

Key Stage Four Option Choices

2024





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Welcome to the next phase of your education



This is a really exciting time for you as you make important decisions that will start to shape the future direction of your studies and future employment. The information provided in this booklet will give you some guidelines to help you make informed decisions about the right courses for you to follow over the next three years.

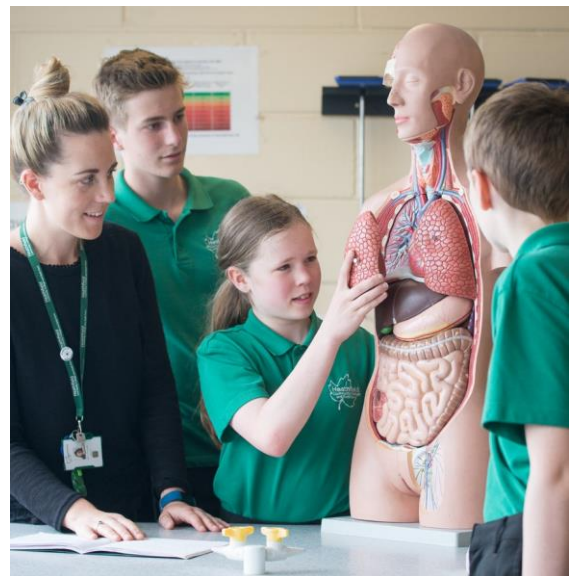
It will introduce subjects which may be new to you and provide you with interesting information about familiar ones. There are some exciting differences when you are studying at GCSE level, so do not automatically dismiss a subject because you find it difficult or don't like it now. Read about all the options first and watch the subject option videos by using the links on the options evening guide.



The more information you have the better position you are in to know what is just right for you. It is important that you consider a number of things when making your choice about future courses. You may have some idea of what you want to do in the future or you may be unsure. It is important to consider courses that will give the best chances to access further learning and give you a broad range of skills. When making your choice please consider the following:

- **What are your strengths?**
- **Any future plans that you may have including potential study at post 16 and post 18**
- **What interests you may have**
- **What each of the courses involve and what careers they may lead to**

Please do not choose a course just because your friends are doing it or because you like the teacher. Your choice needs to be personal to you and equip you for the next phase of your education. It is important that you also discuss your plans and concerns with family, friends and teachers. If you need any further support please contact Mrs Krouwel, your Head of Year, at kkrouwel@heathfieldcc.co.uk where we can discuss your choices and future plans.





The Heathfield Curriculum

At Heathfield Community College we believe in students pursuing their interests and gaining success in the context of a broad and balanced education. The rationale behind our three-year Key Stage 4 is to create a less stressful and more personalised route of study for students ensuring a broad offer of four subjects can be followed. The core curricula of English, Mathematics and Science have different routes available through them, suited to the ability of the student. The Key Stage 4 Curriculum is designed to include Core Subjects studied by everyone and Option Choices made by individual students.

The Core Curriculum includes the following subjects: English and English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Religious Education and PSHEe, including Careers education.

Option Choices should be driven by two key principles:

- The first is that students should choose subjects that they are interested in and are good at (because these are the subjects they will work hardest at and be most successful in). Option Choices can be made with confidence since they are highly unlikely to limit or affect future career paths.
- Secondly, students should benefit from a balanced curriculum which ensures a broad general education and width of experience from which to specialise in the future.

What's the E-Bacc and do I have to do it?

The English Baccalaureate is an unofficial qualification which shows whether a student has English, Maths, Science, a Language and either History or Geography. The subjects referred to as the 'English Baccalaureate' or 'E-Bacc' subjects are as follows in our option offer: French, Geography, History, Latin and Spanish.



There is an expectation from the government that 90% of students should study the Ebacc and in the future higher education establishments might look to include it as part of their entry requirements as students reach that age. In addition, employers might start asking whether it has been achieved on application forms, and there is a national trend in education currently towards a more academic pathway for most students. These options of a language and a humanity have therefore been made compulsory so that no student is disadvantaged in the future from the option choices they take at school. We are aware however that the 'E-Bacc' subjects will not be suitable for every student at Heathfield, if you really don't like languages and History or Geography and want to discuss an alternative pathway then please select four choices in box C. To ensure a balanced curriculum for all students, every student must select one subject from Box A or B.

When will I finish my GCSE option courses?

Two of your option choices will run for two years with final exams at the end of Year 10 and your other two choices for three years with final exams at the end of Year 11. Courses which run over either two or three years have the same content and value and will be allocated the same curriculum time.

Repeated studies show that experiences of academic success and an understanding of the examination process builds confidence and enhances self-esteem and mental health. This underpins our belief in completing two option GCSEs at the end of Year 10.

Course availability and reserve choices

It is important to choose a good reserve subject because subjects will only be timetabled if sufficient students opt for them to create viable set sizes. If classes become full the school reserves the right to offer reserve choices to students.



Important Dates

All Year 8 students had a presentation on the options process on 23 January with follow up presentations in PSHEe between 15 and 26 January to look at the option choices in more detail.

As you will already be aware our Options Fair takes place on **Thursday 22 February between 5 and 7pm**. During the evening you and your child will have the opportunity to speak to staff about any subject they are considering choosing to study over the next three years. Please allow at least an hour during the evening to visit the various subjects on offer. If you need any further support you can see a member of the Senior Leadership Team during the options fair where we can discuss your choices and future plans. Subjects have also recorded a video that will answer most of the questions that are normally asked on the evening, if for any reason you are unable to attend. Please follow this link for the subject videos

https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=1387708.

Further information on Option choices and Careers, including a wide range of websites providing support, can be found on the College website by selecting 'Students' and then 'Careers Information' from the drop-down menu or here:

<https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/students/careers>

We look forward to receiving your completed form which needs to be handed in by **Thursday 7 March**. This can be completed electronically and sent to office@heathfieldcc.co.uk or posted/handed in to Reception. If you need an options form to be posted to you please let us know by contacting office@heathfieldcc.co.uk.

GCSE Grading Structure

As you may be aware, students will no longer receive a traditional lettered grade in their GCSEs. They will receive a number grade on a 9-1 scale where 9 is the highest and 1 the lowest grade available.



Compulsory Subjects





English Language GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Compulsory		EBACC	Three Year		
Subject Leader	K Hatchard	Exam Board	EDUQAS	Course Code	C990QS

INTRODUCTION

This subject is the one held in the highest regard by employers and post-16 educational institutions alike. The skills developed in GCSE English Language are skills that you will need to apply in all the other subjects you study: reading, writing and speaking. Studying GCSE English Language will help you develop your ability to read and write effectively and accurately. Speaking skills will also be assessed and be an integral part of lesson activities.

The English department are a very successful one due to both the supportive nature of the staff in the department and the excellent quality of learning and teaching. Students need to work hard; when that is combined with the input of our staff, students secure excellent outcomes in GCSE English Language.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to whole class discussions and present individually to the class To write in detail and with careful consideration To read texts thoughtfully To be ambitious and curious and ask if there is anything you need support with To work with others to produce pieces of writing To be enthusiastic and engage with the processes of reading and writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to analyse language To be able to comprehend a text The ability to interpret a text and provide appropriate evidence To be able to spell and punctuate accurately To be able to adapt your writing style to suit a variety of tasks and engage your reader To structure your writing in a cohesive and developed way To speak cogently and precisely for an audience 	<p>Any institution that offers A-levels will expect you to have achieved a 'good pass' in GCSE English Language. To go to university, you will need to have achieved this standard.</p> <p>English is the most versatile of subjects and good English skills are required in most professions. Possible areas that an interest in English could lead you into are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law Journalism Teaching Advertising and Marketing Publishing Sales

STUDYING ENGLISH LANGUAGE INVOLVES:

- Writing in a range of different styles
- Learning the grammatical rules of English and ways to improve your spelling
- Giving you the opportunity to apply your knowledge of grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Comprehending and interpreting the texts you read
- Analysing how language is used for effect



It is really interesting to consider how you can use, and other writers use, language to influence peoples' thoughts and reactions. I most enjoy writing creatively and losing myself in a world I've created in my head.



English Literature GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Compulsory		EBACC	Three Year		
Subject Leader	K Hatchard	Exam Board	EDUQAS	Course Code	601/5246/1

INTRODUCTION

English Literature offers students the chance to explore the characters and worlds created by a range of authors and playwrights. Students will come to realise that many of the dilemmas, issues and themes presented in literature, even literature dating back to Shakespeare, has relevance to their lives today. Students will consider matters such as: greed in society; forbidden love; the desire for power and the consequences of that; the impact of basic human instincts being unrestricted by society as well as other fascinating concepts.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to whole class discussions and present in groups to the class To read the texts being studied in class by the deadlines set To read other literature in your own time To be ambitious and curious about what you read To work with others in developing considered responses to texts To be enthusiastic in class when working on the text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to analyse language To be able to comprehend the characters and plot of a text The ability to interpret a text and provide appropriate evidence To structure an essay that compellingly presents your views To express ideas and views, verbally, in a cogent fashion 	<p>English Literature is a highly regarded subject by colleges, Sixth forms and universities alike.</p> <p>English is the most versatile of subjects and good English skills are required in most professions. Possible areas that an interest in English Literature could lead you into are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law Civil Service Teaching Advertising and Marketing Publishing Librarianship

STUDYING ENGLISH LITERATURE INVOLVES:

- Reading and studying a Shakespearean play (Romeo and Juliet or Macbeth)
- Reading and studying a Victorian novel (A Christmas Carol)
- Reading and studying a 20th century novel (Lord of the Flies)
- Reading and studying a selection of poetry



I have really enjoyed the range of texts we have studied. I thought the language in Shakespeare would make it too difficult but the plotlines are just so gripping that I loved it!



Mathematics GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Compulsory		EBACC	Three Year		
Subject Leader	E Dupasquier	Exam Board	Edexcel	Course Code	1MA1

INTRODUCTION

Mathematics is a subject core to many other subjects and skills. It is held with highest regard by employers and post-16 educational institutions alike. The logical skills and problem-solving skills of students are constantly developed through the course which apply to all other Curricular areas.

It is taught at Key Stage 4 through a themed approach to ensure students have every opportunity to apply their Mathematical skills to different contexts and situations. The Mathematics Department is a very successful one with passionate Subject Specialists who are enthusiastic about delivering an excellent quality of teaching and learning.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be resilient and determined at all times. To present all working out carefully and clearly. To be fully equipped in all lessons. To read questions carefully and identify the key Mathematical processes needed to solve the problem. To ensure numeracy skills are practiced regularly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to break down a problem into smaller steps. The ability to apply mathematical techniques to solve problems in a variety of contexts. The ability to analyse data and draw conclusions. To be able to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical concepts and methods. To apply logical thought and deduce patterns and formulas. 	<p>Any institution that offers A-levels will expect you to have achieved a 'good pass' in GCSE Maths. To go to university, you will need to have achieved this standard.</p> <p>Studying Mathematics further can lead towards opportunities in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering Medicine Finance Education Research

STUDYING MATHEMATICS INVOLVES:

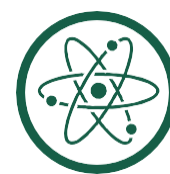
- Solving problems in a variety of contexts and situations.
- Analysing data and presenting conclusions.
- Presenting solutions clearly.
- Using basic numeracy skills confidently and fluently.
- Using logical thought to solve problems that arise in everyday life.



I really enjoy the challenge of Mathematics. Once you have conquered a concept it is extremely satisfying. I enjoy the variety of the subject from working with shapes to solving algebraic problems and analysing data.



Combined Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE



KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION		TWO COURSES OFFERED			
Compulsory	EBACC	Three Year			
Subject Leader	J Gillespie	Exam Board	AQA	Course Code	See below*

INTRODUCTION

Most students will study a Science programme leading to at least two GCSEs (*Combined Science course code = 8464) and this is done using a flexible and personalised course structure over three years. A smaller number of students will study the three separate Science GCSEs, Biology, Chemistry and Physics (*course codes = 8461, 8462, and 8463).

Entry onto the different routes in Science GCSEs depends on both ability and attitude. The triple Sciences are really designed for the most able students with a keen passion and enthusiasm for the subject. The college will decide which route is the most appropriate for each student, based on prior attainment and attitude to learning. This decision will not be made until later in Year 9. Up to that point, all students will be taught content common to both Combined and Triple routes.

Further communication will be sent home nearer the time.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>‘Working scientifically’ underpins the delivery of Science at GCSE. These are the main ways in which working scientifically may be developed and assessed within this content, and students will be expected to participate in this process enthusiastically but safely.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of scientific thinking 2. Experimental skills and strategies 3. Analysis and evaluation 4. Scientific vocabulary, quantities, units, symbols and nomenclature 	<p>All the science courses will encourage students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, science • Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods • Acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society • Acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning 	<p>Science is becoming ever more important in gaining access into further education courses, both ‘A’ levels (and further study in engineering, medicine, nursing, forensics etc) and vocational courses such as catering, childcare, nursing, hairdressing, building, electrical work, plumbing and photography.</p>

STUDYING COMBINED SCIENCE INVOLVES:

Biology: Cell biology; Transport systems; Health, disease and the development of medicines; Coordination and control; Photosynthesis; Ecosystems; Inheritance, Variation and Evolution

Chemistry: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Structure, bonding and the properties of matter; Chemical changes; Energy changes in Chemistry; The rate and extent of chemical change; Chemical analysis; Chemical and allied industries; Earth and atmospheric science

Physics: Energy; Forces; Forces and motion; Waves in matter; Light and electromagnetic waves; Electricity; Magnetism and electromagnetism; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure

Triple Sciences includes extra units such as...

Biology: The genome and gene expression; Chemistry: Organic Chemistry; Physics: Space Physics



In Science lessons we get to see things happening, so it's easier to understand.



Option Subjects



Pride . Ambition . Community



French GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option		EBACC	Three Year		Two Year
Subject Leader	M Fox	Exam Board	Edexcel	Course Code	1FR0

INTRODUCTION

We all know that English is the most widely spoken language in the world so why not set yourself ahead of the crowd and learn another one? Learning to be proficient in a second language takes years; you have already made a strong start, so how about continuing and earning a qualification for all your hard work? A language is not just another subject, it is a life skill and another string to your bow to improve your CV.

Learning French gives you so many more opportunities for travel, making new and varied connections, learning about different cultures and traditions which form our global environment. It also forms part of the EBacc qualification, something many universities require and which will open more doors in the world of study and employment. You will learn and develop many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers and create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links.

When you have heard people speak in another language, you may have felt curiosity and envy. You want to know what is being said? How cool is it for them to speak a language others don't! This is your chance. Step into French and start a life-long love of everything francophone!

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be independent and responsible for your own learning To be hardworking and determined- learning a Language is a Marathon, not a quick race! To be open-minded and proactive in reaching out to others- to put these speaking skills into action, to seek help, and to support classmates To have an interest in not only being able to develop linguistic fluency, but also deepen cultural awareness and understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate in spoken French for a variety of situations, through the study of Phonics Use Grammar and Vocabulary for different types of written purposes Develop the ability to listen to and understand spoken and written French in a range of contexts and a variety of styles Develop language learning and communication skills which can be applied broadly, such as inference, team work Improve your memory and your ability to multitask Perseverance and resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities and employers value French immensely, since Linguists are perseverant and resilient; you are very unlikely to drop out or leave your position. learning a Language is seen by many UK companies to be the most important and employable quality. You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, ensuring you have a wide skill base for future employment. Working for the EU/ Parliament/Environmental agencies Media/Publishing/ Law/ Marketing/ Journalism Industries for Engineering/ Pharmaceutical companies Translating & Interpreting Travel Industry Teaching in the UK or abroad

STUDYING FRENCH GCSE INVOLVES:

- Listening and responding to different types of spoken language in a variety of scenarios
- Reading and responding to different sources of written language in various contexts
- Using, understanding and applying a range of vocabulary, phonics and grammatical structures



French is a really good choice to take at GCSE, as it's really exciting to go to another country and be able to talk to people in their own language. It will also give me another skill to be able to offer when I am applying for a job in the future.



Latin GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION	COURSE OFFERED
Option	Three Year

Subject Leader	O Boote	Exam Board	Eduquas	Course Code	J282
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INTRODUCTION

Studying Latin allows us to connect with the ancient language and literature that informed so much of Western culture. It will help you build a deeper understanding for a range of other subjects: literary criticism and grammar in English; translating modern foreign languages; providing context for social and historical events; translating tricky vocabulary in Science.

A qualification in Latin shows that you are hard-working and not easily intimidated. Students need to be prepared for a challenge. Latin GCSE is highly respected by colleges, universities, and employers. It requires dedication, a good memory, and a logical mind; it is enjoyed particularly by those with a flair for languages.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accurately translate unseen and set text Latin into English To recognise, analyse and write about literary features and style of Latin set texts To explain the derivation of English words from Latin To demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, historical and literary context To contribute to whole class discussions and present individually to the class To be ambitious and curious and ask if there is anything you need support with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be able to develop and use knowledge of vocabulary, morphology and syntax. To be able to develop knowledge and understanding of ancient literature. To be able to apply critical, analytical and reflective skills to evaluate evidence from a range of sources. To be able to develop insights into the relevance of Latin, ancient literature and civilisation to modern society. To be able to develop skills which will equip you for further study in arts, humanities and sciences. 	<p>Any institution that sees you have a Latin GCSE will consider you a candidate with a high attention to detail, as well as excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.</p> <p>Possible careers that an interest in Latin could help you into are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law • Medicine • Journalism • Teaching • Advertising and Marketing • Publishing • Archiving • Museum curating

STUDYING LATIN INVOLVES:

- Translating a range of set texts and unseen passages of original and adapted Latin
- Learning vocabulary and grammar of the Latin language
- Learning social and historical context for set texts
- Comprehending and interpreting the texts you read
- Analysing how language is used for effect



Learning Latin has helped me to understand the modern languages that I'm studying even better. It's also really interesting being able to link ancient myths with the things I learn in English, and how they might have influenced later Western authors.



Spanish GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option		EBACC	Three Year		Two Year
Subject Leader	K Ridgwell	Exam Board	Edexcel	Course Code	1SP0

INTRODUCTION

By studying Spanish you will be developing your language skills, learning a language now recognised as the second most widely spoken language in the world with over 414,000 speakers world-wide. You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, ensuring you have a wide skill base for future employment. You will learn and develop many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers and create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links.

During the course you will work independently and collaboratively, be challenged and engaged by a varied and diverse curriculum which aims to produce competent and confident linguists who are well informed about the culture where the language is spoken. Spanish is taught by very experienced staff who will support you wholeheartedly in your language learning journey!

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>The course demands commitment, enthusiasm and ambition from those who choose it.</p> <p>Students will be expected to complete regular, weekly homework which will involve learning vocabulary as well as developing spoken and written skills.</p> <p>We expect students to have an interest in not only being able to develop their linguistic fluency, but also broaden their cultural awareness and understanding.</p> <p>Successful students can expect to gain an important and very worthwhile, valued and respected qualification through their study of Spanish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the ability to listen to and understand spoken Spanish in a range of contexts and a variety of styles. • Communicate in spoken Spanish for a variety of purposes. • Read and respond to different types of written language. • Communicate in written Spanish for a variety of purposes. • Understand and apply a range of vocabulary and structures in Spanish. • Develop language learning and communication skills which can be applied broadly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in the Travel Industry using languages • Teaching using your language skills in the UK or abroad • Translating • Interpreting • Working for the EU/Parliament/Environmental agencies • Working in the Media/Publishing/Marketing/Law/Journalism • Working in Industry for Engineering/Pharmaceutical companies <p>Languages are very flexible!</p>

STUDYING SPANISH GCSE INVOLVES:

- Listening and responding to different types of spoken language, including dictation
- Communicating in speech for a variety of purposes, including reading aloud
- Reading and responding to different types of written language
- Communicating in written form for a variety of purposes
- Using, understanding and applying a range of vocabulary and structures
- Understanding, applying and manipulating the grammar of the language



Languages are very interesting, fun and useful. If you have a GCSE in a language – it opens up new opportunities in the future.



Geography GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option		EBACC	Three Year		Two Year
Subject Leader	J Fielding	Exam Board	AQA	Course Code	8035

INTRODUCTION

Do you every wonder why things happen? Do you want to know why the world works the way it does? If so, Geography is the perfect option for you!

Geography is a fun and dynamic subject in which you will be involved in decision making and exploring the real world. You will investigate those issues that affect us all and propose your own solutions.

The Geography GCSE course is diverse and covers a range of human and physical modules from UK Geography to case studies and issues around the world.

You should take Geography if you are interested in the world outside your window.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We expect you to be interested and passionate about the real world. We expect you to come on field trips in the local area and work well as part of a team. We expect you to work hard and take responsibility for your own work. We expect that you worked hard in Year 7 and 8 and are ready to apply what you have learnt to new and exciting topics. We expect you to achieve your potential! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By taking Geography GCSE you will be able to develop those vital skills that universities and employers are looking for. Decision making skills, where you have to process information, allow you to propose solutions to a problem. You will develop the skill of analysing data which builds on your maths skills. Explanation skills both in your written answers and in class discussion will be developed. The most important skill you need, and will develop further is the ability to be curious about the world around you! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography GCSE is widely recognised by employers and universities as an excellent academic GCSE that provides students with a vital set of skills and knowledge. Jobs where Geography is very relevant include: planning and architecture, environmental consultancy, land management, conservation, the armed forces, teaching, financial services, farming and tourism. Geography takes you places.

STUDYING GEOGRAPHY INVOLVES:

Studying key issues facing our planets such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and growing social inequalities, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study.

Studying Geography involves selecting and analysing information that you have been given and that you have collected yourself. It involves planning your own investigations and setting your own questions.

You can expect to study topics as varied as typhoons to tourism and sea level rise to slums. You will build on all the hard work you have put in over the last two years and will have the chance to revisit some of your favourite topics.

As we hope you know by now studying geography is never dull and involves responding to changes in the world around us. Every lesson you can expect to be looking at something new and the course will change to reflect current affairs. One thing you can be certain of is that if you study Geography you will go into the world a well informed and knowledgeable young adult.



Geography is a lesson that I always look forward to. I always want to find out what we are going to be exploring next!



History GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option		EBACC	Three Year		Two Year
Subject Leader	E Smith	Exam Board	Edexcel	Course Code	1HI0

INTRODUCTION

People in the past were every bit as clever, stupid, interesting and varied in personality as people today. Studying the people of the past can give you real insight into people alive now and knowledge of people is a great asset. History also provides the key to understanding the world around you; past decisions, conflicts, conspiracies or complete mess-ups have all played their part in shaping the 21st Century that we live in.

The GCSE History course is diverse, allowing you the opportunity to study social, military and political history from the Normans to the Nazis: there really is something for everyone. You will be taught throughout your course by teachers who are very experienced in teaching GCSE and who will support you every step of the way. Your written communication skills will develop alongside your knowledge of the past as the course is delivered in a variety of ways, from debate to Lego!

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Students must have an interest in and curiosity about the past and be willing to develop as independent learners.</p> <p>There are a lot of interesting things to learn so students will be asked at different points in the course to self-assess their own knowledge and understanding of topics before working independently on 'filling in the gaps'. This requires students to be reflective and determined learners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to gather and understand different kinds of information. • The ability to look carefully at information and historical evidence and check it for bias and propaganda. • The ability to organise information and construct a logical argument. • The ability to understand human activity in the past and link it with the present. • The ability to express yourself both verbally and on paper. 	<p>GCSE History is a well-respected qualification and useful for careers in journalism, tourism, law, advertising, teaching, banking, study of medicine, business management and the media.</p> <p>Employers and universities value History very highly. Historians are regarded as having had an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions - a very useful quality in many walks of life and careers.</p>

STUDYING HISTORY INVOLVES:

- Paper 1:** A Thematic Study and Historic Environment (1 hour and 15 minutes exam)
Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.
- Paper 2:** Period study and British depth study (1 hour and 45 minutes exam)
Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91 and Anglo Saxon and Norman England, c1060-1080
- Paper 3:** Modern depth study (1 hour and 20 minutes exam)
Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1919-39



History is great! The teachers are really enthusiastic and teach in interesting ways. Topics such as Medicine help me to understand the world that I live in today.



Art and Design: Art GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	F Strachan	Exam Board	Edexcel	Course Code	1AD0

INTRODUCTION

Art is all around us in our everyday lives and is an integral part of society both in the joy of making and observing, and also the need for design in our everyday lives, from clothing to buildings, to the way we furnish our homes and the chairs we sit on in school. It is the way humans have communicated their thoughts and feelings to others since before the written word. In GCSE Art we aim to give you the skills and opportunities you need to confidently express yourself, your opinions and your ideas both visually and through practical and engaging activities that explore a variety of 2D and 3D media, techniques and processes. You will look at the cultural and historical side of art, and use the work of others to develop your own practice, learning from and using the skills and techniques employed by some of the greatest artist and designers of our time.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Students should be creative, imaginative, enjoy developing and exploring their own ideas through experimenting with various media and processes.</p> <p>Students must have a willingness to sustain a project theme from initial explorations to a final realised outcome and have the ability to work independently.</p> <p><i>Due to the practical nature of this subject and the cost of additional resources, a voluntary contribution of £30 is requested in the first year, which includes an art pack and access to all specialist materials, this is followed by a contribution of £7 in the second year of study.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to develop your own line of enquiry. • Ability to express your ideas and to communicate these in a variety of media. • Ability to analyse, understand and explore artists' concept. • Ability to select and use appropriate media and techniques including new technologies to record your responses. 	<p>This course will extend opportunities for students considering a career in the Visual Arts, specifically leading to AS and A level Art, AS and A Level Photography.</p> <p>Creative industries continue to be one of the fastest growing industries in the developed world. Innovators in this field have imaginative ideas, visual communication skills and traditional training in the visual arts.</p> <p>Careers in the arts are vast and can include; set and stage design, fashion, textile design, graphic designer and architect.</p>

STUDYING VISUAL ARTS (ART AND DESIGN) INVOLVES:

Students will work through three main projects, two that are internally set and the third externally. The first is the Introduction Project and its purpose is to introduce students to the course structure and demonstrate how to work through the different materials and processes they will use. This is followed by either the Develop and Explore project, which has a focus on pattern, texture and sculpture or Personal Landscape which explores portraiture and landscape and has a heavier observational drawing focus. Students can choose which of these two projects they would like to follow based on their introduction project and a discussion with their class teacher.

All ideas are presented in sketch books or on boards and again, students can decide which best suits their style. They will visually explore a range of subject matter using a wide range of materials, processes and techniques including low relief sculpture, collage, 3D sculptures using a wide range of materials, lino, mono and collagraph printing, drawing and painting.

For each project, initial explorations are refined and developed into personal outcomes. These can be printed, painted in 3D or 2D. These personal outcomes will show evidence of historical references i.e. artists that students have looked at throughout their project.



People should take GCSE Art because it is an interesting subject and is a great way to express yourself. It also makes a change from pen and paper work.



Business GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	O Perkins	Exam Board	Pearson	Course Code	1BS0

INTRODUCTION

Business is about your life. Everyone works for businesses, buys from businesses or sells to businesses. If you understand how a business works you will understand what you are being asked to do whilst at work and why. If you want to be a business person then this course covers lots of what you need to know. It is NOT about setting up your own business but you will learn relevant things that are necessary to start up your own business. You will learn how to measure its success; trying to get the business to survive and thrive. The course is about how businesses try to be successful, from small business through to the very largest ones and how they measure if they have been a success or not. This course is about understanding business decision making and the importance of opportunity cost in making good decisions.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>The expectations are the same as for all other courses at this level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be interested in what businesses do and how the world around you works • Listen to the teacher • Behave well • Try your hardest • Complete all work set • Complete homework on time AND to the best of your ability • Act on the teacher's advice and feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning the importance of being enterprising • Skills in communicating and explaining your ideas, especially in writing • Learning how to work with numbers to solve business problems • You will learn how to weigh up arguments and evidence to make decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business-related professions such as Accountancy, Law, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Logistics. • GCE 'AS'/'A' level courses in Business or Economics • Understanding the workings of the businesses that you will work for in the future so that you should have a better chance of getting promotions. • Understanding what businesses do helps if you want to become an entrepreneur

STUDYING BUSINESS INVOLVES:

The course covers core knowledge in the following areas:

- Why Businesses exist - customer needs, the opportunity cost of all decisions
- Enterprise - how this is demonstrated in business behavior and how businesses spot & choose between opportunities
- Business Ownership types, including self-employment, franchising, partnerships, limited liability companies
- Marketing Management - including: pricing decisions; promotional methods; distribution & managing product portfolios and the product life cycle
- People Management - recruitment, training & motivation, internal organization, communication
- Financial Management - costs, revenues, profits, break even, cashflow, final accounts, accounting ratios
- Operational Management - efficiency, productivity, stock control, quality issues, customer service, e-commerce
- The Economic Context & the Wider Environment, including: government intervention; taxation, subsidies, regulation, interest rates; exchange rates, pressure groups; social responsibility & business ethics, the EU & business stakeholders



It's been really interesting learning about how businesses try to make themselves successful.



Computer Science GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	L Walter	Exam Board	AQA	Course	8525

INTRODUCTION

The course will give students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their own experiences. Studying Computer Science will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes' in professional contexts and highlights how computing skills apply to the real-world. The course has been updated to reflect real-life developments in the growth of technology including a focus on cyber security to understand the threats and to keep data secure.

The course is a technical course that would appeal to students who enjoy working independently on problem solving tasks. Students come to their own result; from idea through to fruition, testing and producing a solution. Certain aspects are more interesting to individual students, developing skills across programming software as well as hardware development. This exciting GCSE gives students an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Learners will: understand and apply the fundamental principles of Computer Science, analyse problems in computational terms, think creatively & analytically, understand the components that make-up digital systems and understand the impact of digital technology on society. Learners will apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.	Learning takes place through a range of different activities including computer-based theory tasks, practical programming & problem solving and a mixture of interactive class / independent work. Studying Computer Science will enable learners to develop computational thinking skills built on a sound base of conceptual learning & understanding.	GCSE Computer Science provides an excellent foundation for studying the subject further at college and/or related digital subjects. Careers involving Computer Science are varied and wide-ranging, including; IT systems development; digital media; website design; computer gaming; robotics; defence and medical research to name a few!

STUDYING COMPUTER SCIENCE INVOLVES:

Learners take components: Paper 1 (Computational thinking and problem solving), Paper 2 (Computing concepts) to be awarded the AQA GCSE in Computer Science.

Paper 1 (Computational thinking and problem solving): 90 marks, 2 hours, written paper. 50% of total GCSE.

Paper 2 (Computing concepts): 90 marks, 1 hour and 45 minutes, written paper. 50% of total GCSE.



I enjoy working independently on solving problems and finding my own solution. There are many ways to program the computer to do something. The best thing is that the skills are relevant and are used in many jobs, including Game Design, CGI and Robotics.



Dance GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	J Davis	Exam Board	AQA	Course Code	8236

INTRODUCTION

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in this subject. This subject has been devised to cater for both able bodied and disabled students. Dance also allows students to study professional dancers who will most definitely inspire them. This subject focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the symbolic use of movement to express and communicate ideas and concepts through the interrelated processes of performance, choreography and appreciation.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage and be receptive to new skills and styles of dance To experiment and record choreographic ideas To abide by the department health and safety rules To come fully prepared with dance kit every lesson To act on feedback given to achieve targets set To attend a dance club to increase movement vocabulary To take part in public performances Safe practice must be considered at all times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills to perform dance as a soloist and in a duet/trio Students will need to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of performing skills by answering questions in an exam Students will have to learn and replicate 3 set phrases from differing styles of dance Students will need to demonstrate a range of physical and expressive skills in performance Students will need to be able to respond creatively to an externally set stimulus to choreograph their own dance Students will need to make analytical, interpretive and evaluative judgements on a range of professional dance works 	<p>This subject lends itself to careers in dance, performing arts, teaching, working on cruise ships and in the world of entertainment. Skills taught are transferrable with other vocational post 16 courses. This subject will provide opportunities for students to continue their studies in Dance at either A level or BTEC.</p>

STUDYING DANCE INVOLVES:

- Knowledge of a range of dance styles including contemporary, Bollywood, jazz, ballet, tap, street and others from a prescribed list
- Choreographing considering creativity and originality
- Analysis and evaluation of their own and others work
- Appreciating the work of professional choreographers
- Enjoying performing dance in a range of dance styles



Dance has given me the chance to break away from the demands set out in those subjects that don't have any practical element. I feel like I can come out of my shell and be confident as this is something that I am good at. I love working with others to create dances and even though it's challenging it's really rewarding when you finish a dance.



Design & Technology GCSE



KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	S Connelley/ M Rigg	Exam Board	AQA	Course Code	8552

INTRODUCTION

The new Design and Technology specification combines aspects of all previous Design and Technology subject strands into a single course including Electronic Products, Graphic Products and Resistant Materials, all students will be expected to learn about each material area along with some textiles.

Design and Technology aims to teach students how to use their imagination to develop realistic ideas based on given contexts and those produced themselves. They will develop high level analytical and evaluative skills to make reasoned decisions about their own ideas, material choice and other products. They will be expected to use their skills in mathematics and science to develop products that are functional as well as aesthetically pleasing. They will learn about and apply key terminology related to design innovation, materials and technologies, making, manufacture, values and ethics.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>During the course students will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate creativity, innovation and risk taking through design and development activities. Apply practical skills considering quality of finish and accuracy. Demonstrate curiosity in the way materials work and how to combine a wider variety of different materials to design and make products. To act on feedback given and achieve our high expectations. To approach all projects and learning with ambition and determination. 	<p>During the course students will develop skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of presentation techniques including sketching, CAD and modelling. Choosing materials (resistant, graphic, electronic and textile) based on their properties. Manufacturing products using a wide variety of different tools and equipment. Understanding how Design and Technology is continuously changing and the external impacts on product design and development. 	<p>Students can continue Design and Technology into further education by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studying Product Design (A Level) and the Extended Project (AS Level) Combining the subject with mathematics and physics to continue onto Engineering based degrees. <p>Students can continue Design and Technology into Vocational Education by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studying technical courses in carpentry, electronics and other work-based apprenticeships.

STUDYING DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY INVOLVES:

During the course students will learn about:

- Different materials including: woods, metals, plastics, papers, boards, electronic components and textile materials.
 - Electronic systems and how they provide functionality to products including the use of programming
 - The functions of mechanical devices to produce different types of movement.
 - How to manufacture products using woods, metals and plastics and the way these products can be formed and finished.
 - How to prototype products from papers, boards and modelling materials.
 - How to present a design portfolio of work using hand sketches, annotations, Computer Aided Design and ICT.
- This course will be assessed through a final examination 50% and a piece of coursework 50% which will involve the research, design and manufacture of an item.



It is a creative subject that develops your practical skills and you can apply your knowledge from different subjects in the design and development of a products.



Drama GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	N O'Connell	Exam Board	AQA	Course Code	8261

INTRODUCTION

Drama is a practical, engaging and creative subject. It will provide opportunities to understand and create drama as a practical art form in which ideas can be communicated to an audience through informed artistic choices. You will have the opportunity to develop your performance/design skills in both devised and scripted drama as well as evaluating and analysing your own work and that of others. There will be exciting trips to the theatre to inspire you.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have an interest in drama and theatre. To be prepared to perform in front of an audience: a monologue/duologue and a group piece. Or to have a strong desire to work as a designer of lighting, set, costume or sound. To have good communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively in a group. To be able to analyse your own work and that of others in writing. To be able to respond to constructive feedback. To rehearse after school if necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn and develop a range of acting / technical skills, techniques and performance styles. Research and explore a stimulus; work collaboratively and create a devised piece of drama. Evaluate your own work through a portfolio. Explore practically a performance text and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of drama. Analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance. 	<p>This course will prepare learners for the further study of Drama or Performing Arts courses as well as developing transferrable skills desired by further education, higher education and employers in all sectors of industry. This course will encourage you to be an independent learner, critical thinker and effective decision maker - all personal attributes that can make you stand out through your education and employment.</p>

STUDYING DRAMA INVOLVES:

- Researching, exploring and developing a stimulus into a devised piece of theatre using acting or design skills.
- Evaluating the process and performance/design elements of the devised piece through a portfolio.
- Developing and applying theatrical skills of acting or design to a chosen text.
- Practically exploring a set text and demonstrating knowledge and understanding of authorial intent and theatrical interpretation in a written exam.
- Analysing a live theatre performance in terms of the significance of the production elements in a written exam.



Taking Drama GCSE was the best decision I made; it has increased my confidence and I have really enjoyed exploring different styles of acting. A real bond develops in the group and the theatre trips have been exciting and great fun.



Food and Nutrition GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	R Matthews	Exam Board	AQA	Course Code	8585

INTRODUCTION

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a fast paced, challenging and creative course which focuses on food science, human nutrition and wider food issues such as global food supply. Practical cooking skills are developed in practical lessons designed around the course themes and developing an understanding of the working characteristics of ingredients. At its heart this course focuses on developing students' wider food knowledge and practical cookery skills to give students a strong understanding of nutrition. Students will develop high level analytical skills to make reasoned decisions about the outcomes of investigations and their own recipe ideas. They will regularly be expected to use their mathematical and science knowledge to plan, conduct and analyse food-based investigations. Although a practical subject, there is a high level of theory involved.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>During the course students will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate creativity, innovation and problem solving through refinement of recipes. Apply practical skills considering quality control and presentation. Demonstrate curiosity into the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Develop an electronic portfolio to showcase their products and investigations. To act on feedback given, showing the ambition to achieve our high expectations. 	<p>During the course students will develop skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating products using a wide variety of different ingredients and equipment. Planning, cooking and presenting a range of products to meet a design brief. A wide range of food preparation techniques to creatively and independently explore their ideas. To develop a knowledge base of how ingredients function. Reflecting and evaluating achievements to further refine their work. 	<p>Food Technology is one of the world's fastest growing industries. More than 20% of the top 100 British Companies are in food manufacturing.</p> <p>Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to study hospitality and catering or embark on an apprenticeship. Skills taught can be transferred into Chemistry courses along with other Vocational courses post 16.</p> <p>Some examples of careers in food are: dietician, nutritionist, product development, chef, baker, delicatessen, caterer, food journalist or food service management.</p>

STUDYING FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION INVOLVES:

- Written examination (50%):** Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition
- Task 1: Food investigation (15%):** Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.
- Task 2: Food preparation assessment (35%):** Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours.



My favourite thing about GCSE Food and Nutrition is that we make such a wide variety of foods. We always get to adapt our recipes to make them fit the "Eatwell Guide". Our teachers are really supportive and set homework that will really help us in Year 11 for our main exam and practical by helping us make our own individual revision resources.



Interactive Media NCFE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	B Maguire	Exam Board	Pearson	Course Code	603/7053/1

INTRODUCTION

Students will use a range of 2D and 3D techniques to develop personal responses to artistic themes and design briefs. Students are given the opportunity to work across a range of media including audio/visual, print and interactive products. They will acquire a number of practical and technical skills including web design, Photoshop, animation, video editing, photo manipulation, InDesign and banner and logo creation. This course allows students to develop a broad range of knowledge and theoretical content which enables them to progress to further courses of study or employment.

The Creative Media Production BTEC complements GCSE qualifications. It is aimed at 14-16 year olds studying the Key Stage 4 curriculum who are interested in any aspect of creative media, including sourcing ideas and design. It is equivalent to GCSE and covers all grade ranges from 1-9.

The qualification focuses on an applied study of the interactive media sector and learners will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of working in the sector. This qualification has been designed to sit alongside the requirements of core GCSE subjects and is appropriate for learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences and through content which is concrete and related directly to those experiences.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To experiment with different software and hardware to design print, video, audio and interactive web-based products To be willing to engage with a range of ideas To use feedback as a positive tool for improvement To be prepared to take creative risks with unfamiliar software To be ambitious and curious about the new skills being acquired 	<p>Students will develop the key skills needed for creative media production, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creativity Innovation Exploration Investigation Research Development Communication Problem solving Time management skills <p>Students will increase their ICT skills including interactive media software packages, platforms and hardware.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web Design Television Animation Computer Game Design Digital Media and Design Marketing and Publishing Journalism Press and Public Relations Events Management Education Policy and Lobbying Heritage and Curation <p>As well as providing a route to studying Media Studies at A Level.</p>

STUDYING INTERACTIVE MEDIA INVOLVES:

Students will explore a range of media techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies. Students will originate ideas in response to a design brief, requiring them to construct their own videos, podcasts, print designs, website and apps using appropriate software. Students will also understand and explore a variety of interactive and graphic media products and processes including; typography, photography and image manipulation, animation, video editing, colour choices and design. Students will also explore existing media products to consider how they create meaning for their audience.



I like being able to develop new and original ideas and using these to create my interactive media product.



Music GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year		
Subject Leader	J Matthews	Exam Board	Edexcel	Course Code	1MUO

INTRODUCTION

Taking Music GCSE will enable you to develop musicianship through opportunities to perform, compose and pursue your musical passions with like-minded students in a supportive, creative and collaborative environment. Students will focus on the key content of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. These are all taught through the study of a variety of set works from Queen to Star Wars and Wicked to Bach. Students will investigate, analyse and evaluate music and its features. Students will also compose and perform different types of music developing a critical, creative, cultural and emotional understanding of a diverse range of musical styles.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be open to working independently and with an enquiring mind • To be open to engaging with the diverse heritage of music from a wide range of musical periods, styles and genres. • To have instrumental/voice lessons or be willing to receive tuition in order to be of the required Grade 4 standard by the end of year 11 (you don't need to take the grade, just be this standard). • To reflect on and evaluate their own and others music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop performing skills individually and in groups • Develop composing skills • Recognize links between performing, composing and appraising music • Broaden musical experiences and interests • Develop knowledge, understanding and skills • Develop an awareness of a variety of instruments, music technologies • Recognise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music • Musical chronology 	<p>Music GCSE can lead on to further study in Music at A Level and University or a career in the music industry however the skills learnt during the course such as communication, teamwork, creativity, independence and problem-solving are extremely transferrable and could help you develop into a number of different pathways including education, artistic, literary and media occupations.</p>

STUDYING MUSIC INVOLVES:

Coursework

Performing (30%): Solo, Ensemble and approaches to performing

Composition (30%): 2 compositions. 1 free composition set by the student and 1 composition to a brief set by the exam board

Written Exam

Appraising (40%): Musical elements, contexts and language

Areas of Study:

- Instrumental Music 1700-1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions



I have really enjoyed music as I have learnt about a variety of musical styles and found new genres that I love. I have been able to compose and perform and share my musical passion with fellow students. There are lots of practical activities that are great fun.



Photography GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	F Strachan	Exam Board	Edexcel	Course Code	1PY0

INTRODUCTION

Examples of photography are all around us in our everyday lives; from advertising, fashion magazines, album covers, posters, newspaper reports etc. Photography is a very immediate and accessible way of communicating to others your ideas and views of the world around you. If you enjoy taking photographs and looking at photographs, then this course is for you.

GCSE Photography allows students opportunities to explore and gain skills in both traditional and cutting-edge photographic techniques

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Students should be creative, enjoy developing and exploring their own ideas and have a willingness to sustain a project theme from initial explorations to a final realised outcome.</p> <p>It is recommended that students have their own digital camera or access to a family camera.</p> <p><i>Due to the practical nature of this subject and the cost of additional specialist resources a voluntary contribution of £30 is requested and a further £7 for the remaining year(s)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring the notion of 'painting with light' Understanding of: viewpoint, composition, depth of field, aperture and shutter speed relationships Ability to analyse the work of others and understand their concepts Digital manipulation skills Use of Photoshop software Ability to select and use appropriate forms of digital presentation 	<p>The course will extend opportunities for students considering a career in the Visual Arts and compliments the GCSE Art course; specifically leading to A Level Photography and A level media.</p> <p>Career openings include fine art photographer, photo-journalist, fashion photographer, advertising, studio photographer, forensic photographer, archivist, graphic designer, film maker and media.</p>

STUDYING ART AND DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY) INVOLVES:

The collection of ideas, based the theme 'Identity' through photography and historical research. Identity of place and personal identity are the main areas of study and followed by student led investigations.

Students will be asked to complete photo-shoots that explore the given theme and these could be still life, life, portrait, motion capture, time lapse, landscape, macro etc. The Photo-shoots will enable students to learn functions of compact SLR cameras and studio lighting set ups.

Students then select from their 'primary photographs' those that have strong compositional skills and go on to digitally develop them through the Adobe photo-shop Creative Suite 6. Historical sources are consistently used to help students create an exciting range of developments that demonstrate cutting edge ideas.

Explorations are then refined and developed into personal outcomes. These outcomes may include some low-level relief sculpture, but this is down to the individual student.

All final pieces will demonstrate a link to artists which have inspired you and driven your ideas forward.



I like that we are free to do our own thing and everyone's project is always very different. I also like that we learn a lot about using Photoshop.



Physical Education GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year		
Subject Leader	N Thomas	Exam Board	AQA	Course Code	8582

INTRODUCTION

This specification enables candidates to participate in team and individual sporting activities to demonstrate their practical skills and competitive performance (30% of course).

It also requires candidates to underpin their practical performances with theoretical knowledge of the anatomical, physiological, psychological and sociological demands of physical activity and understand how these factors affect physical competence. (60% of the course)

Candidates will also learn how to use methods of training and practice to improve their fitness and performance in physical activity as well as understanding the importance of being physically active as part of a balanced, healthy lifestyle. (10% of the course)

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Students should be interested in physical activity and sport and already be participating at local clubs or in local teams. There is an expectation that students regularly participate in the departments extra-curricular programme and continue to be active in their own time throughout the course.</p> <p>They should be ready to regularly compete at their highest possible level in and out of lessons. This will help them to achieve as high a grade as possible.</p>	<p>Students will have the opportunity to develop practical skills in a variety of activities. In addition, students will develop analytical skills that are designed to improve practical performances.</p> <p>Through practical and theory sessions the course develops an understanding of a healthy and active lifestyle.</p>	<p>GCSE Physical Education provides a firm foundation for further study at A level leading into higher education or a vocational pathway in sport. The list of careers grows longer each year with students completing courses at Heathfield working in education, in the leisure industry as part of a local team or individually as private trainers, professional coaching, sports psychology, sports nutrition and technology in a variety of sports and even as professional sports people.</p>

STUDYING PHYSICAL EDUCATION INVOLVES:

Developing knowledge and understanding of

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data
5. Sports psychology
6. Socio-cultural influences
7. Health, fitness and well-being

Performing in 3 different physical activities (1 must be a team and 1 an individual activity) to the best of your ability.



I enjoy the opportunity to regularly participate in the variety of sports that this course offers



Religious Studies GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	E Kaye	Exam Board	AQA	Course Code	8062

INTRODUCTION

We live in an exciting diverse environment, full of people with different ethnic, faith and cultural backgrounds. The GCSE RS course aims at equipping students with some of the much needed skills and insights needed to become a successful member of our inclusive society. The course is designed to help students gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, which can complement other subjects such as History or English.

Students are encouraged to critically think, challenge and reflect on a range of different secular and religious beliefs, applying them to a range of different contemporary ethical situations that people in society face in the modern world.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Students should have an enquiring mind and enthusiasm for exploring some of the key issues and questions raised in the modern world.</p> <p>Students should be engaged and are expected to take a greater responsibility for their own learning so they can reach their potential. Students will be encouraged to take part in class debates, listening to the views of others and also express their own opinions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course is aimed at developing leadership and research skills. These are much favoured by subjects for study beyond GCSE. Developing critical thinking and analytical skills as students reflect and challenge religious and non-religious ideas in ethical and moral situations. Constructing well informed and balanced arguments on matters concerned with religious beliefs and values that are covered in this course. 	<p>The RS GCSE is a well-respected, academic course. The subject can lead to a variety of different career opportunities including journalism, lawyer, doctor, social worker, or teacher. Any career where you will be working with, and talking to the public, the RS GCSE can help.</p> <p>Universities and employers value the subject as they are fully aware of the skills it can foster and develop within individuals; in addition to the social awareness that the subject can help to bring.</p>

STUDYING RELIGIOUS STUDIES AQA INVOLVES:

Component One

A study of two of the world's religions including their beliefs, practices and influences on people as students develop an understanding of key sources of wisdom and authority which can support contemporary religious faith.

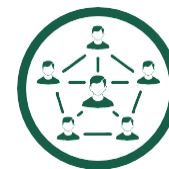
Component Two

Applying the religious teachings and beliefs to ethical situations under the following modules:

- Religion and life
- Peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Relationships and families



I took RS because I wanted to explore different religions and cultures within our society and the world. I have benefitted from the course as I have learned how different people have different opinions and how their beliefs inform their actions. This has led me to have a greater understanding of how society works and respect people regardless of their beliefs.



Sociology GCSE

KEY SUBJECT INFORMATION			COURSE OFFERED		
Option			Three Year	Two Year	
Subject Leader	L Turner	Exam Board	Eduqas	Course Code	TBC

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why people behave the way they do? Sociology is the study of culture and people, all living together in society. The GCSE course offers you the chance to study a number of really interesting topics including crime and deviance, the role of education and the causes of poverty and the impact this has on families.

We will examine why there is so much gender, class and ethnic inequality in Britain today. Sociology is a subject that keeps up-to-date with current events, news and politics. It will help you develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about the world you live in. If you are interested in considering different points of view on how different groups of people behave, and what impacts their lives, then this course could be for you.

You will be supported at every stage by experienced teachers with expert sociological knowledge that will help build your confidence. You will learn how to think critically, debate in class as well how to develop your written skills. Most importantly you'll get the chance to study a subject that you can relate to on a daily basis.

EXPECTATIONS	SKILLS DEVELOPED	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
<p>This course is suitable for curious students who want to learn more about people and the different aspects of British society today.</p> <p>As the course relies on knowledge about our society students need to be independent learners beyond the classroom, and engage in developing their own knowledge of the world around us.</p> <p>As part of developing independence, we encourage students to reflect on their work, in order to identify how confident they feel.</p> <p>As this is the first opportunity students will have had to study sociology, they need to be prepared for the challenge of learning new ideas, concepts and theories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are encouraged to question evidence and issues and develop their critical and evaluation skills• An understanding of how to use different research methods to investigate society, and how to read graphs and tables.• The ability to write logically with a sustained chain of reasoning• A broader understanding of individuals and groups from different class, gender and ethnic backgrounds• Written and verbal reasoning skills through debate and class discussions.	<p>This course is an excellent basis for moving on to A Level study in Sociology, Psychology, Politics and other Social Science/Humanities subjects at college. It could also take you towards a number of careers that are very people orientated such as teaching, social work, nursing and policing. It is also an excellent qualification that would be useful for a career as a lawyer or journalist. It should definitely encourage you to consider a number of different options in the future but more generally it will help you to have a more open mind about a range of important issues.</p>

Sociology GCSE continued overleaf



Sociology GCSE continued

STUDYING SOCIOLOGY INVOLVES:

Paper 1: Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes worth 50% of qualification 100 marks

- Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission
- Families
- Education
- Sociological research methods

Paper 2: Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes worth 50% of qualification 100 marks

- Social differentiation and stratification
- Crime and deviance
- Applied methods of sociological enquiry



Sociology really encouraged me to see the world through a different perspective. It has allowed me to look at matters like education and social inequality in different ways, as well as enabling me to think actively about current social issues and how they apply to me, and the world around me.

