

Whitcliffe Mount School Options Booklet 2024

**Thursday 29th February
6:00 - 8:00pm**

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Dear Student,

This booklet will provide you and your Parent(s)/Carer(s) with information about Key Stage 4. As you read the pages of the booklet, you will find that there are some courses that all students study, and other courses you will be able to choose to study in Years 10 and 11.

It is important to make the right choices, make sure you look at all the information carefully and discuss your choices with your Parent(s)/Carer(s). The next two years are of vital importance to you, providing you with the key to many opportunities. It is critical that you are clear about what is available to you and what is most appropriate. Your pathway is based on your progress and attainment within KS2/ KS3 and we believe the pathway system offers the breadth, depth and flexibility to bring out the best in everyone. You will have had or be having an interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss your options pathway and the qualifications available to you.

We hope you are as excited as we are by the extensive range of courses and qualifications available at Whitcliffe Mount.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Elstub', written in a cursive style.

Mr C Elstub
Assistant Headteacher

Personalised Pathways Explained

Students are selected for each pathway following the analysis of their Key Stage 2 results and most recent Year 9 data. The pathways are as follows:

Pathway	Cohort %	Curriculum studied
EBacc + or EBacc	75%	EBacc + <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core curriculum • 3 separate science GCSEs • History or Geography • French or Spanish • 1 open choice EBacc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core curriculum • Combined science GCSE equivalent to 2 GCSE's • History or Geography • French or Spanish • 2 open choices
Open +	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core curriculum • History or Geography or French or Spanish • 3 open choices
Open	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core curriculum • Princes Trust • 3 open choices

Students will be allocated the pathway which is most suitable for their individual needs and which will provide them with the best chance at success post 16. Pathways will be allocated based on our full knowledge of the students and their prior assessment data. Once pathways have been allocated, we do not expect there to be movement between pathways.

When students are able to make an **open choice**, they will have a choice of a range of subjects including both GCSE and vocational courses. To ensure students are able to keep up with the coursework demands of vocational subjects it will **not be possible to choose more than two vocational courses**. Some courses will have limited numbers and as such places on these courses are competitive. **Students' prior behaviour, attendance and attitude to learning data may be taken into account when determining places on these courses so it is essential your child continues to arrive at school every day, on time and ready to learn.**

Qualifications Explained

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

We have designed our options process to ensure that students continue to access a broad and balanced curriculum which gives them the very best footing for post-16 provision. For the majority of our students, we will be providing a pathway which includes the **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)**. The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it’s a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people. While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, studying an EBacc pathway at GCSE gives them **access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for**. Following COVID, competition for post-16 places is fiercer than ever and we aim to give the students at Whitcliffe Mount the best possible chance of securing their first choice in future studies and training opportunities. Additionally, if students are thinking of going on to university, the EBacc is also recognised and recommended by most universities.

To achieve the EBacc, a student must get a “strong pass – grade 5” in English Language or Literature, Maths, two Science courses (Trilogy or two from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computing), a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography.

GCSEs

GCSEs are designed for a two-year period of study, and students take the exams at the end of the course. Many GCSE courses have had the controlled assessment (coursework) element removed and are assessed solely by exams.

High Quality Vocational Courses

High quality vocational courses and are available in a number of subjects. Some of these qualifications are more practical in nature and provide students with knowledge and highly sought-after skills to prepare them for further study, apprenticeships and the workplace.

We advise that students do not select more than two vocational subjects due to the high coursework demand.

See the table on the next page, for how grades for different qualifications compare.

How Do Grades for Different Qualifications Compare?

Grades are broadly comparable across different qualifications as in the table below.

GCSE Grade	Technical Award Grade Equivalent	OCR National/ BTEC Tech Award Grade	WJEC
9			
	8.5	Distinction* Level 2	Distinction* Level 2
8			
7	7	Distinction Level 2	Distinction Level 2
6			
	5.5	Merit Level 2	Merit Level 2
5			
4	4	Pass Level 2	Pass Level 2
3	3	Distinction Level 1	
2	2	Merit Level 1	
	1.75		Pass Level 1
	1.25	Pass Level 1	
1			

Help & Guidance

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEAIG)

Year 9 students are supported through the options process, to ensure that they make good and informed choices. In particular, they will be introduced to how subjects relate to career opportunities, encouraging them to reflect on their own needs. In Learning for Life lessons, students will have been shown how to log in to 'Start'—an online careers platform and a source of comprehensive careers information.

Students are welcome to email the independent C&K Careers advisor on the email address below if they require any guidance.

Shanaz.sarwar@ckcareers.org.uk



Which other organisations can help me?

The National Careers Service

This website is a useful resource for a variety of careers related information.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

Students can find more information about specific courses from the examination board websites.

AQA - www.aqa.org.uk

OCR - www.ocr.org.uk

Pearson - <https://qualifications.pearson.com>

WJEC/EDUCAS - www.educas.co.uk/qualifications/

RSL Award - <https://www.rslawards.com/vocational>

NCFE - <https://www.ncfe.org.uk/>

There is also help available for your parents/carers at www.gov.uk - Click the *Education and Learning* tab which has information about apprenticeships, education, training and school life.

Making Decisions

A few things to remember when making your choices:

- ✓ **DO** consider how much progress you have made in a subject so far
- ✓ **DO** take into account your interest in a subject; you are much more likely to succeed in a subject you like
- ✓ **DO** consider your possible aspirations. This will mean looking very carefully at qualifications required to do certain jobs. You may need to choose a subject now in order to study it at college and/or university
- ✓ **DO** speak to others and listen to what they have to say. You should talk to:
 - Older brothers or sisters
 - Parents/Carers
 - Subject Teachers
 - Form Tutor
 - Year 9 Student Support Lead – Miss Donaldson
 - C&K Careers Advisors
- ✗ **DO NOT** choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it (you may not end up in the same group anyway).
- ✗ **DO NOT** choose a subject just because you get on well with your present teacher. They may not be the teacher you will have next year!
- ✗ **DO NOT** choose a subject just because it is new to you.

We advise that you do not specialise too early, and expect you to choose a range of courses across subject areas. In order to help you make the right choices and for the right reasons, read all the information carefully.

Once option courses have been allocated it is very difficult to make changes and the course may no longer be available due to timetable and group size restrictions.

Year 9 Options Timeline

Options Information and SIMS Online Registration – Monday 26th February- Friday 8th March

During this fortnight, your child will be given the pathway they will be studying through and be able to discuss this during a one-to-one interview with the options team. Faculties will also share information about the subjects and courses during lessons. Within personal development time every student will be allocated support to register on SIMs Online. This is the online software used for students to request their choices.

Thursday 29th February – Options Evening 6-8pm

Parents and carers will be invited into school to attend an options evening which will go through the options process and provide more information on the courses available. There will be computers and support available to use to complete options choices on the evening. Booking information for this event will follow shortly.

The **deadline** for students to complete their option choices online is **Monday 11th March**. Please be aware that if the options are not selected in SIMs Online by this date, they may not be able to study their chosen options.

Core Curriculum

At Key Stage 4, students will study the core curriculum. This covers a broad and balanced range of subjects in line with the National Curriculum expectations.

The core subjects include:

- English Language & Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Science (Trilogy - 2 GCSEs/Triple 3 Separate GCSEs)

Students within the EBacc+ pathway will have the opportunity to study separate sciences (Triple) and will obtain three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

- Personal and Citizenship Education (Learning for Life, including Religious Studies)
- Core Physical Education

Note

Personal and Citizenship Education (Learning for Life, including Religious Studies) and Core Physical Education are studied by all students, but do not lead to a qualification.

English



Qualification Title

AQA Level1/2 GCSE English Literature and Eduqas English Language

What is the subject about?

The Language and Literature courses will encourage students to demonstrate their skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing in order to communicate with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately.

Students on this course will be encouraged to express themselves creatively and imaginatively. If they enjoy writing descriptively or writing short stories, this course will help that skill to develop and flourish. They will read and explore different texts from the seventeenth to twenty first centuries.

How am I assessed?

English Language: Examination 100%

English Literature: Examination 100%

Students can achieve two GCSEs by studying both Language and Literature.

Students will study the different texts through the necessary skills providing them with the confidence to achieve their potential in the Year 11 examinations.

Throughout the two year course students will begin their preparation for the four examination units for both Language and Literature. The final GCSE grades in English Language and English Literature will be awarded at the end of their course, in Year 11.

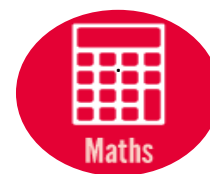
Where could this subject take me in the future?

These courses will develop the students' ability to read, write and speak under a range of circumstances. Both Language and English Literature GCSEs are a necessary requirement for almost all career sectors. A good qualification in English will determine student progression onto colleges or with employers after the age of 16.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr D Quirk - Director of Learning (English Faculty)

Mathematics



Qualification Title

Edexcel Level 1/2 GCSE Mathematics

What is the subject about?

Mathematics is an essential tool required in science, business and in everyday life. The GCSE Mathematics course comprises study in the areas of Number, Ratio, Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

Number deals with the practical manipulation of numbers with emphasis on real-life applications. Ratio deals with the practical application of percentages, proportion and compound measures.

Algebra enables students to develop abstract thinking skills to enhance problem solving.

Geometry develops skills in dealing with shape, space and measures.

Statistics equips students with the increasingly important skills of interpreting and presenting data. Probability investigates the language and mathematics of chance.

Throughout the course, the application of Mathematics to functional problems is stressed, with students being taught both calculator and non-calculator approaches to tackling problems.

How am I assessed?

Mathematics GCSE is a linear course, which is formally examined by three papers in the summer of Year 11.

Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper worth 33.3% of the total marks

Paper 2 and 3 are calculator papers worth 66.7% of the total marks.

Mathematics GCSE has a Foundation tier (grades 5 – 1) and a Higher tier (grades 9 – 4). Students take three question papers at the same tier. Students are regularly assessed throughout the course, which enables students to change tier as appropriate. This enables a student initially on the foundation tier to progress to access higher grades by the end of the course.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

A qualification in Mathematics is a prerequisite of most employers and further educational establishments and thus is essential for all students whatever their future plans.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr M Ward – Director of Learning (Maths Faculty)

Trilogy Science



Qualification Title

AQA Level1/2 GCSE in Combined Science: Trilogy

What is the subject about?

The majority of students follow the GCSE Science Trilogy course and will gain two GCSEs incorporating Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Some students will have the opportunity to study separate sciences and will obtain three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. If students choose to study Separate Science (3 GCSEs) this will form one of their option subjects, this is in addition to the time allocated in the core for science.

Students will study the fundamentals of the core Sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics:

- In Biology, students will study content including the role of body systems, the function of hormones, the evidence for evolution of species and how genetic variation occurs
- In Chemistry, students will study content including the structure of the atom, the combustion of fuels and the rates of chemical reactions
- In Physics, students will study content including the nature of particles, energy transfer, and exploring space and how nuclear energy is changing the world we live in

Throughout the courses students will use, and become highly proficient in using, a large range of practical equipment. Students will also become skilled in understanding the results from scientific investigations and be able to link these to scientific theory.

How am I assessed?

Trilogy Combined Course (2 GCSEs)

The examinations are a combination of multiple choice, structured and closed questions. Students will undertake six, 75-minute exams (2 for each subsection of Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Each paper has a potential 70 marks and is worth 16.7% of the qualification.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Studying Science can lead to a vast range of diverse careers. These include well-known careers such as medicine, veterinary science and engineering. Other careers including product design, entertainment and sport, are all closely linked with studying science. Students who study science will develop many skills that will be useful in a wide range of careers, including problem solving, teamwork, numeracy and creativity skills.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr J Waddington – Director of Learning (Science Faculty)

Learning for Life



Studied by All Students

What is the subject about?

All students attend Learning for Life lessons. At KS4 the subject covers national requirements in RSE (Relationships and Sex Education), as well as careers information and preparing students for Post 16 options and a range of life-skills.

The school's Learning for Life curriculum in Key Stage 4 is designed around the following aims:

- To understand democracy, government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens
- To be able to use a range of research strategies, weigh up evidence, make persuasive arguments and substantiate conclusions
- To experience and evaluate different ways that citizens can act together to solve problems and contribute to society
- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students within school and within society
- To extend and deepen students' knowledge and understanding of religions and other world views, reflecting local, national and global contexts
- To know about and understand a range of religions and other world views and be able to express ideas and insights about questions of beliefs and meaning
- To extend and deepen their knowledge and understanding of personal finance to include taxes, wage slips, mortgages and pensions
- To extend and deepen students' knowledge and understanding about relationships and sex education so that they develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds
- To understand the roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising children, including the characteristics of successful parenting
- To consider career opportunities and understand Post 16 progression options.

How and when am I assessed?

No formal assessment

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This subject will prepare students for the future opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss K Taylor - Deputy Director of Learning (SMSC Faculty)

Core PE



Studied by All Students

What is the subject about?

The Core PE curriculum is broad and balanced in Key Stage 4, students will participate in games activities, trampolining, table tennis, badminton, fitness, rounders and athletics. The department is continually striving to offer a range of new and different activities in order to maximise participation and enjoyment. Physical Education can provide a valuable release from the increasing pressures and demands of examinations and coursework.

The extra-curricular provision at the school continues into Key Stage 4. A significant number of students represent the school in a wide range of sports, playing against other schools both locally and regionally.

Teams are represented in football, basketball, rugby league/union, netball, rounders, cricket and athletics. An increasing number of students perform at a very high level in their chosen sports; some participate at national level.

Other activities are offered on a recreational level; these include badminton, fitness, table tennis and gymnastics.

How am I assessed?

No assessment.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

It is hoped that students will appreciate the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle as they embark on the next stage of their education. It is hoped that the positive experiences gained in school will encourage students to continue participating in sport and physical recreation when they leave school.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs C Ewen – Deputy Director of Learning (Physical Education)

Option Subjects

The core subjects include:

3D Product*
Art and Design*
Computer Science
Drama*
Engineering
Enterprise & Marketing
Food Preparation & Nutrition
French
Geography
Health & Social Care
History
Music & Music Technology
Musical Theatre*
Prince's Trust
Spanish
Sport Science
Statistics
Textiles*
Separate Science (3 Separate GCSEs)

***Subject combinations that are not allowed:**

Forbidden combination:

You are not allowed to choose any of the following options together
Art and Design, 3D Product, and Textiles.

Forbidden combination:

You are not allowed to choose the following options together
Drama and Musical Theatre.

3D Product



Qualification Title

Pearson BTEC Level1/2 Technical Award in
Art and Design Practice (3D Product)

What is the subject about?

This course opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, design and manufacturing industries. The knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management which are highly prized by employers.

By studying 3D Products you will combine graphic design skills with prototyping and model making using a variety of materials. Students will have the opportunity to work with a range of equipment and processes including Computer Aided Design and Manufacture such as Laser Cutting and 3D Printing.

The externally assessed component of the qualification will bring together student's experiences with designing and making by working to a client brief. Students will research the brief, generate creative design concepts and develop a product in response.

How and when am I assessed?

Externally assessed component: (40%)

For the externally assessed component students will work to a design brief. They will investigate the needs of a client; produce a range of design concepts; manufacture a quality product and evaluate their work.

Internally assessed components: (60%)

Unit 1– Generating Ideas in Design

Students learn how to research a design brief and produce drawings and design work to communicate ideas to clients.

Unit 2– Developing Practical Skills

Students will work with a range of tools and materials to realise design ideas.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

The skills developed through Art and Design education are integral to many roles in the creative industries. The creative sector is a collection of exciting and vibrant industries, including fashion, games, advertising, graphics and publishing, craft and product design, interior design and architecture. Upon completion, learners can progress to A Levels in Product Design, and Fashion/Textiles as well as Technical and Vocational qualifications.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs S Kilner – Deputy Director of Learning (Art, Design & Technology Faculty)

Art & Design



Qualification Title

WJEC EDUQAS Level 1/2 GCSE in Art and Design (Fine Art)

What is the subject about?

Art develops skills in creative thinking, problem solving and independent learning. Students will explore artists' work, images and primary sources to inspire their own work. They will be encouraged to explore their interests and ideas using visual language through a broad, wide ranging course. Areas of study might include: Drawing, Mixed Media, Textiles, Printing, Painting, CGI, Digital Photography and Sculpture.

This qualification aims to:

The aim of the course is to encourage students to become effective and independent learners who will be confident in taking risks and learning from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas and materials. They will develop their critical understanding of visual art work, developing and refining ideas and outcomes with increasing independence throughout the course.

How and when am I assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio

60% of qualification: 120 marks

A coursework unit, which will be completed in Year 10 and some of year 11, this component will be internally set, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

40% of qualification: 80 marks

This unit consists of a three month preparatory period when students research an externally set theme. Students will then use this research to produce a final outcome during 10 hours in examination conditions (not all in one go!) This component will be externally set, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Initially, a GCSE in Art can lead students to Level 3 qualifications, such as A' Levels and BTECs (not necessarily in Art). However, if students decide to pursue Art further, they will discover it is one of the largest employment industries in the UK. Everything you live in, wear, drive, sit on, eat from has been designed by someone!

Careers in Art include animation, graphic design, photography, fashion, textiles, architecture, entertainment, design, product design, craft, ceramics, theatre, illustration and computers.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss D D'Abreu – Head of Subject (Art and Design)

Computer Science



Qualification Title

OCR Level 1/2 GCSE in Computer Science

What is the course about?

The GCSE for Computer Science has recently been revised and has been first taught from September 2020. The course was adapted in consultation with both teachers and industry experts. The result is billed as “an engaging qualification that equips students with the knowledge and practical skills to thrive in the fast-changing world of Computer Science”. The course comprises of two key components and practical programming:

Component 01: Computer Systems – Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It is expected that students will become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

Component 02: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming – Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation. Students will become familiar with computing related mathematics.

Practical Programming – Throughout the course, students will further develop their programming skills to design, write, test and refine programs using Python; a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations.

When and how am I assessed?

Students are graded 1-9. The course consists of two units (see above) assessed by a written examination of an hour and thirty minutes each. These examinations take place at the end of the two years allocated for GCSE study. Each unit is worth 80 marks and will account for 50% of the overall grade.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This qualification provides a broad and solid foundation for further study of various aspects of computing but also to those who have no intention of pursuing computing beyond GCSE, as you can apply what you learn to other science or arts subjects. Students will have the opportunity to proceed on to A-Level Computer Science. Some career opportunities will include becoming software engineers, cyber security personnel, and hardware technicians. Students may decide to move on to an apprenticeship or a junior role in the IT industry.

Who do I speak to for more information?

Mr J Lally – Teacher of Computing

Drama



Qualification Title

BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

What is the subject about?

This BTEC Technical award in Drama encompasses all the elements of exploring, developing and applying a variety of skills and techniques to performance. Students will develop their performance, writing and research skills as well as gaining confidence in their abilities. During the course students will explore a wide range of styles and practitioners and are able to showcase their individual talents. They will recreate existing repertoire, as well as devising their own original pieces of theatre. This is designed to give a balanced understanding of theatre, its history and influences. The course also gives an insight into how the business and production side of the industry works, giving students a broadened view of what working in the performing arts industry actually means.

When and how am I assessed?

Both coursework and practical performances are internally assessed. Students are assessed on their progress from the very first day of their studies. Students will be asked to complete written assignments. These will be largely practical, which will either be assessed in the classroom, or at one of the department's Showcase Evenings. There will also be written components that will include reflective logs on rehearsals, evaluations and research. There is also an externally assessed unit, which is made up of three controlled written assessments reflecting on their ideas, skills and evaluation of their final recorded workshop performance.

The course is split into the following assessment parts:

- External Examination - 40%
- Coursework - 60%

Where could this subject take me in the future?

On successful completion of the course, students could choose to proceed onto a Post 16 course in Drama, Theatre Studies or Performing Arts, which may lead to Higher Education courses at universities or drama schools. A wide variety of careers within the performing arts industry would also be an option upon completion of the course. Being able to discuss aspects of both Drama and Performing Arts alongside your confidence when performing will allow you to stand out from other applicants in a wide variety of jobs outside of the drama and performing arts industry.

Students may wish to pursue a career as a performer, or work in arts administration, which is the UK's second largest employer.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss R Lenk – Director of Learning (Performance Faculty)

Engineering



Qualification Title

OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Engineering Design

What is the subject about?

This course provides a core of knowledge and applied skills related to Engineering. Students will develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

This is ideally suited to those students who wish to acquire technical skills and develop sector-specific knowledge in a practical learning environment. However, students should be aware that the course is **not entirely** workshop based and relies heavily on the students generating paper evidence of knowledge gained and developing a range of **design skills**.

The course focuses on development of skills and knowledge through three areas:

- Knowledge and understanding of engineering principles
- Design skills
- Practical skills

This qualification aims to:

- Develop students' range of generic and transferable skills
- Develop students' ability to solve problems
- Gain skills of project based research, development and presentation
- Provide opportunities to apply learning in vocational contexts

How and when am I assessed?

- Unit 1 – Communicating designs (30% of course); internally assessed design completed in Yr.10/11.
- Unit 2 – Design evaluation and modelling (30% of course); internally assessed 'practical' portfolio completed in Yr.11.
- Unit 3 – Principles of Engineering Design (40% of course); externally assessed written test completed in Yr.11.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Possible outcomes include progression into employment or access to a range of modern apprenticeships (including Electrical and Mechanical Engineering). This qualification can also lead into Level 3 courses including A levels at Further Education colleges.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr D Goodsell – Director of Learning (Art, Design & Technology Faculty)

Enterprise & Marketing



Qualification Title

OCR Level1/2 Cambridge National Certificate
in Enterprise & Marketing

What is the subject about?

The Cambridge National Certificate in Enterprise and Marketing allows students to get to grips with the practical skills and applied knowledge they'll need to set up their own small business.

- In the **first topic** students will develop essential knowledge and understanding of enterprise and marketing concepts. Through the first topic learners will understand the main activities that will need to happen to support a start-up business, and what the key factors are to consider when starting up a business.
- In the **second topic**, students will develop skills to design a business proposal to meet a specific challenge. They will identify a customer profile for a product, complete market research to generate product design ideas, and use financial calculations to propose a pricing strategy.
- In the **third topic**, students will develop the skills to create a brand identity and promotional plan for their specific business product proposal. They will develop pitching skills in order to pitch their business proposal to an external audience.

How and when am I assessed?

Unit R067: Enterprise and Marketing concepts - External examination (40%) Exam is 1 hour 15 minutes long with 70 potential marks

Explore the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and attract and retain customers. Knowledge from this unit will be applied in the project-based units.

Unit R068: Design a business proposal – Portfolio work (30%) with 60 potential marks

Students are presented with a business challenge from which they create a researched and costed business proposal.

Unit R069: Market and pitch a business proposal – Portfolio work (30%) with 60 potential marks

Students prepare for and pitch the business proposal that they developed in the previous unit to a professional panel who will provide feedback about learners' pitching skills.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This qualification is for students aged 14-16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in enterprise and marketing. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further study of qualifications in Enterprise, Marketing or Business. For example, students may progress onto A-Level Business or Level 3 Vocational Courses in Business Studies, Enterprise, Economics or Accounting. This course also helps learners prepare for 'T' Levels in subjects such as Accounting.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr D Goodsell – Director of Learning (Art, Design & Technology Faculty)

Food Preparation and Nutrition



Qualification Title

OCR GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition

What is the subject about?

If you enjoy working with food and the topics of nutrition, health, food safety and food science interest you then this would be a suitable option.

This GCSE course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and encouragement they need to cook. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Students will take part in practical lessons to practice a wide range of food preparation skills. They will prepare, cook and present food as well as apply nutrition-related information to tasks set. Students will develop vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

Students should be aware that the course is **not entirely** practical based and relies heavily on the students completing written work to evidence both knowledge and skills gained.

How and when am I assessed?

Written examination (50% exam)

- Question paper (1hr 30 mins)

Non-examined assessment (50% coursework)

- Food investigation assessment (15%)
Students write a 1,500 to 2,000 word report. We'll confirm the investigation topic on 1 September of the academic year in which it is submitted.
- Food preparation assessment (35%)
Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a three-course menu within a 3-hour practical exam.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course provides a suitable basis for further study at Post 16, offering progression onto a variety of academic and vocational courses. Further study could include a range of careers including environmental health, teaching, hospitality and catering, dietician (NHS), nutritionist, trading standards officer, food technologist including product development and sensory analysis.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs D Shaw – Deputy Director of Learning (Art, Design & Technology Faculty)

French



Qualification Title
AQA Level1/2 GCSE in French

What is the subject about?

The GCSE French course develops students' communication and comprehension skills. Students will concentrate on language skills that are transferable to the different GCSE themes and topics: People and lifestyle, Popular culture and Communication and the world around us. Students will also work on specific exam skills, such as translation, alongside the four general skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where French is spoken.

How am I assessed?

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9) and students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Listening is assessed through a written exam.
35 minutes (Foundation), 45 minutes (Higher).

Reading is also assessed through a written exam.
45 minutes (Foundation), 1 hour (Higher).

Speaking is assessed through a non-exam assessment.
7-9 minutes (Foundation), 10-12 minutes (Higher) plus preparation time.

Finally, **Writing** is assessed through a written exam.
1 hour (Foundation), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher).

Where could this subject take me in the future?

An ability to understand French offers access to communication with more than 200 million people on all five continents. It is an advantage on the international job market as France is the world's fifth biggest economy and attracts a lot of foreign investment. It is the third most used language on the internet after English and German, ahead of Spanish! It is also the official working language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. It opens up a new world of literature, films and songs. And don't forget.... France is the world's number one tourist destination, attracting more than 70 million visitors!

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs B Sykes - Director of Learning (MFL Faculty)

Geography



Qualification Title
AQA Level1/2 GCSE in Geography

What is the subject about?

The GCSE Geography course is a popular option choice, which students will enjoy if they like finding out about the world we live in. The faculty follows the AQA Geography syllabus and students are prepared to sit exams in the three units below.

Living with the physical environment: Considers the dynamic nature of earthquakes, volcanoes & tropical storms, the impact on people and how we manage them.

Challenges in the human environment: Considers how people live, levels of development, resource management (water, food and energy).

Geographical applications: Critical thinking and problem solving where students are expected to demonstrate geographical skills and applied knowledge.

Geography helps students to make sense of the world around them. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. The compulsory fieldwork element of the course ensures that students are given the opportunity to consolidate and extend their geographical understanding by relating learning to real experiences of the world. The course will give students the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

When and how am I assessed?

The course is linear, so all the exams are at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment – written exam 1hr 30mins 35%

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment – written exam 1hr 30mins 35%

Paper 3: Geographical applications written exam 1hr 30mins 30%

Fieldwork is a compulsory aspect of the geography course and students will have the opportunity to carry out human and physical fieldwork during the course.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Geography is well known as a subject that links to all other subjects in the curriculum, so a GCSE in Geography is a stepping stone to a whole range of opportunities. You may want to continue your study of Geography as this can lead you to employment opportunities in journalism, media, engineering, IT, travel and tourism, environmental management, and business management.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs M Evans – Deputy Director of Learning (Humanities)

Health & Social Care



Qualification Title

Pearson BTEC Tech1/2 in Health & Social Care

What is the subject about?

This BTEC Technical award is designed for students aged 14–16 who have an interest in health and social care and wish to develop key skills relevant to the health and social care sector such as research techniques and how to measure someone’s physical health. You will also develop your written communication skills as you create health and wellbeing plans for an individual with specific needs.

How and when am I assessed?

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development: *Internal Assessment/Externally Moderated (30%)*

Human Lifespan and Development gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age. You will also look at the factors that may affect growth and development throughout the lifespan, such as life changing events like marriage or the death of a partner. You will explore how individuals cope with these changes, as well as investigating the types of support available to help them.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values: *Internal Assessment (30%)*

You will investigate common services as well as those for specific needs and consider how they may work together to meet an individual’s needs. You will examine the barriers to individuals accessing services and how they may be overcome. You will explore the skills, attributes and values that are required in Health and Social Care, and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing: *Externally set and marked two-hour task, completed under supervised conditions. (40%)*

Explores the factors that can have a positive or negative influence on an individual's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators, and what they mean for someone’s state of health. You will learn how to use this information to design an appropriate plan for improving someone’s health and wellbeing, including short- and long-term targets. Additionally, you will explore the difficulties an individual may face when trying to make these changes.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Once you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of the Health and Social Care sector. You will have built useful skills, which are not generally covered in GCSE courses, and you will have developed a good understanding of whether the Health and Social Care sector is for you, and if so, which part of it you might want to study further. If you decide to go on to further study Health and Social Care, the best option for you will depend on the grades you have achieved in this and the other qualifications you have taken, and what you enjoy doing. You could progress to a Level 2 Technical Certificate or to a Level 3 programme, such as A Levels, a T Level or a BTEC National, either on its own or in combination with A levels.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs K Stephenson - Teacher of Health and Social

History



Qualification Title

OCR Level 1/2 GCSE in History B (Schools History Project)

What is the subject about?

History is a popular GCSE option at Key Stage Four which you will enjoy if you like investigation and discovery and finding out about some of the main events and people in history. The department follows the OCR Schools History Project syllabus and students are prepared to sit examinations in the following 4 units:

- The People's Health c.1250 to present
- The Elizabethans 1580-1603
- The Making of America 1789-1900
- Living under Nazi Rule 1933-1945

Students will also do an examined paper on 'History Around Us' which will be about a local historic site, Fountains Abbey.

Through the study of History, you will gain vital key skills such as problem solving, analysis of evidence, empathy and teamwork. These skills are essential, not only for History and for other subjects in school, but for any career you may wish to pursue in the future.

How and when am I assessed?

- **Paper One**
The People's Health c.200 to present and The Elizabethans 1580-1603 – 40% Written exam 1 hour 45 mins
- **Paper Two**
History Around Us– 20% Written exam 1 hour
- **Paper Three**
The Making of America 1789-1900 and Living under Nazi Rule 1933-1945 – 40% Written exam 1 hour 45 mins

Where could this subject take me in the future?

History at GCSE will provide students with plenty of opportunities for further progression. At AS/A Level, in colleges and universities, History is a very relevant subject. Locally, in January 2022 there were 293 jobs advertised for History graduates. History can gain students entry into a wide range of careers, including jobs in the health sector, television, radio, journalism, the police force, social work and the civil service.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss L Newham – Director of Learning (Humanities)

Music & Music Technology



Qualification Title

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology

What is the subject about?

This course will prepare you for a career in the music industry. It is a broad course; areas of study include musical styles, sound for media, multitrack recording and the development of music technology. You do not need to be able to play an instrument and all music theory will be taught in-lesson. Instead, you will be assessed on your ability to carry out a musical composition project, and on your knowledge of the course content. If you enjoy making music, are interested in the world of music production, and may be considering a career in this sector, this is the course for you.

When and how am I assessed?

- Synoptic project (60% of final grade): During Year 11, students will be given a brief (e.g. *create the music and sound for a shoe advert, in a dance style*). They will then have 19 hours to research, plan, produce, mix and evaluate their work.
- Exam (40% of final grade): At the end of Year 11, students will sit an exam that covers all the content learnt during the program of study.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

On successful completion of the course, students can choose to proceed onto a variety of post-16 courses, including Music (Digital Production), Music Performance and Music Technology. Careers open to you include music producer, musician, sound engineer, composer and podcaster, in addition to many jobs within arts administration, which is the UK's second largest jobs provider.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss R Lenk – Director of Learning (Performance Faculty)

Musical Theatre



Qualification Title

Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts

What is the subject about?

Musical Theatre allows students to study acting, dancing and singing through the popular form of Musical Theatre. Musical Theatre is a practical subject. Students will develop their performance, writing and research skills as well as gaining confidence in their abilities. During the course, students will be studying a range of Musicals, incorporating a wide variety of musical theatre repertoire. This is designed to give a balanced understanding of musical theatre, its history and influences. The course also gives an insight into how the business side of the industry works, giving students a broadened view of what working in the performing arts industry actually means.

When and how am I assessed?

Both coursework and practical performances are internally assessed. Students are assessed on their progress from the very first day of their studies. Students will be asked to complete written assignments. These will be largely practical, which will either be assessed in the classroom, or at one of the department's Showcase Evenings. There will also be written components that will include reflective logs on rehearsals, evaluations and research. There is also an externally assessed unit, which is made up of three controlled written assessments reflecting on their ideas, skills and evaluation of their final recorded workshop performance.

The course is split into the following assessment parts:

External Examination - 40%

Coursework - 60%

Where could this subject take me in the future?

On successful completion of the course, students could choose to proceed onto a Post 16 course in Performing Arts, which may lead to Higher Education courses at universities or performing arts schools. A wide variety of careers within the Performing Arts industry would also be an option upon completion of the course. Being able to discuss aspects of Performing Arts and your skill level will allow you to stand out from other applicants in a wide variety of jobs outside of the music industry.

Students may wish to pursue a career as a performer, or work in arts administration, which is the UK's second largest employer.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss R Lenk – Director of Learning (Performance Faculty)

Princes Trust



Qualification Title
Prince's Trust Level 1 Award in
Personal Development and Employability Skills

What is the subject about?

This qualification recognises a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors. Students are given the opportunity to:

- Develop their own personal growth and engagement in, and through, learning
- Engage in learning that is relevant to them and support their development of personal skills and attributes that are essential for working life and employment
- Prepare themselves for progression into further education programmes, apprenticeships or other work based learning
- Further develop their English and Mathematics skills

Examples of the Units of study we cover are:

- Career Planning (including CVs, applications, interview technique)
- Interpersonal and Self-Management Skills
- Participating in Healthy Lifestyles
- Teamwork Skills
- Digital Skills
- Managing Money
- Participating in Exercise
- Personal Project
- Presentation Skills

How and when am I assessed?

All assessments are coursework based and take place at regular intervals during the two-year course.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This qualification has been developed with the aim of progressing students into further education and/or employment by providing them with the necessary skills and confidence to access the next stage of their lives.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr D Goodsell – Director of Learning (Art, Design & Technology Faculty)

Spanish



Qualification Title
AQA Level1/2 GCSE in Spanish

What is the subject about?

The GCSE Spanish course develops students' communication and comprehension skills. Students will concentrate on language skills that are transferable to the different GCSE themes and topics; People and lifestyle, Popular culture and Communication and the world around us. Students will also work on specific exam skills such as translation alongside the four general skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where Spanish is spoken.

How am I assessed?

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9) and students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

- **Listening** is assessed through a written exam.
35 minutes (Foundation), 45 minutes (Higher).
- **Reading** is also assessed through a written exam.
45 minutes (Foundation), 1 hour (Higher).
- **Speaking** is assessed through a non-exam assessment.
7-9 minutes (Foundation), 10-12 minutes (Higher) plus preparation time.
- **Writing** is assessed through a written exam.
1 hour (Foundation), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher).

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Spanish is the second most spoken native language in the world after Mandarin Chinese. Spanish is also the primary language of 21 countries worldwide. As the number of Spanish speakers increases, so does the demand for professionals who are proficient in the language. Spanish speakers are in high demand in international business, diplomacy and development agencies. Learning Spanish enables students to travel to many places, including South America, opening up opportunities to see and do things that would not be accessible to non-Hispanics.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs B Sykes - Director of Learning (MFL Faculty)

Sports Science



Qualification Title

OCR Level1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Science

What is the subject about?

The Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science is designed for students with an interest in health and fitness. It will provide them with the knowledge of how diet, fitness training and technology can impact sporting performance. It will also give them experience of how to deal with sporting injuries.

This qualification aims to:

- Understanding how to prevent and treat sporting injuries
- Understanding how different medical conditions can affect sports performance
- Applying the principles of training to fitness and skills development for sporting activities
- Understanding how to apply knowledge of good nutrition to improve sporting performance

How am I assessed?

R180 - Reducing the risk of common sports injuries; this will be assessed through an exam at the end of the qualification worth 40% of the course.

R181- Applying Principles of Training; this will be assessed through coursework and worth 40% of the course.

R183 - Sports Nutrition; this will be assessed through coursework and worth 20% of the course.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Continuing education: A Level Physical Education / BTEC National Level 3 Sport.

Possible career opportunities: PE Teacher, Sports Coach, Personal Trainer, Physiotherapist, Armed Services (Army, Navy, Air Force), Public Services (Police, Fire Service, Paramedics), Groundsmen, Sports Cameraman, Photographer, Journalist, Sports Centre Manager, Sports Shop Manager, Referee/Official, Lifeguard, Sports Development.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs C Ewen – Deputy Director of Learning (Physical Education)

Statistics



Qualification Title
AQA Level 1/2 GCSE in Statistics

What is the subject about?

GCSE Statistics gives students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge in a key component of Maths that is relevant to everyday life. Students will develop a core statistical grounding, as well as transferable skills and understanding that is applicable to a range of other subjects such as the Sciences, Geography and Business. Topics cover the statistical enquiry cycle of carefully planning, collecting, recording and processing data in order to address the validity of a hypothesis, as well as generating data visualisation and understanding the Maths involved.

It is also intended that this option will include an opportunity to study and to take the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths. This extends GCSE Mathematics with an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills, giving students an introduction to AS level topics and allowing them to develop skills in areas such as algebra, geometry, calculus and matrices.

When and how am I assessed?

GCSE Statistics is assessed in two written 1 hour 45-minute examinations each worth 50% of the overall GCSE. Questions on each paper include multiple choice questions, short answer questions and a Statistical Enquiry Cycle question.

Further Mathematics is also assessed by two written examinations of 1 hour 45 minutes, each worth 50% of the overall mark.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

The statistical analysis skills covered in GCSE Statistics are complementary to many A Level subjects such as Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics and Mathematics and opens the door to a variety of careers from weather forecasting to the biological sciences.

Further Mathematics is an excellent preparation for those students intending to take A Level Mathematics bridging the divide between GCSE and AS Level.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr A Nightingale – Lead Practitioner (Maths)

Textiles



Qualification Title
Pearson BTEC Level1/2 Technical Award
in Art and Design Practice (Textiles)

What is the subject about?

This course opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, design and manufacturing industries. The knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management which are highly prized by employers.

The focus areas for Textiles will typically be garment construction and fashion illustration; fabric surface pattern including printing, dyeing and embellishment; modelling and prototyping. Practical elements of the course will explore these areas more fully and students will learn about how textile products can be designed and made in a creative way. Students will have the opportunity to work with a range of equipment and processes including Computer Aided Design and Manufacture such as Laser Cutting, and CAD/CAM Embroidery, as well as traditional textiles equipment such as sewing machines.

How and when am I assessed?

- **Externally assessed component: (40%)**
For the externally assessed component students will work to a design brief. They will investigate the needs of a client; produce a range of design concepts; manufacture a quality product and evaluate their work.
- **Internally assessed component: (60%)**
Unit 1– Generating Ideas in Design
Students learn how to research a design brief and produce drawings and design work to communicate ideas to clients.
Unit 2– Developing Practical Skills
Students will work with a range of tools and materials to realise design ideas.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

The skills developed through Art and Design education are integral to many roles in the creative industries. The creative sector is a collection of exciting and vibrant industries, including fashion, games, advertising, graphics and publishing, craft and product design, interior design and architecture. Upon completion, learners can progress to A Levels in Fashion/Textiles as well as Technical and Vocational qualifications.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs S Kilner – Deputy Director of Learning (Art, Design & Technology Faculty)

Separate Science



Qualification Title

AQA GCSE Biology, AQA GCSE Chemistry and AQA GCSE Physics

What is the subject about?

If you have a passion for science and technology and are thinking of taking science further, then this is the course for you. As well as developing a deep understanding of the key ideas in each of the three disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics the course looks at the very latest real world applications and research. You will gain three GCSEs, one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. If you choose to study Triple Science, it will form one of your option subjects, this is in addition to the time allocated in the core for science.

Topics covered include;

- Biology – cells and organs, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance and evolution and ecology.
- Chemistry – atomic structure and bonding, structure and properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.
- Physics – forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter and atomic structure.

You will perform experiments and practical assignments that form the basis for work that is now integrated into the main exams. Alongside discussions and group work, written work will involve longer answer questions that allow students to demonstrate more advanced literacy and communication skills which are vital for the higher levels in science.

How am I assessed?

Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs)

The examinations are a combination of multiple choice, structured and closed questions. You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This will involve undertaking two 1 hour and 45 minutes written exams for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (6 exams in total). Each exam is worth 50% of final grade for each of the 3 separate GCSEs.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Triple Science offers similar career choices to good grades in Trilogy Science and through the right choice of A Levels can lead to a multitude of different scientific career paths for example:

- Health services such as medicine, dentistry and pharmacy
- Mechanical or electrical engineering and industry
- Environment agency and medical, pharmaceutical and agricultural research, laboratories, food science, etc.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr J Waddington – Director of Learning (Science Faculty)

