The topics in these modules are grouped to give them all the same themes.



How will I be assessed on this course?

The course has no controlled assessments, and will have six examinations (two in each subject) at the end of the second year each worth 16.7% of the overall two GCSEs.

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

At Post 16 A levels are available in physics, chemistry and biology. These three A levels cover the more theoretical side of the subject and offer you the chance to undertake a major grounding in the sciences. These can lead to a variety of careers including; medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science and many others. Science is such an important part of our life that trained experts will be found in almost all career paths from television, film, advertising, radio, publishing, science, sports and teaching.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mr Shaw for further information.

Science – AQA Triple (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Do you have a passion for science? Are you fascinated by the world around you and intrigued to learn more about how it works? Do you want to look in depth at biology, chemistry and physics?

Entry Requirements

This course is challenging and would be best suited to students who are currently achieving well in their science lessons.

What will I study on this course?

You will study modules in each of the three sciences, comprising physics, chemistry and biology topic areas.

In biology the main themes are cells level systems, larger scale structures, organisms and communities, genetics, and global challenges.

The main themes in chemistry are: particles; elements, compounds and mixtures; chemical reactions; predicting and identifying reactions and products; monitoring and controlling chemical reactions; global challenges.

In physics the main themes are: matter, forces, electricity, magnetism and magnetic fields, waves in matter, radioactivity, energy and global challenges. There is also a module for each subject that encompasses the practical elements of the course.

How will I be assessed on this course?

Each separate science has two terminal examinations in the summer of Year 11, each worth 50% of the final grade. There will be no controlled assessment in any of the courses.

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Science is such an important part of our life that trained experts will be found in almost all career paths from television, film, advertising, radio, publishing, science, sports and teaching.

At Post 16 A levels are available in physics, chemistry and biology. These three A levels cover the more theoretical side of the subject and offer you the chance to undertake a major grounding in the sciences. They can lead to a variety of careers including; medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science and many others.

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mr Shaw for further information.



Sports Studies (OCR)

Why study this subject?

Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership along with their own practical performance. They'll also learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Students develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and how this shapes the sports industry.

This course is designed to allow students the freedom to explore more deeply the things that interest them. The teaching of the qualification will normally be through practical work, learning skills and how to do things that may be relevant to the world of work. A lot of the qualification is assessed by coursework set. This will be done throughout the duration of the two year course. So if you enjoy project work, and doing practical things you may find Sport Studies a better option than a GCSE.

To ensure the qualification is robust and as stretching as a GCSE, the course has one exam. **You will have two opportunities to take the test and therefore allows you to have the opportunity to re-sit if you needed to..**

Entry Requirement

Obviously, you should have a keen interest in PE and Sport. In addition, you should be committed to continuing to participate in extra-curricular sport throughout Key Stage 4 as some elements will be covered during enrichment time, for example leading a football session for Year 7 students.

What skills will I gain from this course?

The Cambridge National gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on the knowledge and understanding of skills in health, fitness, activity and sport. Some of the skills you will develop include:

- Being able to meet deadlines via hard work.
- Work more at own pace with less pressures of examinations.
- IT skills as many of the assignments are word processed.
- Confidence to plan and lead effective sports sessions or to act as an umpire/sports official.
- Practical skills in one team and one individual sport.
- Evaluative skills to identify strengths and areas to develop.

The qualification builds on and uses the knowledge and skills learned in GCSEs. It has a broad focus on building knowledge and skills, including exploring the impact of how sport is covered by the media, as well as the positive and negatives this can have on the sport. The practical element also allows you to have more practical PE time in addition to the two hours of core PE each week.

How will I be assessed on this course?

R184: Contemporary issues in sport	R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities	R186: Sports and the media
<p>This is assessed by an exam. You are able to have 2 attempts at this exam.</p> <p>By completing this unit you will understand a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including learning about participation levels and barriers to completing sporting activities.</p> <p>You will also learn how participation is impacted by the promotion of values and ethical behaviour, about the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used in within sport.</p>	<p>This is assessed by a set assignment.</p> <p>In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills.</p> <p>You will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with team mates as well as being in front of an audience when you perform. You will perform under pressure, both as a participant and as a leader, and will use your initiative to solve problems and make decisions. Finally, you will deal with rapidly changing conditions and situations.</p>	<p>This is assessed by a set assignment.</p> <p>In this unit you will understand the different sides of a range of media sources and apply real life examples to show the nature of the relationship between media and sport.</p> <p>You will also learn how rapid development in technology is enabling sport to be viewed, replayed and discussed whenever and wherever the spectator wants. You will then develop your ability to evaluate and interpret the different ways in which sport is represented by the media.</p>

What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

Sport lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries that you may not have considered before. For example, did you know that many nutritionists, physical therapists and chiropractors have a degree in PE or sport?

Studying this qualification as part of Key Stage 4 will help you to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make at post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning may consider progression to either A Level PE or a Level 3 BTEC Sport

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Miss Parkinson or your PE teacher for more information.

Textiles (GCSE)

Why study this subject?

Textile design is the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles that might have a functional or non-functional purpose. We use textiles everyday from the soft furnishings in our homes and the clothes we wear to the upholstery in our cars. This course would deepen your understanding of how to manipulate, pattern, colour and embellish fabric. You will study and take inspiration from the work of well-known artists and designers. Your ever growing understanding of links to artists, textiles designers, the world around us and culture will inspire you to find your unique style in your own work.

What will I study on this course?

- Skills development – drawing, painting, fabric manipulation, dye, applique, embroidery, surface pattern and texture.
- Exploring and linking your work to the work of other artists and designers both contemporary and historical.
- Using a theme to research and inspire your own outcomes.

How will I be assessed on this course?

60% portfolio (coursework), 40% externally set assignment with a preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time.

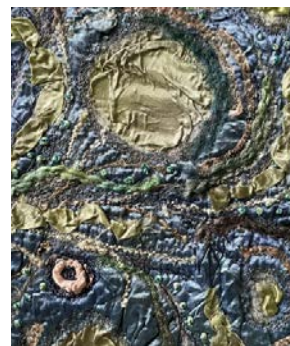
What can this qualification lead to afterwards?

What can this qualification lead to?

- Textile Designer
- Interior Designer
- Fashion Designer
- Model
- Garment technologist
- Pattern Cutter
- Costume Designer/Maker
- Brand Manager
- Fashion Merchandiser
- Stylist
- Illustrator
- Graphic Designer
- Surface Pattern Designer
- Visual Merchandiser

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

Contact Mrs S. Garbutt.



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