

Courses for Years 10 and 11

September 2025 - June 2027



Success for all through
Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

2025-2027

A Message from the Headteacher and Head of School

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

This is an exciting time in the life of a student, the first chance since starting school to make some choices about the subjects to study.

Our options process is designed to give students a range of subjects, ensuring they study what is vital for their future and also those they are passionate about and will achieve well in. We think this will ensure students leave school ready for their next stage in life. For most that will mean college, but it can also be an apprenticeship or employment with training.

We want to ensure you are able to compete against others your age for places on courses at college, university and future employment. Therefore, we have ensured the options process for your GCSEs gives you as much breadth as possible whilst also ensuring you have enough time in each subject area to master the content and achieve great results.

Year 9 students have already started studying one of their GCSE option choices and will now choose three more for study in Years 10 and 11.

It is important that you think about what you might want to study at college. You need to have as much range as possible to your choices but will normally need a GCSE or other qualification in subjects you want to follow after school. If you do not get a grade 4 in English or maths, you may have to study these at college and retake the exams until you pass at a grade 4 or above. Hard work at school is more important than ever.

Please read this booklet carefully. It will help you make the best choice of courses for the next two years. Once you have made your choices, please complete the online form, which you will be sent towards the end of March 2025.

Please ask your Tutor, Subject Teachers, or Mr Bourton if you need more information. Please keep this booklet through the next two years so you can look up course details if you need them.

With best wishes,



Christopher Anders
Headteacher



Ella Capaldi
Head of School

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The Core Curriculum

All students study the following subjects.

1. English Language and English Literature

Success on this course means you will achieve two GCSE passes – one in English Literature and one in English Language. Your course will build on the skills you have been developing in Years 7,8 and 9, ensuring you explore a wide range of texts from our literary heritage and developing your ability to read, analyse and write critically about them. You will develop your own writing for a range of purposes so that you are competent, accurate and engaging whenever you write.

2. Mathematics

This course continues the work of the past three years and leads to a GCSE examination. Your course continues to develop your ability to solve problems using mathematics. You will develop your understanding of shape, number, algebra, statistics, probability and ratio. A mathematics GCSE will support the work you will be completing in science as well as options such as computer science and technology.

3. Science

There are many exciting careers in science and many jobs and college courses insist on a science qualification. This is why science is compulsory. You will study these three Science GCSEs; Biology, Chemistry and Physics and most students will take a Combined Science GCSE.

4. Religious Education

Through this course, you will explore what it means to be a human being in today's world. Using two religious traditions as your starting point, you will explore a range of contemporary issues including peace and conflict in the 21st century, human rights, social justice, crime and punishment and relationships.

5. Physical Education

Students study a BTEC Sport course which incorporates both theory and practical sport. They will investigate the rules and regulations of a range of sports, then produce a report for a chosen sport. Students will also focus on precise application within practical sport and development of analysis techniques and coaching styles through the design and development of drills. Throughout the course students will enhance their understanding of components of fitness and the impact these have on performance. They will progress to explore the psychological and sociological effects on participation and then use this combined knowledge to design a personal exercise programme.

6. Work Experience

All Year 10 students go on work experience, usually during the summer of Year 10 for two weeks.

Making Choices for Year 10

All students will study three subjects from the list of options.

What is this all about?

When you start Year 10 some courses that you study will be entirely new. In most subjects you will begin to work towards a GCSE or equivalent qualification, for example a BTEC award.

Many subjects you have to study by law. The law exists to make sure that you do not make a serious mistake that might affect your future career (these compulsory areas are listed on the previous page). There are some subjects, however, that you can choose to study.

The rest of this booklet is all about making these choices.

What will happen?

Using the information contained in this booklet, recent careers events and after talking to your parents, your teachers and your tutor, you will fill in a form making your choices. The final option courses you follow will be influenced by these choices but also what we think you are best studying, as well as what we can offer.

When you make your selection next month, take time to read the information and discuss with your family, in advance of your options event on Thursday 27 March 2025.

If you chose Art, Textiles, 3D or Graphics in Year 9 you can choose photography in Year 10 but cannot choose any other from this list as they come from the same course and cancel each other out.

Advice on Making Choices

Who can help me?

- ▶ Your parents
- ▶ Your subject teachers
- ▶ Your tutor
- ▶ Careers advisor (contact Miss Jervis for an appointment)

How should I choose?

- ▶ Choose subjects that you are good at – talk to your teachers
- ▶ Choose subjects that you like
- ▶ Choose subjects that will help you in a future career

Warnings!

- ▶ Do not choose a subject because a friend has chosen it. That is their future not yours
- ▶ Do not choose a subject because you like a teacher. You may not be in his or her class next year
- ▶ There are some combinations you should not make e.g. dance and drama as they are similar. Likewise art and photography are very similar so do not choose more than one of these

Animal Care

Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: City in Guilds (TBC)

Course content:

An introduction to important topics in animal care - you might choose things like feeding, handling and grooming animals, looking after their accommodation and understanding their health and welfare.

Assessment methods:

Ongoing assignments and observations of practical activities

Further study:

A certificate or diploma in Animal Care or Animal Management is designed to help you find work with animals such as;

- ▶ Kennel/cattery worker
- ▶ Pet Store assistant
- ▶ Welfare charity worker

Once you've completed the Level 2 qualification you can move on to Level 3 at college.



Art

Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

Course content:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and/or three-dimensional media, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies through project based work. Students will be encouraged to experiment with a range of materials and techniques demonstrating and documenting in sketchbooks the skills they are mastering linked with their chosen areas of study within art, craft and design.

Students will complete a minimum of 3 projects/workshops throughout the duration of the course which will involve:

- ▶ Researching existing photographers/artists with written and visual analysis
- ▶ Developing ideas visually and analytically through written word
- ▶ Experimenting and refining ideas through exploration of techniques
- ▶ Presenting a personal response to a theme or given starting point

Examples of the theme based projects that may be covered over the duration of the course for **Unit 1 (Portfolio)**:

- ▶ Food
- ▶ Fantastic and Strange
- ▶ Vintage Circus
- ▶ Natural Forms

Unit 2: Externally set assignment in Art and Design set by AQA.

Assessment methods:

Unit 1: Portfolio (60%) Teacher assessment and external moderation against four assessment objectives.

Unit 2: External exam (40%) Externally set paper with 10 hour controlled exam element – assessed by class teacher with external moderation.

Further study:

Level 2/3 BTEC National in Art & Design (College)

A-Levels Art & Design, Fine Art, Textiles, Graphics, Photography etc

Career opportunities:

Graphic designer, illustrator, packaging designer, architect, textile designer, fashion industry, magazine industry, teacher/lecturer and many more creative jobs.

Note: There is an expectation that you will be committed to attending after school sessions and producing work in your own time in order to develop skills to the high level required for this GCSE course. Students may choose ONLY one from Art, Photography or Textiles. If you have taken photography in Year 9, you can choose Art, Textiles, 3D design or Graphics to study in Year 10.



Cambridge National in IT

Exam board: OCR

Type of qualification: Technical

Course Content:

Cambridge National in IT will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the IT sector.

It's a vocational qualification, equivalent in value to a GCSE and contains both practical and theoretical elements.

As part of the Cambridge National, you'll cover:

- the key principles and concepts when creating IT products.
- creating complex spreadsheet solutions to meet requirements.
- how augmented reality can be used to present information.
- creating an augmented reality model prototype to be tested and reviewed.

Future opportunities.

By developing applied knowledge and practical skills, this course will help give you the opportunity to progress on to A Levels, a Cambridge Technical in Information Technologies, an apprenticeship or university.

Information Technology is constantly evolving, and new jobs are developing all the time – you could work for tech giants or create your own products. So much is possible.

Building futures through practical skills

You'll develop a range of skills to help you succeed not only in the workplace but in other subjects too. These skills include:

- analytical skills
- creative thinking
- digital presentation
- problem solving
- research and planning

No matter what you progress on to – the skills you'll learn from a Cambridge National will prepare you for the future.

Catering and Hospitality

Exam board: EDUQAS (WJEC)

Type of qualification: Level 1/2 Vocational Award (Technical Award)

Course content:

Hospitality and Catering covers the skills needed to work in the food preparation and catering industry. The students will study all aspects of preparing and cooking food, developing skills, and understanding different cooking methods during a fortnightly practical session. Pupils will gain an understanding of the function's ingredients provide within a dish and begin to learn how dishes are created in a catering environment. There is a keen focus on practical work as students will be required to demonstrate that they can cook a variety of ingredients showing their skill and precision.



Students will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing, evaluation and communication. During the theory session's pupils will develop an understanding of career prospects for the industry, HACCP food safety and hygiene, nutrition and the work of the EHO and the Safety at Work Act.

This Vocational Qualification in Hospitality and Catering will equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food nutrition and healthy eating.

Assessment methods:

30% Written controlled assessment on Nutrition, planning menus and evaluating.

30% Practical Skills Exam

40% Written examination on Hospitality and Health and Safety in the kitchen

Further study/Career opportunities:

Any aspects of the catering, food preparation or nutritional industries.

AS level Food and Nutrition.

Level 2/3 Diploma in Hospitality and Catering.

Working in a professional kitchen

Note: After school attendance and home cooking is expected.



Computer Science

Exam board: OCR

Type of qualification: GCSE

Likely content of course:

Modules for exam:

- ▶ Fundamentals of computer systems
- ▶ Computing hardware
- ▶ Software
- ▶ Representation of data in computer systems
- ▶ Databases
- ▶ Computer communications and networking
- ▶ Programming

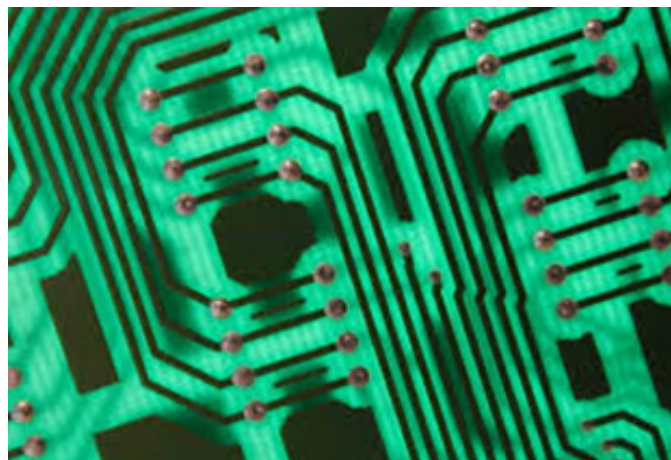
Assessment methods:

Two 1 hour 30 minute examinations at the end of the course.

Further study/Career opportunities:

Computer Science sits at the cornerstone of modern society, whether its games, films, mobile phones or washing machines. Programmers are shaping the future, creating everything we use in our virtual world, writing code and applications, automating complex and mundane tasks. Even the ability to fault find, which is at the core of programming, is an essential life skill whether with or without a computer.

There are approximately 900K vacancies in the UK within the IT sector and not enough graduates to fill these roles. Studying GCSE at school and then a computing related Level 3 qualification will put you in a great position for jobs that don't even exist yet. Many degree graduates can earn £57k a year.



Business & Enterprise

Exam board: NCFE

Type of qualification: NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise

About this qualification:

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise is designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the business and enterprise sector or progress onto further study. The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise (603/7004/X) complements GCSE qualifications. It is aimed at 14 to 16 year olds studying key stage 4 (KS4) curriculum who are interested in the business and enterprise sector. This qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. The qualification is graded at level 1 pass, merit, distinction and level 2 pass, merit, distinction and distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1).

This qualification is part of a suite of technical award qualifications that have been developed to meet the Department for Education's (DfE's) requirements for high-quality, rigorous qualifications that:

- ▶ have appropriate content for the learner to acquire core knowledge and practical skills
- ▶ allow the qualification to be graded
- ▶ provide synoptic assessment
- ▶ enable progression to a range of study and employment opportunities

Assessment methods:

1:30 hours exam (40%) plus coursework

Assessment breakdown		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment• 21 hours non-exam assessment
Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Weighting (60%)	Externally-set, internally marked and externally moderated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• synoptic project
Examined assessment (EA)	Weighting (40%)	Externally-set and externally marked: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam
Total	100%	Overall qualification grades: L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*

Further study/Career opportunities:

Depending on the grade the learner achieves in this qualification, they could progress to level 2 and level 3 qualifications and/or GCSE/A Levels. Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship.

IT Skills for work

Exam board: NCFE

Type of qualification: NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Digital Skills for Work

About this qualification:

The purpose of this qualification is to allow learners to demonstrate understanding of and competency in digital literacy skills. It will help learners progress to a work role where digital literacy skills are required.

The objectives of this qualification are to enable learners to:

- ▶ understand how to protect devices and data
- ▶ communicate socially and professionally using technology apply digital skills in personal and
- ▶ business situations
- ▶ use digital resources to facilitate own career progression

This qualification is suitable for use within a Study Programme.

Assessment methods:

1:30 hours exam (40%) plus coursework

To be awarded the NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Digital Skills for Work, learners are required to successfully complete 4 mandatory units.

Mandatory units

- ▶ Unit 01 Using and managing information
- ▶ Unit 02 Keeping yourself and others safe when using digital devices
- ▶ Unit 03 Communicating and collaborating online
- ▶ Unit 04 Digital career development

Assessment

The NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Digital Skills for Work is a competency and knowledge based qualification which is assessed by a portfolio of evidence.

Further study:

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress to:

- Level 2 Award/Certificate in Digital Promotion for Business
- Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Cyber Security
- Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Coding
- Level 3 Certificate in Cyber Security Practices
- Level 3 Certificate in Coding Practices
- Level 3 Certificate in User Experience/User Interface (UX/UI)

Creative Media

Exam board: NCFE

Type of qualification: NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Interactive Media

About this qualification:

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Interactive Media is designed for learners who want an introduction to interactive media that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the interactive media sector or progress onto further study.

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Interactive Media complements GCSE qualifications. It is aimed at 14 to 16 year olds studying key stage 4 (KS4) curriculum who are interested in the interactive media industry sector. This qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. The qualification is graded at level 1 pass, merit, distinction and level 2 pass, merit, distinction and distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1).

This qualification is part of a suite of technical award qualifications that have been developed to meet the Department for Education's (DfE's) requirements for high-quality, rigorous qualifications that:

- ▶ have appropriate content for the learner to acquire core knowledge and practical skills
- ▶ allow the qualification to be graded
- ▶ provide synoptic assessment
- ▶ enable progression to a range of study and employment opportunities

Assessment methods:

1:30 hours exam (40%) plus coursework

Assessment breakdown		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment• 17 hours non-exam assessment
Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Weighting (60%)	Externally-set, internally marked and externally moderated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• synoptic project
Examined assessment (EA)	Weighting (40%)	Externally-set and externally marked: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam
Total	100%	Overall qualification grades: L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*

Further study/Career opportunities:

Depending on the grade the learner achieves in this qualification, they could progress to level 2 and level 3 qualifications and/or GCSE/A Levels. Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship.

Construction Skills Apex

Type of qualification: City and Guilds or Laser Certificate in Construction Multi Trades

What does the course involve?

Students will study and practice construction skills for a variety of different units at our APEX centre in Leigh Park.

What will I study?

Students will learn about various areas of construction through:

- ▶ Research
- ▶ Practical demonstrations
- ▶ Application

Units of study will include:

- ▶ Brickwork/ Blockwork
- ▶ Wallpapering
- ▶ Painting
- ▶ Carpentry
- ▶ Plastering
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Measurements of distance and length

How will I be assessed?

Throughout the course students will create a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their competency in the skills being learnt.

The portfolio will include written evaluations, observations by teachers and examples of work carried out.

Future career pathways:

This qualification could be used as a precursor to:

- ▶ Further study of a level 2 course at college
- ▶ General experience prior to beginning an apprenticeship

Or you could go on to one of the following job opportunities; Architect, Surveyor, Bricklayer, Plasterer, Decorator, Manager or Machine operator.



Dance

Exam Board: Pearson

Type of qualification: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts

Course content:

Learners who are passionate about Dance and performing will have the opportunity to develop their skills. Learners will study multiple dance genres in component 1 and 2 of the course. Here learners will complete a portfolio of coursework analysing these genres and the roles and responsibilities within the industry. Component 2 see learners learning professional choreography and performing to an audience. Finally, students will embark into the world of creating your own dance work and responding to a brief in the live performance unit. This unit gives learners the chance to choreograph their own work, use existing work or combine the two in preparation for a live show as their final performance of the course. This is a course for students who are committed to becoming an accomplished dancer and dedicated to practising their rehearsals outside of lessons.

Assessment methods:

Component one – Exploring the Performing Arts (Internal)

1. Examine professional practitioners' performance work from 3 dance genres.
2. Explore the interrelationships between constituent features of existing performance material.

Component two – Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts (Internal)

1. Develop skills and techniques for performance.
2. Apply skills and techniques in rehearsal and performance.
3. Review own development and contribution to the performance.

Component three - Responding to a Brief (External)

1. Developing ideas in response to a brief
2. Selecting and developing skills and techniques in response to a brief
3. Contributing to a workshop performance
4. Evaluating the development process and workshop performance outcome

Further Study:

BTEC Diploma in Dance

AS/A Level Dance

Professional College / University

Career Opportunities:

Dancer/Teacher

Choreographer

Personal trainer

Dance movement psychotherapist

Theatre director

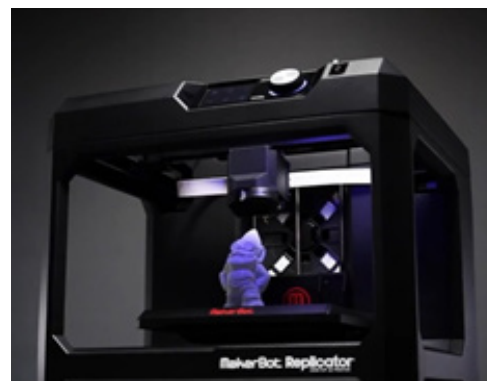
NOTE Students must be confident to perform and skills in Dance are **important** before starting the course.

Design Technology - Art and Design - 3D

Exam board: Likely to be AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

In 3D Design students will study four different areas of the course and described below but with specific themes in place. Students will also study materials in a practical way and understand the working properties of woods, metals, and polymers. It will enable students to work in a hands-on way to develop the core skills to make high-quality products using these materials. A lot of this course is computer based using programs like 2D Design and Google SketchUp.



Course content:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and/or three-dimensional media, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies through project-based work. Students will be encouraged to experiment with a range of materials and techniques demonstrating and documenting in sketchbooks the skills they are mastering linked with their chosen areas of study within art, craft and design.

Students will complete a minimum of 3 projects throughout the duration of the course which will involve:

- ▶ Researching existing artists/designers with written and visual analysis
- ▶ Developing ideas visually and analytically through written word
- ▶ Experimenting and refining ideas through exploration of techniques
- ▶ Presenting a personal response to a theme or given starting point

Assessment methods:

Unit 1: Portfolio (60%) Teacher assessment and external moderation against four assessment objectives.

Unit 2: External exam (40%) Externally set paper with 10 hour controlled exam element – assessed by class teacher with external moderation.



Further study/Career opportunities:

Any design career including graphical design, computer gaming, carpentry, product engineering or mechanical design engineering and trade careers.

Note: This course cannot be studied alongside Graphics or Art.

Design Technology - Art and Design - Graphics

Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

In Graphics students will study four different areas of the course and described below but with specific themes in place. Students will develop their sketching ability and refinements whilst looking at five key Visual elements. These include colour, line, typography, tone and imagery. A lot of this course is computer based using programs like 2D Design, Google SketchUp, Canva and Adobe Photoshop.



Course content:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and/or three-dimensional media, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies through project-based work. Students will be encouraged to experiment with a range of materials and techniques demonstrating and documenting in sketchbooks the skills they are mastering linked with their chosen areas of study within art, craft and design.

Students will complete a minimum of 3 projects throughout the duration of the course which will involve:

- ▶ Researching existing designers/artists with written and visual analysis
- ▶ Developing ideas visually and analytically through written word
- ▶ Experimenting and refining ideas through exploration of techniques
- ▶ Presenting a personal response to a theme or given starting point

Assessment methods:

Unit 1: Portfolio (60%) Teacher assessment and external moderation against four assessment objectives.

Unit 2: External exam (40%) Externally set paper with 10 hour controlled exam element – assessed by class teacher with external moderation.



Further study/Career opportunities:

Any design career including graphical design, computer gaming, carpentry, product engineering or mechanical design engineering and trade careers.

Note: This course cannot be studied alongside 3D Design or Art. If you have taken photography in Year 9, you can choose Art, Textiles, 3D design or Graphics to study in Year 10.

Drama

Exam board: Pearson

Type of qualification: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts

Course content:

Learners who are passionate about Drama and performing will have the opportunity to develop their skills. Learners will study multiple theatre genres in component 1 and 2 of the course. Here learners will complete a portfolio of coursework analysing these genres and the roles and responsibilities within the industry. Component 2 sees students learn professional theatre in preparation for a live performance. Finally, students will embark into the wonderful world of devising and responding to a brief in the live performance unit. This unit gives learners the chance to devise their own work, use existing work or combine the two in preparation for a live show as their final performance of the course.

This is a course for students who are committed to becoming an accomplished actor and dedicated to practising their rehearsals outside of lessons.

Assessment methods:

Component one – Exploring the Performing Arts (Internal)

1. Examine professional practitioners' performance work from 3 theatre genres.
2. Explore the interrelationships between constituent features of existing performance material.

Component two – Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts (Internal)

1. Develop skills and techniques for performance.
2. Apply skills and techniques in rehearsal and performance.
3. Review own development and contribution to the performance.

Component three - Responding to a Brief (External)

1. Developing ideas in response to a brief
2. Selecting and developing skills and techniques in response to a brief
3. Contributing to a workshop performance
4. Evaluating the development process and workshop performance outcome

Further study:

BTEC Diploma in Drama
AS/A Level Drama Professional

Career opportunities:

Actor/Actress
Director
Teacher/ Journalist

NOTE Students must be confident to perform and skills in Drama are **important** before starting the course.



Geography

Exam board: Eduqas GCSE Geography B

Type of qualification: GCSE

Course content:

Eduqas GCSE Geography B aims to enable learners to think 'like a geographer'. Students will be challenged to think creatively, by posing questions that relate to geographical process and concepts. Students will develop the ability to think independently by applying geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts. Eduqas GCSE Geography B adopts a distinctive problem solving approach to the study of interactions between people and the environment. Students will become informed and reflective citizens when they consider a range of viewpoints, values and attitudes which are held by stakeholders on a number of key geographical issues. Students will leave the course as young people ready to become globally and environmentally informed, thoughtful, enquiring citizens. Students will understand more about the distinctive human and physical features of the UK, but also countries from around the world.

Assessment methods:

Investigating Geographical Issues Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of qualification

Problem Solving Geography Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification

Applied Fieldwork Enquiry Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 30% of qualification

You will study:

The content of the specification is organised into three broad themes:

- Theme 1: **Changing Places - Changing Economies** (Cities, Urban and Rural change, Development issues, Changing patterns of cities)
- Theme 2: **Changing Environments** (Rivers and Coasts, Extreme weather, Weather and Climate, Climate change)
- Theme 3: **Environmental Challenges** (Ecosystems, Water resources, Desertification)

Career options:

Environmental consultant, Cartographer, Conservation officer, Landscape architecture, Geographical Information Systems Officer, Politics and Non Government Organisations, Civil Servant, Teaching, Military services.

Further Study:

A Levels
University
BTECs

Geology

Exam board: WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9-1) Geology

Type of qualification: GCSE

Course content:

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Geology provides the foundations for understanding the science of 'how the Earth works': its structure, evolution and dynamics, and its mineral and energy resources. In addition, learners following the course will appreciate that the understanding and application of Earth science is vital to the future quality of life and prosperity of the world's population; from supplying the ever-growing demand for mineral, energy and water resources to mitigation of natural hazards by improved engineering and prediction techniques. In developing this specification, WJEC has provided opportunity for learners to:

- ▶ develop knowledge and understanding of rock types, geological structures, geochronology, the rock cycle and plate tectonics as the key ideas of geology
- ▶ develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of geology, through the different types of scientific enquiry used to answer questions about how the Earth works
- ▶ develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory and in the field, and extend their competence in a range of fieldwork skills, including those required in understanding 3D geological data
- ▶ develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Assessment methods:

Component 1: Geological Principles On-screen examination:

1 hour 15 minutes 50% of the qualification

Component 2: Investigative Geology Written examination:

1 hour 30 minutes 50% of the qualification

You will study:

- Key Idea 1: Rock exposures contain evidence of how rocks were formed and subsequently deformed.
- Key Idea 2: Major concepts and techniques underpin our current understanding of the Earth and its history
- Key Idea 3: Comparisons of the Earth with other planetary bodies within the Solar System provide evidence for the origin and evolution of both
- Key Idea 4: Human interaction with the Earth can increase or reduce risk

Career options:

Geological Exploration, Geological Surveying, Geo-conservation, Hydrogeology, Teaching, Petroleum Engineering, Environmental field technician, Environmental geologist, Environmental consultant, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Planning, Geotechnical engineer, Sustainability engineer, Mining engineer.

Further Study:

A-Level Geology, A-Level Geography, A-Level Environmental Science, Relevant BTEC courses, BSc (Hons) Geology, BSc (Hons) Geography, BA (Hons) Geography, Engineering Geology & Geotechnics University BTEC

Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy

Type of qualification: City and Guilds Level 2 Technical Award in Hair and Beauty Studies.

What does the course involve?

You will complete two mandatory units:

- ▶ Introduction to the hair and beauty sector
- ▶ Presenting a professional image in a salon.

What will I study?

Units of study will include:

Mandatory Units:

- ▶ Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector
- ▶ Presenting a Professional Image in a Salon

Optional:

- ▶ Shampoo and Conditioning
- ▶ Hair plaiting
- ▶ Skin care
- ▶ Hand care
- ▶ Styling womens hair
- ▶ Styling mens hair
- ▶ Basic make-up application
- ▶ Themed face painting
- ▶ Nail art application
- ▶ Basic manicure treatment
- ▶ Basic pedicure treatment
- ▶ Create a hair and beauty image

How will I be assessed?

1 No Synoptic Assignment 60% Externally Set. 1 No Theory Exam 40% Externally Set.

Future career pathways:

The Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector qualifications can open doors to a wide variety of roles, including: Salon Assistant

Following completion of these qualifications, you can progress onto a Level 1 or Level 2 NVQ or VRQ Hairdressing or Beauty Therapy.

Health and Social Care

Type of qualification: Educas WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award (Technical Award)

What will I study?

Unit 1

- ▶ Health, well-being and development through the lifespan. This unit introduces learners to different ways that individuals grow and develop during the life stages, including the different factors that can affect growth and development. Learners will gain understanding of how self-concept is developed and how health and well-being is promoted.

Topics:

- ▶ 1.1 Key physical, intellectual, emotional and social aspects that affect growth and development across the lifespan of individuals.
- ▶ 1.2 Key aspects that affect growth and development across the lifespan.
- ▶ 1.3 Factors that shape self-concept and personal development.
- ▶ 1.4 The physical indicators used to measure health and how these can be interpreted.
- ▶ 1.5 The role and purpose of promoting health and well-being.

Unit 2

- ▶ Outcome-focused and person-centred practice in health and social care. This unit introduces learners to the value of person-centred practice, through application of how provision and practitioners' roles meet the needs of individuals, and how practice is underpinned by legislation and standards. Learners will also gain an understanding of safeguarding and types of abuse. They will apply their knowledge of modern-day challenges to health and well-being which individuals face, and the impact of these on the health and social care sector.

Learners will need to draw on the following knowledge and understanding from Unit 1 in order to complete the Unit 2 assessment:

- ▶ growth and development across the lifespan
- ▶ physical, intellectual, emotional and social aspects of development
- ▶ life factors
- ▶ lifestyle choices
- ▶ life events
- ▶ the definitions of health, illness and disease and well-being
- ▶ how to support individuals to take responsibility for their own health and well-being.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Health, well-being and development throughout the lifespan

Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes. 40% of qualification. 80 marks

Unit 2: Outcome-focused and person-centred practice in health and social care.

Controlled assessment: 16 hours. 60% of qualification. 120 marks

Two assignments will be provided by WJEC which will include: Assignment 1: a case study and several tasks. Assignment 2: a scenario and several tasks

History



Exam board: Edexcel

Type of qualification: GCSE

Course content:

What is the worst punishment for a crime in history? Who was Jack the Ripper? How close did we come to a nuclear war? What was it like living in Hitler's Germany? Our GCSE History course offers you the chance to study these fascinating topics that we all want to know more about.

The course will allow you to explore the past and develop your critical thinking and historical understanding through a challenging and interesting GCSE.

You will study:

- ▶ Early Elizabethan Society (1558 - 1588)
- ▶ Superpower relations (1941-1991)
- ▶ Nazi Germany (1918-1939)
- ▶ Crime and Punishment throughout history (1000-present), including a study of Whitechapel in Victorian London (1870-1900)

Course expectations:

- ▶ Regular independent research and enquiry
- ▶ Regular knowledge retrieval
- ▶ To read around the subjects studied to gain a deeper understanding
- ▶ Regular extended writing and knowledge application

Assessment methods:

Three written exams in the summer term of Year 11.

Further study:

This course will give you a strong grounding to study history at A level and degree level. Furthermore, the subject is recognised as being academically rigorous and will support learning in other subjects including: law, sociology, psychology, politics, archaeology, philosophy, theology, economics.

Career opportunities:

Historian, archaeologist, lawyer, barrister, journalist, the military services, police, teaching, museum and archive work, civil service.

Horticulture

Exam board: City and Guilds

Type of qualification: City & Guilds Level 1 and 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture

Course content:

- ▶ Preparing soil for sowing and planting
- ▶ Soil testing
- ▶ Propagation of plants from seed
- ▶ Vegetative propagation (taking cuttings) to produce new plants
- ▶ Planting out and re-establishing plants
- ▶ Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds pests and diseases using botanical/scientific names.



Assessment methods:

Assessment is by means of a range of practical activities timetabled and assessed based on the City and Guilds success criteria.

Further study:

The City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Practical Horticulture qualification has been approved within the Qualifications and Credit Framework. As part of the Foundation Learning tier this qualification provides a new and flexible learning programme for young people working at level 1. It helps learners to develop their horticultural potential and prepares them to progress towards level 2 qualifications offered by City & Guilds Qualifications and other awarding organisations.

Career opportunities:

The horticultural industry is one of the largest employers in the UK. A career in horticulture could mean anything from a hands-on gardener to a research scientist. There are many, many opportunities out there:

- ▶ Green-keeper
- ▶ Garden designer
- ▶ Gardener / Horticulturalist
- ▶ Arboriculturist
- ▶ Florist
- ▶ Environmental scientist
- ▶ Horticultural journalist
- ▶ Vegetable Grower
- ▶ Garden centre manager
- ▶ Landscape contractor
- ▶ Landscape architect
- ▶ Park ranger
- ▶ Plant breeder
- ▶ Soil scientist

Music

Exam board: Pearson

Type of qualification: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts

Course Content:

Learners who are passionate in playing an instrument or singing will have the opportunity to develop their skills. Learners will study a range of music genres, creating a portfolio of coursework and supporting practical evidence. Students will also further develop technique, instrument control and improve performance skills whilst undertaking the music skills development unit. Finally, students will embark on a commercial music project that will allow them to work to their strengths and interests and apply the skills that they have learned throughout the course in a practical way. They will focus on a particular area of the music sector that excites and appeals to them, responding to a music brief as a composer, performer or producer.

This is a course for students who are committed to becoming an accomplished musician and dedicated to practising their instruments outside of lessons

Assessment methods:

Component one – Exploring Music Products and Styles (Internal)

1. Develop appreciation of styles and genres of music
2. Explore techniques used to create music products.

Component two – Music Skills Development (Internal)

1. Exploring professional and commercial skills for the music industry
2. Applying and developing individual musical skills and techniques.

Component three - Responding to a commercial music brief (External)

1. Understand how to respond to a commercial music brief
2. Select and apply musical skills in response to a commercial music brief
3. Present a final musical product in response to a commercial music brief
4. Comment on the creative process and outcome in response to a commercial music brief

Further study:

BTEC Diploma in Music
BTEC National Diploma In Music Performance
AS/A Level Music

Career opportunities:

Musician/Singer/Song writer, Sound Producer/Technician, Composer

Note: Skills in Music are **important** before starting the course

Musical Theatre

Exam board: UAL

Type of qualification: UAL Level 2 Diploma in Production and Performing Arts

Course Content:

Learners who are passionate about the performing arts will have the opportunity to develop their skills in all three aspects of performing (singing, dancing and acting). Learners will also learn about the roles of production in performing arts and what is required to put on musicals. Here learners will complete a portfolio of

Coursework, evaluating their progress on their skills alongside researching the context of famous musicals in order to gain a deeper understanding of the show and how to produce and perform it. Students will put on 3 shows, the first they will have the role of performers within a musical, this will focus on developing their performance skills. The second show they will be working in small groups to research a variety of musicals and perform segments of them, taking on creative roles such as directors/choreographers/technicians. The third show will be a full scale musical that the learners will create, produce and perform themselves including all the action both on and off stage that is needed for a performance. They will also partake in a research project for future careers in the Performing Arts and present their findings.

Assessment methods:

Unit 1 - Introduction to Performance (internally assessed-practical)

Unit 2 - Introduction to Production (internally assessed-log book)

Unit 3 - Communicating with an Audience (internally assessed-practical)

Unit 4 - Staging a Performance (internally assessed-practical and log book)

Unit 5 - Contextual research for performance and production (internally assessed-log book)

Unit 6 - Performance Skills and Practice (internally assessed- practical and log book)

Unit 7 - Production Skills and Practice (internally assessed-practical and log book)

Unit 8 - Personal Project and Presentation (internally assessed-practical and portfolio)

Unit 9 - Producing and Performing to an Audience (internally assessed-practical and log book)

Further study:

UAL Level 3 Diploma in Musical Theatre

Level 3 Diploma in Dance Level 3 Diploma in Acting for Stage and Screen

A Level Dance A Level Drama

Professional College / University

Career opportunities:

Performer Teacher, Choreographer, Theatre, Director, Freelancer, Singer, Producer, Theatre Technician

Note: Students must choose a specialism and take the BTEC route in this specialism if taking the Musical Theatre course.

Photography



Exam Board: AQA

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Course content:

Students will be 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. Students will complete a minimum of 3 projects throughout the duration of the course which will involve;

- ▶ Researching existing photographers/artists with written and visual analysis
- ▶ Developing ideas visually and analytically through written word
- ▶ Experimenting and refining ideas through exploration of techniques
- ▶ Presenting a personal response to a theme or given starting point

Examples of areas of photography that might be explored;

- ▶ Portraiture
- ▶ Landscape photography (working from the built or natural environment)
- ▶ Still Life photography, (working from natural or manufactured objects)

Assessment Methods:

Unit 1: Portfolio (60%)

Teacher assessment + external moderation against four assessment objectives.

Unit 2: External exam (40%)

Externally set paper with 10 hour controlled exam element – assessed by class teacher with external moderation.

Further study:

There are opportunities to further develop your interest in photography by studying the subject at A-Level, where you will get more in depth training in the use of analogue (film-based) and digital photography.

Career opportunities:

The types of jobs that photography might lead to include: commercial photographer (sport, fashion, product, photo reporter), artist, 3D animator, web or graphic designer, picture researcher or archivist, image editor, etc. Since many industries rely on generating visual imagery for advertising, the market is very versatile.

Note: There is an expectation that you will be committed to attending after school sessions and producing work in your own time in order to develop skills to the high level required for this GCSE course. Students may chose ONLY one from Art, Photography or Textiles.

Psychology

'The mind and how it works is something that has always interested scientists and philosophers; why do we feel, think and behave the way we do? Why is it that some people suffer heightened levels of depression or addiction? How many people would harm a stranger if asked to by someone in authority? Psychology looks at questions like these in the study of the human mind and behaviour. It is a science that has real world applications to issues in everyday life, ranging from things like the reliability of eye-witness testimony in criminal trials to social change.'



Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

Content of course:

Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour

Unit 1- Memory: Processes of memory, forgetting, false memories and eye-witness testimony.

Unit 2- Perception: How our brain makes sense of the world around us, visual illusions and factors affecting perception such as emotion and culture.

Unit 3- Development: Early brain development, child development and learning styles.

Unit 4- Research Methods: Methods and processes for carrying out psychological research, practical study.

Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour

Unit 1- Social Influence: Conformity, obedience, social behaviour and crowd behaviour.

Unit 2- Language, Thought and Communication: Differences between animal and human communication, non-verbal communication.

Unit 3- Brain and Neuropsychology: The structure and function of the nervous system and brain and how this links to behaviour.

Unit 4- Psychological Problems: Introduction to mental health with a focus on addiction and depression.



Assessment methods: : Two 1 hour 45 minute exams worth 50% of the final marks each.

Further study/Career opportunities:

This subject is relevant for a number of further courses including humanities subjects; the social sciences including sociology and psychology; science based courses such as forensic science and criminology and social and child care courses.

Career opportunities:

Police; forensic science; behavioural therapy; teaching; social services and care work; youth work and child care; psychology and psychiatry; sports coaching and any job involving working with the public.

Spanish

Exam board: Pearson

Type of qualification: GCSE

Content of course:

Building on work introduced in KS3

► **Themes covered:**

1. My personal world
2. Lifestyle & wellbeing
3. My neighbourhood
4. Media & Technology
5. Studying & my future
6. Travel & tourism



Possible subjects within any of the contexts: family, friends, relationships, equality, physical & mental well-being, food & drinks, sports, places in town, shopping, transports, the natural world, environmental issues, social media & gaming, future opportunities (study/work/travel), school, music / TV / films, accommodations, tourist attractions.

Assessment methods:

Examinations in listening, speaking, reading and writing

Further study/Career opportunities:

Entry qualification for many top universities and colleges.

Useful with other subjects, particularly for:

Business / services / museums and libraries / tourism / media and publishing/ science, engineering and technology / transport and logistics / charity and voluntary work / teaching and education / government and public administration.

Foundation	Higher
<p>Speaking (25%) 50 Marks 7-9min Reading aloud & Interaction (12) Role Play (transactional) (10) Photocard (12) & Conversation (16)</p>	<p>Speaking (25%) 50 Marks 10-12min Reading aloud & Interaction (12) Role Play (transactional) (10) Photocard (12) & Conversation (16)</p>
<p>Listening (25%) 50 Marks 45min Section A - Listening comprehension (40) Section B - Dictation (10)</p>	<p>Listening (25%) 50 Marks 60min Section A - Listening comprehension (40) Section B - Dictation (10)</p>
<p>Reading (25%) 50 Marks 45min Section A - Reading comprehension (40) Section B - Translation (10)</p>	<p>Reading (25%) 50 Marks 60min Section A - Reading comprehension (40) Section B - Translation (10)</p>
<p>Writing (25%) 50 Marks 75min Q1 - 4 sentences on the photo (8) Q2 - 50 Words (2 choices) incl Future (14) Q3 - 90 Words (2 choices) (18) Q4 - Translation (5sentences) (10)</p>	<p>Writing (25%) 50 Marks 80min Q1 - 90 Words (2 choices) (18) Q2 - 150 Words (2 choices) (22) Q3 - Translation (paragraph) (10)</p>

Statistics

Exam board: Edexcel

Type of qualification: GCSE

Course content:

- ▶ **Gathering data**
- ▶ **Analysing data**
- ▶ **Interpreting information**
- ▶ **Problem solving**
- ▶ **Decision making**
- ▶ **Making predictions**

Note this course is currently not offered as a timetabled lesson, instead this is studied alongside GCSE Mathematics with some independent study expected.

Assessment methods:

2 calculator papers. Each paper is worth 80 marks and you have 1 hours and 30 minutes to complete each paper. Sat during Year 11 summer series.

Further study/Career opportunities:

Career	Median Salary (2019)	Expected job growth (2019-2029)
Economist	£76,755	14%
Statistician	69,713	35%
Operation research analyst	66,628	25%
Market research analyst	63,790	18%
Management analyst	62,316	11%
Financial analyst	61,987	5%
Meteorologist	55,943	6%
Budget analyst	46,624	3%



Textiles

Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

Course content:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and/or three-dimensional textiles, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies through project based work. Students will be encouraged to experiment with a range of materials and techniques demonstrating and documenting in sketchbooks the skills they are mastering linked with their chosen areas of study within art, craft and design.

Students will complete a minimum of 3 projects/workshops throughout the duration of the course which will involve:

- ▶ Researching existing photographers/artists with written and visual analysis
- ▶ Developing ideas visually and analytically through written word
- ▶ Experimenting and refining ideas through exploration of techniques
- ▶ Presenting a personal response to a theme or given starting point

Examples of the theme based projects that may be covered over the duration of the course for **Unit 1 (Portfolio)**:

- ▶ Food
- ▶ Fantastic and Strange
- ▶ Identity and Fashion
- ▶ Cultures

Unit 2: Externally set assignment in Art and Design set by AQA.

Assessment methods:

Unit 1: Portfolio (60%) Teacher assessment and external moderation against four assessment objectives.

Unit 2: External exam (40%) Externally set paper with 10 hour controlled exam element – assessed by class teacher with external moderation.

Further study:

Level 2/3 BTEC National in Art & Design (College)

A-Levels Art & Design, Fine Art, Textiles, Graphics, Photography etc

Career opportunities:

Graphic designer, illustrator, packaging designer, architect, textile designer, fashion industry, magazine industry, teacher/lecturer and many more creative jobs.

Note: There is an expectation that you will be committed to attending after school sessions and producing work in your own time in order to develop skills to the high level required for this GCSE course. Students may chose ONLY one from Art, Photography or Textiles.

Travel and Tourism

Exam board: Pearsons BTEC

Type of qualification: Level 1/2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism

Course content:

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism introduces learners to the travel and tourism sector in the UK and around the world. In component 1 learners will focus on the variety of organisations in the industry and the products and services they offer. Learners will also explore visitor destinations in the UK and beyond and how they support different types of tourism. In component 2 learners will focus on market research and how it is used in the industry to keep up with travel trends and other organisations. In component 3 learners will focus on factors that can affect the travel and tourism industry, whilst also looking at the positive and negative affects tourism can have on a destination.

Assessment methods:

Component 1: Travel and Tourism organisations and destinations (Internal)

Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism (Internal)

Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism (External Exam)

Further study:

Further studies:

- BTEC Level 3 Travel and Tourism
- City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma Air Cabin Crew Training
- NCFE Level 2 award for Resort Representatives
- Geography A Level
- BSC Degree in Tourism Mangement

Career opportunities:

The travel industry is the third largest industry in the UK and one of the largest industries in the world. A career in travel could range from being cabin crew on a plane to New York to a tour guide in Sydney.

There are so many opportunities out there in the UK and abroad:

- Cabin Crew
- Tour Guide
- Travel agent
- Cruise Ship crew
- Interpreter
- Resort Rep

much
more than
just a **school**