



2025 - 2026

OPTIONS BOOKLET

Introduction

Timeline

Pathways

Core Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science
- Religious Studies (short course)

Option Subjects

- Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- History
- Geography
- Spanish
- Computing
- Business
- PE
- Drama
- Music
- Fine Art
- Design Technology (Timbers)
- Religious Education (Full course)
- Food Preparation and Nutrition

Vocational Qualifications

- BTEC in Performing Arts
- Sports Studies
- Level 1-2 Vocational Award in ICT



Dear Year 9,

The time has come to embark on an exciting and important part of your educational journey here at St Mark's, as you move from key stage 3 (Year 9) to key stage 4 (years 10 and 11).

This booklet has been designed to help you discover the range of options and courses available to you. Some of these courses are compulsory and are known as 'core' subjects; others you can choose to study and these are called 'option' subjects.

Core Subjects

- English: Students will study GCSE English Language and English Literature.
- Maths: This will be a GCSE Mathematics qualification.
- Science: This will be the Double Science GCSE course, however those students wishing to study separate science Biology, Chemistry and Physics can do so by selecting Triple Science as one of their option choices. This will be discussed with you and your child and the most appropriate route will be selected.
- RE: All students will undertake a GCSE religious studies short course. Those students who wish to study a full GCSE religious studies qualification can do so as part of their options choices.
- PD: This will consist of Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education lessons that are delivered by the specialist team on a wide variety of topics which are designed to enhance young people's awareness of the personal, social and health related challenges that are part of adult life. It is not an examined course.
- Core PE: Providing an opportunity for your child to be active and learn a range of sports and skills. This is not an examined course.

After the core subjects, there is space for each student to make up to four option choices and a reserve choice.

Option Choices

It is important that you make informed decisions when selecting your options subjects. Conversations at parents evenings and the options evening will help to guide your choices, but please ensure you involve as many people as you can in your decision making. When reading through this booklet and thinking about option choices, please consider the following;

Do...

- Consider your academic strengths, interests and attainment
- Consider your career, further or higher education ambitions - some careers and education courses have entry requirements. Not choosing a subject at GCSE or BTEC does not mean that you will not be able to study it at A-Level, but it may make the course more difficult as you will not have the subject knowledge developed at KS4.
- Take advice from current and future teachers
- Take advice and support from parents, siblings or perhaps older friends who have been through this process

Don't...

- Don't choose a subject just because you like a particular teacher (or avoid a subject because you dislike a teacher). You may well have a different teacher next year.
- Don't choose a subject because your friends are choosing it. You are deciding about your future and they may not be in the same group as you.
- Don't choose 2 courses that are very closely linked e.g. GCSE PE and Cambridge National Sports Studies – this isn't accepted by exam boards.

Course	Core/Option	Qualification Level
English Language	Core	GCSE
English Literature	Core	GCSE
Mathematics	Core	GCSE
Combined Science	Core	GCSE (2 Grades)
Religious Studies (short course)	Core	GCSE
Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	Option	GCSE (3 Grades)
Business Studies	Option	GCSE
Computing	Option	GCSE
History	Option	GCSE
Geography	Option	GCSE
Spanish	Option	GCSE
PE	Option	GCSE
Drama	Option	GCSE
Music	Option	GCSE
Fine Art	Option	GCSE
Design Technology (Timbers)	Option	GCSE
Religious Education (full course)	Option	GCSE
Design Technology (Food and Nutrition)	Option	GCSE
Vocational Qualifications		
These are courses with a heavy emphasis on portfolio work, with only a small final exam component. They are equivalent in value to a GCSE and are recognised by colleges just as equally. They are also recognised by most universities although some top universities may not view them so positively.		
BTEC in Performing Arts	Option	Level 1-2
Sports Studies	Option	Level 1-2
ICT	Option	Level 1-2

EDUCATION & CAREER PATHWAYS

Year 9 Subject Assessments:
January 2026

Careers Event for Students
3rd February 2026

Options Launch Assembly
5th February 2026

**Options Booklets shared with
Parents and Students**
6th February 2026

Year 9 Parents Evening
4th March 2026

Options Choices made
19th March 2026

Option choices confirmed
June 2026

OPTIONS PROCESS

Students have a free choice of subjects. We highlight that some universities like applicants to have a GCSE in a Language and a Humanity subject but it is not a pre-requisite. We encourage students to choose a broad range of subjects.

NOTES

- There are some subject combinations that students cannot choose together because they are classed in the same subject group. This applies to PE GCSE and OCR Sports Studies and also to Drama GCSE and BTEC Performing arts, and Computing and ICT.
- We will ask every student to select a reserve choice in case one of the courses they select has too few applicants to make it viable to run.
- Some students will only choose 3 options but we will discuss this with you and your child separately if it applies.
- Parents will need to sign the form to confirm the choices that their child has made
- If students pick the same combinations this DOES NOT mean they will end up in the same classes together

Overview of choices & pathways

The highlighted courses earlier in the booklet are vocational courses and equivalent to GCSE.

If you speak a second language as your home language which you would like to take at GCSE as an extra GCSE please discuss this with Mr Godber. For this to be possible you must be able to write and write in that language at least as well as in English.

Helpful contacts:

Secondary SENCo: Laura Barker senco@st-marks-southampton.org.uk

FAQs

1. How does the school identify the best courses for students?

We use a number of different sorts of information about each individual student. These include:

- Current performance
- Teacher/tutor recommendation
- KS3 reports and progress data
- Prior attainment

2. Which subjects are advisable to ensure progression to Further Education and on to university or employment?

If students wish to progress from level 2 to level 3 at the end of Year 11, most schools and colleges require the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5. It is therefore important that students achieve that threshold and may improve their chances of doing so by taking a mixture of GCSEs and vocational qualifications. Local sixth forms and colleges provide progression routes that offer courses of study to all students. These include A levels, T levels, Level 3 and Level 2 Vocational qualifications, Apprenticeships as well as retake English and Maths GCSE.

3. Do I have to choose a reserve?

Yes you do. If there is not enough demand for a course it will not run. There is also the possibility that your choice might not fit the curriculum when built from everybody's choices. In either case we would talk to you to discuss your reserve choice.

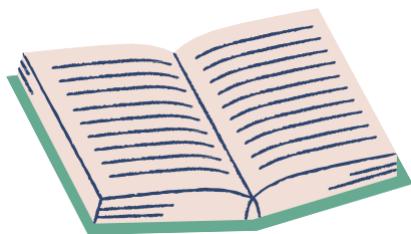
4. Can I change my mind after the deadline date?

Taking time to make the right choice through this process is the best way forward. If, however, you do change your mind this academic year or in September we can explore alternative choices. There may however be limitations on the subjects available due to class size and the structure of the timetable.

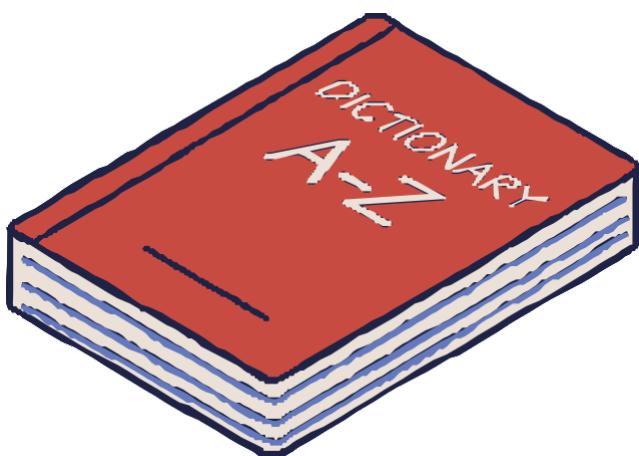
5. What about later Post-16 Courses?

Some colleges may expect you to have taken a GCSE in some subjects to take the A-level however you can take many subjects post-16 even if you have not taken them at Key Stage 4. You will need to have evidence of ability to achieve success, such as a good GCSE grade in another related subject but it won't be easy!

Writing



Spoken Word



Communicate
clearly

Subject: English Language
Qualification: GCSE (9-1)
Subject Lead: Miss Manpreet Kaur



Exam Board: Edexcel 2.0

What will I study?

In English Language, you will be asked to analyse texts and write with flair. This course will assess your ability to read, respond to texts and craft your own writing.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

By the end of Year 11, you will have read and analysed a wide range of texts in detail. Your studies will focus on gaining a deep understanding of what writers aim to achieve in each text; how the writers use characters, setting, events, language and structure to convey this and why writers are successful in conveying their point of view. You will also develop these skills yourself as a writer of fiction and transactional texts, as well as your spoken presentation skills.

How is the qualification assessed?

English Language is assessed through 2 written examinations at the end of Year 11 and a spoken language endorsement.

The English Language Exams consist of the following:

Paper 1: Non-Fiction Texts & Transactional Writing (1 hour & 55 Minutes, 80 marks, 50% of the qualification).

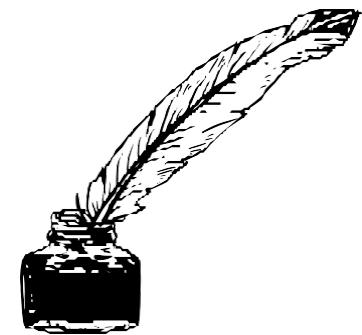
Paper 2: Contemporary Texts and Fictional Writing (1 hour and 55 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of the qualification).

Spoken Language Endorsement: Spoken Presentation (No marks but a pass, merit, distinction award to be given).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

English language is an important qualification for any career as it teaches you important communication skills that can be translated into any job role. Specifically, English Language GCSE would be useful if you wanted to work in journalism, marketing, advertising, libraries, careers in film and television and in public relations.

“The large, handsome face of Dr Jekyll grew pale to the lips and there came a blackness about his eyes”



“Who could refrain, That had a heart to love, and in that heart Courage to make love known?”



Subject: English Literature

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

Subject Lead: Miss Manpreet Kaur

Exam Board: Edexcel



What will I study?

In English Literature, you study GCSE content from a range of poems, plays and novels such as Macbeth, Jekyll & Hyde, An Inspector Calls and a wide range of poems.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

By the end of Year 11, you will have studied a range of texts in detail and have read them in their entirety. Your studies will focus on gaining a deep understanding of what the 'big ideas' are in each text; how the writers use characters, setting, events, language and structure to convey their 'big ideas' and why the writers produced these texts within their social, historical context. You will also explore the ways in which each text remains relevant in contemporary society.

How is the qualification assessed?

English Literature is assessed through 2 written examinations at the end of Year 11. You will write essays to unseen questions without the texts in front of you.

The English Literature Exams consist of the following:

Paper 1: Shakespeare & Post 1914 Literature (1 hour & 45 Minutes, 80 marks, 50% of the qualification).

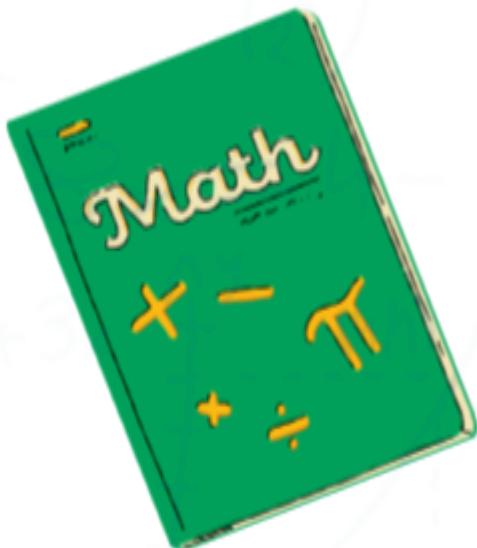
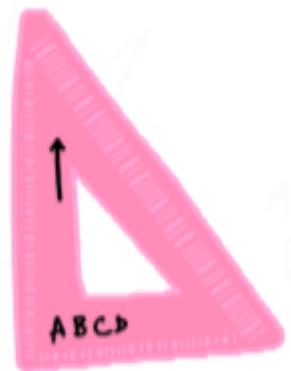
Paper 2: 19th Century Novel & Poetry Since 1789 (2 hours and 15 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of the qualification).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

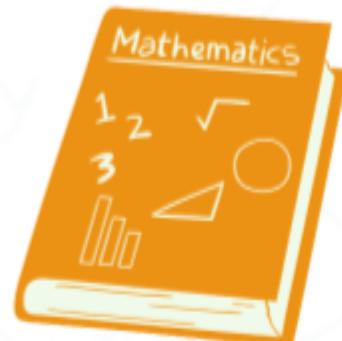
English Literature is an important qualification for any career as it teaches you skills for critical reading that enable you to decode what you are reading, to question and challenge information you are given based on knowledge of context and supported by evidence. Specifically, English Literature GCSE would be useful if you wanted to work in journalism, marketing, advertising, libraries, careers in film and television and in public relations.



Algebra



Ratios



Subject: Mathematics
Qualification: GCSE (9-1)
Subject Lead: Miss Jo Gerrard



Exam Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

Mathematics will be arranged into two tiers, Foundation and Higher. Students will undertake one set of exam papers at either level dependent on ability and the course content can be found below.

Foundation Tier

- Geometry and Measure 12-18%
- Statistics and Probability 12-18%
- Number 22 - 28%
- Ratio Proportion and Rates of Change 22 - 28%
- Algebra 17-23%

Higher Tier

- Geometry and Measure 17-23%
- Statistics and Probability 12%-18%
- Number 12 - 18%
- Ratio Proportion and Rates of Change 17-23%
- Algebra 27-33

How is the qualification assessed?

Mathematics is assessed through 3 exam papers at the end of Year 11. Foundation tier - grades 1 to 5 available. Higher tier grades – 4 to 9 available (grade 3 allowed). The Mathematics Exams consist of the following:

Paper 1: No Calculator Allowed (1 hour and 30 minutes exam, 80 marks, 33.33% of the qualification).

Paper 2: Calculator Allowed (1 hour and 30 minutes exam, 80 marks, 33.33% of the qualification).

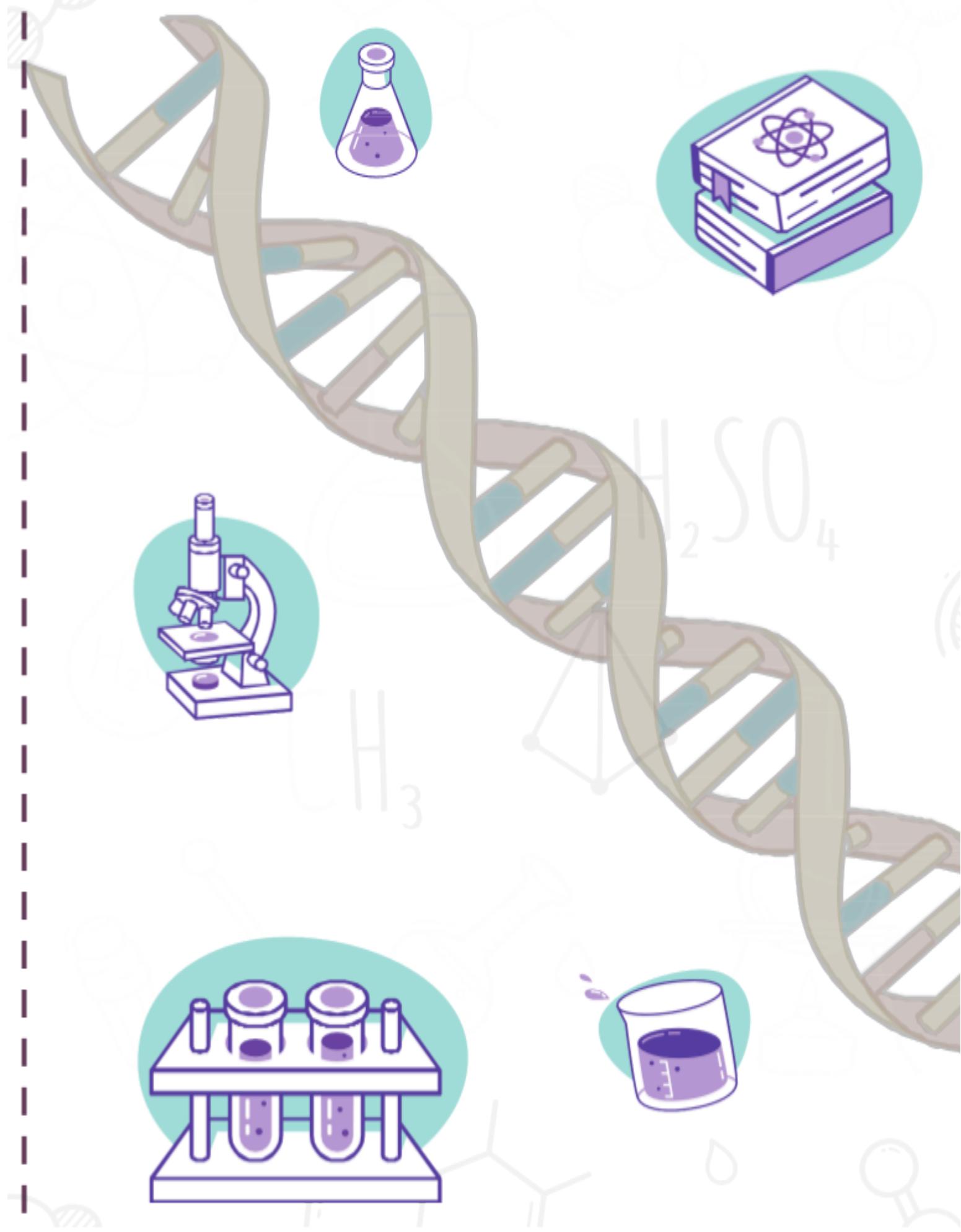
Paper 3: Calculator Allowed (1 hour and 30 minutes exam, 80 marks, 33.33% of the qualification).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

Maths is a necessary life skill that is essential both for employment and within our daily lives. Virtually all employers will require a sound grasp of maths. The ability to solve problems is at the very heart of maths, and is why employers value the subject so highly. Maths teaches you how to draw together different techniques to enable more complex

problems to be solved. It teaches you to work efficiently and accurately, but also allows you to think creatively; there are often many ways of solving any particular problem. Some possible careers for students, taking this subject could be: accounting, research scientist, statistician, stock broker and a secondary school teacher.

CORE SUBJECT: COMBINED SCIENCE



Subject: Combined Science
Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

Subject Lead: Dr Alex Johnston

Exam Board: AQA



What will I study?

You will develop knowledge and understanding of scientific theories but also your ability to apply that knowledge, as well as analyse and evaluate information in practical and everyday scenarios.

How is the qualification assessed?

This is a two GCSE qualification (double award) covering the three science disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.

You will be awarded two grades based on your overall performance and will sit six exams at the end of the course. There will be foundation tier papers (aiming for grades 1-5) and higher tier papers (aiming for grades 4-9).

Paper 1: Biology Paper 1 (1 hour & 15 minutes, 70 marks, 16.7% of the qualification).

Paper 2: Biology Paper 2 (1 hour & 15 minutes, 70 marks, 16.7% of the qualification).

Paper 3: Chemistry Paper 1 (1 hour & 15 minutes, 70 marks, 16.7% of the qualification).

Paper 4: Chemistry Paper 2 (1 hour & 15 minutes, 70 marks, 16.7% of the qualification).

Paper 5: Physics Paper 1 (1 hour & 15 minutes, 70 marks, 16.7% of the qualification).

Paper 6: Physics Paper 2 (1 hour & 15 minutes, 70 marks, 16.7% of the qualification).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

This combination of challenging skills makes it a very appealing subject for employers, colleges and universities, who view it as an excellent measure of a student's aptitude as well as the tenacity they apply to their studies.

Some possible future careers for students taking this subject:

Physicist, Biologist, Chemist, Sports scientist, Dentist, Botanist, Doctor, Nurse, Chemical engineer, Astrophysicist, Food scientist, Biochemist, Pharmacist, Mechanical engineer, Optician, Architect, Forensic science and a Vet.



Religion, Peace and Conflict



Relationships
and Family



Subject: Religious Studies (Short Course)

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

Subject Lead: Mrs Mary Browne



Exam Board: AQA

What will I study?

The Short course in religious studies allows all students at St Mark's to gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own values and attitudes towards religious issues.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

The course in Year 10 focuses on religious beliefs and practices of two religions: Christianity and Islam.

The Year 11 course focuses on ethical and philosophical themes such as:

- Relationships and Families
- Religion, Peace and Conflict

How is the qualification assessed?

There is one written exam that is taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Beliefs, Teachings and Ethical Studies (1 hour and 45 minutes, 102 marks, 100% of the qualification).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

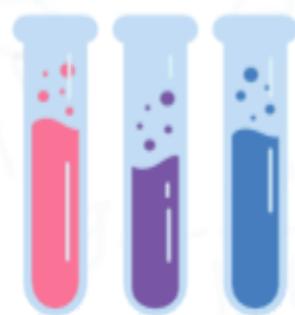
This course is suitable for all students, from any background or viewpoint, and will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. The skills developed will prepare them for further study and are also transferable to many different occupations such as law, business, sociology, criminology and psychology.

OPTION: TRIPLE SCIENCE

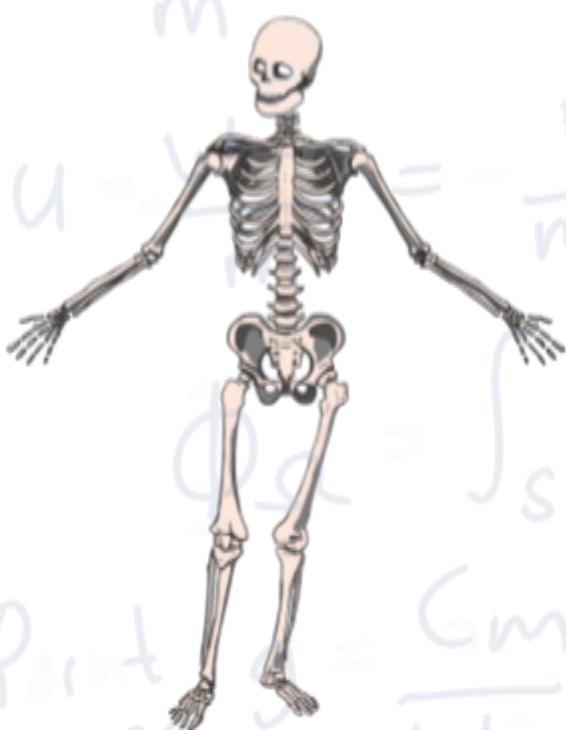


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Subject: Triple Science

Qualification: GCSE (9-1) Subject

Lead: Dr Alex Johnston

Chemistry



Physics



Exam Board: AQA

Biology



If you have a particular interest in science, you can opt to take 3 separate sciences instead of combined science. This will take up one of your options slots.

What will I study?

Separate Biology: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

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

Separate Physics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure; Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics.

How is the qualification assessed?

This option gives 3 GCSEs; GCSE Biology, GCSE Physics, GCSE chemistry and you will receive a grade for each.

You will sit 6 exams at the end of the course.

Biology - 2 x 1 hour & 45 minutes exams each worth 50% of the GCSE Mark.

Chemistry - 2 x 1 hour & 45 minutes exams each worth 50% of the GCSE

Mark. **Physics** - 2 x 1 hour & 45 minutes exams each worth 50% of the GCSE Mark.

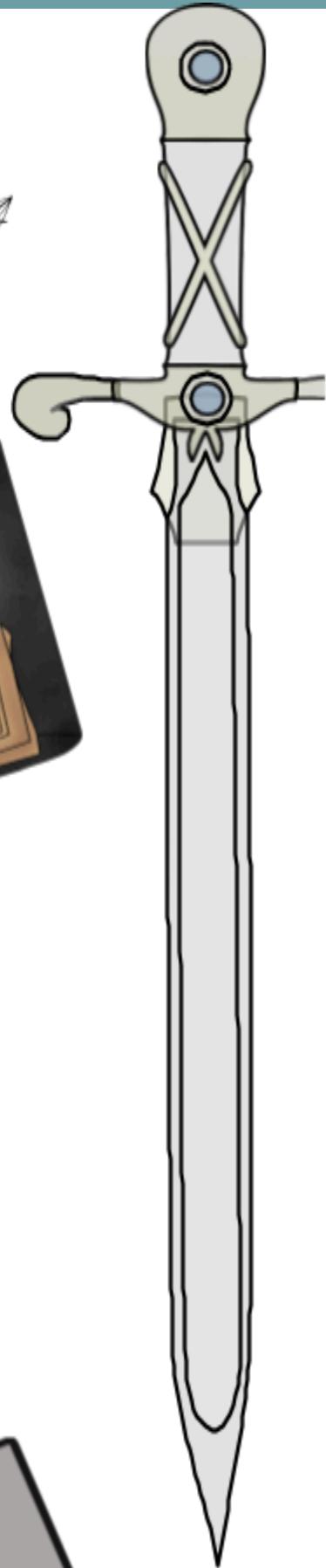
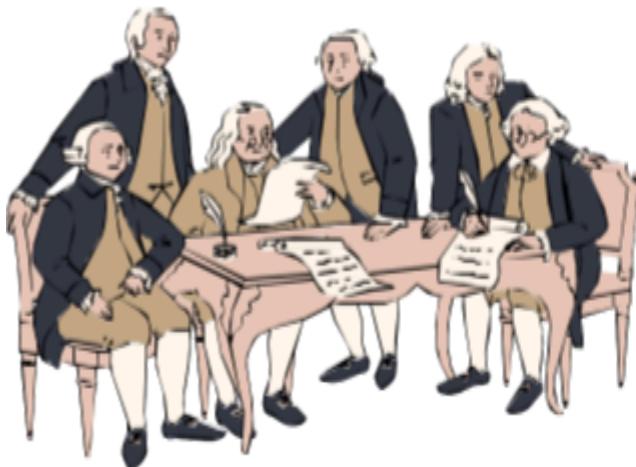
Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

Triple science goes into greater breadth of curriculum coverage than the double science course which can be an advantage if wishing to study a science at A level or beyond. It can lead to the same wide range of careers as Combined Science

Some possible future careers for students taking this subject

Physicist, Biologist, Chemist, Sports Scientist, Dentist, Botanist, Doctor, Nurse, Chemical Engineer, Astrophysicist, Food scientist, Biochemist, Pharmacist, Mechanical Engineer, Optician, Architect, Forensic Science or a Vet.

OPTION: HISTORY





What will I study?

The History GCSE incorporates 4 units:

- Thematic study - Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.
- Period Study - Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
- British Depth Study - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
- Modern Depth Study - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

The course will enable students to develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history and their understanding of its intrinsic value and significance. They will learn to evaluate the impact of important historical events, people and issues and assess how these impacts have changed over time. Students will assess how the past has been represented and interpreted and learn how to analyse evidence critically.

How is the qualification assessed?

History is assessed through three exam papers completed at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Thematic Study & Historic Environment (1 hour & 15 Minutes, 52 marks, 30% of the qualification).

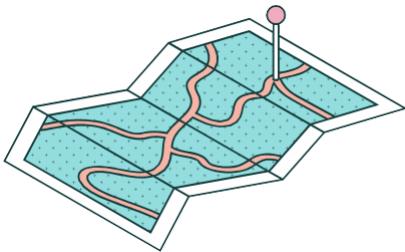
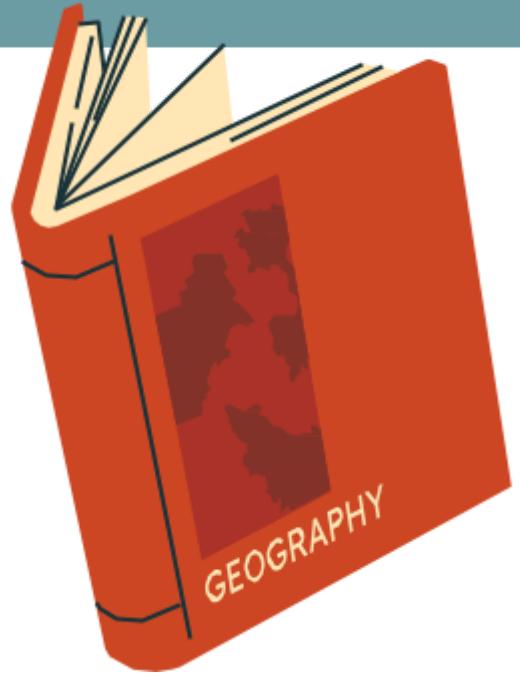
Paper 2: Period Study & British Depth Study (1 hour and 45 minutes, 64 marks, 40% of the qualification).

Paper 2: Modern Depth Study (1 hour and 20 minutes, 52 marks, 30% of the qualification).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

This course is suitable for students who enjoy History at KS3 and who have an interest in studying the past and world events in order to shape the future. You might also like to use the analytical skills learnt to influence your own life, such as who deserves your vote and how to analyse news reports and political affairs. Studying history at A-Level, and after that at university, can lead onto a variety of careers such as law, journalism, research, education and business consultancy.

OPTION: GEOGRAPHY



♪ * **GEOGRAPHY** * *♪*





What will I study?

This course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human Geography. It allows students to investigate the link between the two themes, and approach and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds. The course will cover a wide range of world and UK based Geography, with a focus on located examples. Students will develop geographical skills whilst studying the impact of natural hazards, UK physical landscapes and the challenges of modern urban living.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

You will learn about how the world works, helping to shape you as a global citizen. You will develop skills for life, including the ability to analyse information in a wide variety of forms. You will also begin to form evidenced opinions on important topics and be able to justify them in well-reasoned ways.

How is the qualification assessed?

There are three externally examined exam papers and no coursework. The exams are taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (1 hour and 30 minutes, 88 marks, 35% of the qualification).

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (1 hour and 30 minutes, 88 marks, 35% of the qualification).

Paper 3: Geographical Applications (1 hour and 30 minutes, 76 marks, 30% of the qualification).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

A focus on independence and transferable enquiry skills make geographers extremely employable across a range of sectors. Traditionally, geography can lead to a career in conservation, architecture, the tourism sector, GIS Mapping, environmental consultancy and town planning.

OPTION: SPANISH



Buenos
días



*olé!

Gracias



Subject: Spanish
Qualification: GCSE (9-1)
Subject Lead: Miss Kirsty Hill

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Exam Board: AQA

What will I study?

At St Mark's, we are passionate about the benefits that learning a language can bring. We strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and as something students should enjoy and find rewarding. Students will be expected to understand and provide information and opinions about key themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where Spanish is spoken.

The GCSE Spanish course covers 3 themes: People & Lifestyle, Popular Culture and Communication & The World Around Us.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

GCSE Spanish will give you the confidence to be able to communicate effectively with others, help you to problem solve, identify and manipulate language patterns and understand the value of other languages and cultures. It can also enable you to acquire many transferable skills such as communicating clearly and speaking confidently in public.

How is the qualification assessed?

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher tier (grades 4–9). Spanish is assessed through four exams completed at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Listening (25% of the GCSE).

Paper 2: Speaking (25% of the GCSE).

Paper 3: Reading (25% of the GCSE).

Paper 4: Writing (25% of the GCSE).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

Studying Spanish at GCSE means you will be able to study A-Level Spanish courses and have greater opportunities to work or study abroad. Languages are great for a wide variety of careers especially those involving travel, translation or communication with people from non-English speaking countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing, and journalism. You can also work in education, fashion or the arts.

OPTION: PHYSICAL EDUCATION





What will I study?

GCSE Physical Education provides students with the knowledge and understanding of how to live a healthy and active lifestyle, enabling them to make informed choices about their own physical development. Students can choose from a variety of roles and sports through which to participate in physical activity.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

Across the two year course, students will study units revolving around the following content:

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 wellbeing

How is the qualification assessed?

Students will take two written examinations at the end of Year 11. They will also be assessed in their practical performance in three different physical activities (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).

Paper 1: The Human Body and Movement in Physical Activity and Sport (1 hour & 15 minutes, 78 marks, 30% of the GCSE).

Paper 2: Socio-cultural Influences and Well being in Physical Activity and Sport (1 hour & 15 minutes, 78 marks, 30% of the GCSE).

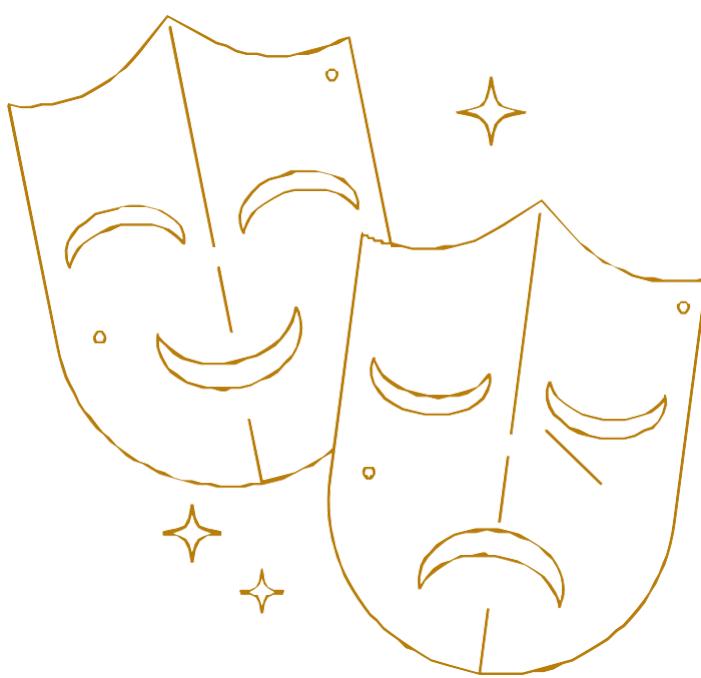
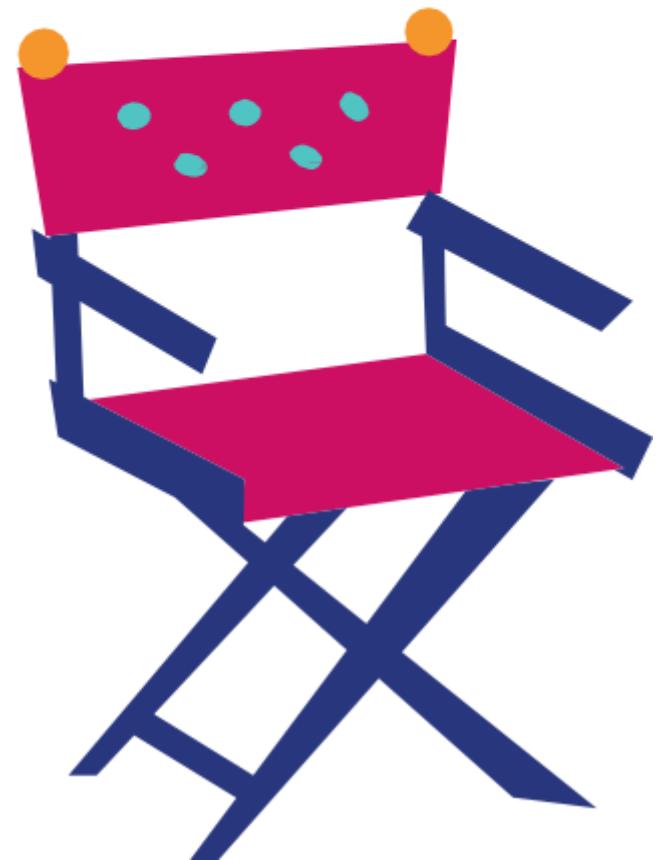
Non-exam Assessment: Practical Performance in Physical Activity and Sport (100 marks, 40% of the GCSE).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

This course suits students with a keen interest in physical education and who excel in a sport and have an interest in biology. **Students must have a strong background in science.**

Exam questions require extended answers so an aptitude for extended writing is important. A typical GCSE student would also be able to demonstrate a commitment to sport and would be actively involved in sports club(s)/team(s) or individual physical activities either within school or outside on a regular basis. A GCSE in PE leads to many possible future careers: PE teacher, personal trainer, sports coach to name but a few. The skills learned, in terms of teamwork, problem solving and physical health and fitness are, however, applicable across almost all careers and vocations.

OPTION: DRAMA





What will I study?

GCSE Drama allows students to explore texts practically and work on two text based performances. The students are also given the opportunity to create a devised performance and the final exam helps them realise their full potential. Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically, gain confidence to pursue their own ideas and reflect and refine their efforts.

Component 1 - Understanding Drama

Component 2 - Devising Drama

Component 3 - Texts in Practice

Component 4 - Guidance on Theatrical Skills

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

By the end of Year 11, you will have been exposed to a range of different styles and plays that will give you a better understanding of how theatre has evolved, allowing you to form your own opinions through critical analysis. You will have the opportunity to improve your performance skills or develop as a designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets).

How is the qualification assessed?

Component 1: Understanding Drama Written Exam (1 hour & 45 minutes, 40% of the GCSE).

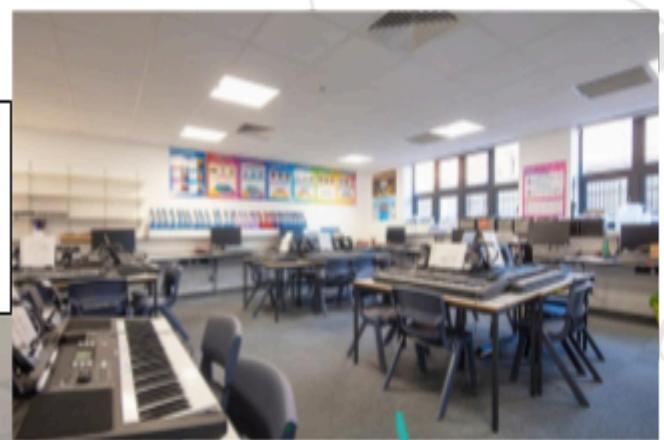
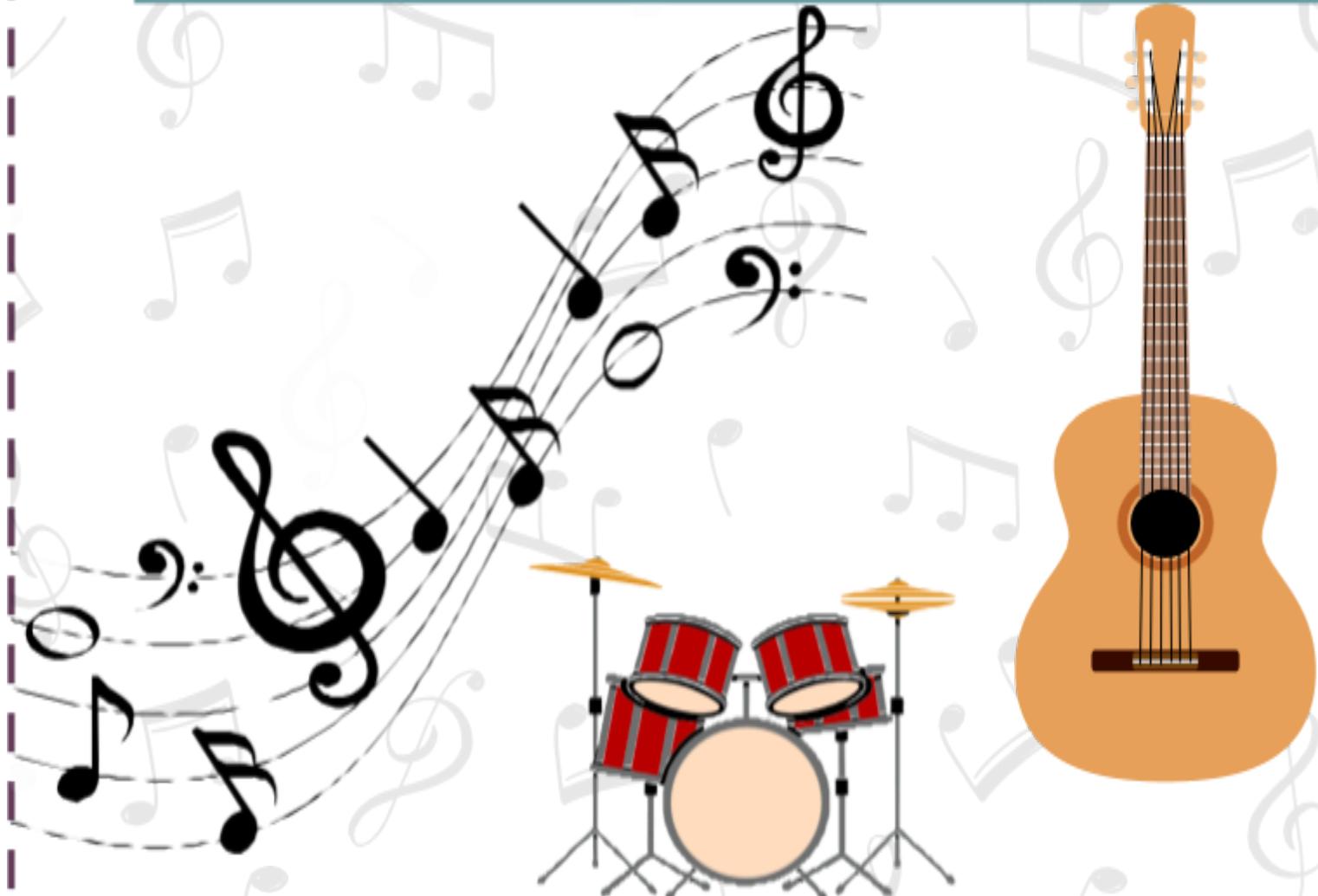
Component 2: Devising Drama Assessment Task (40% of the GCSE).

Component 3: Texts in Practice Assessment Task (20% of the GCSE).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

In addition to preparing students to continue their studies in A level Drama, students emerge with a toolkit of highly valued transferable skills for the workplace, including communication skills, team work, creative problem solving, initiative, analysis, self management and self evaluation. This course is suitable for those wishing to pursue a career in theatre and performing industry, be that as a stage performer, designer or director, as well as those wishing to pursue careers that require the skills it develops, including working in the media, public sector, tourism, and law.

OPTION: MUSIC





What will I study?

In GCSE music, you will be given the chance to develop your creative musical skills through performance and composition, as well as through analysing the musical features of many different genres. You will collaborate with others, as well as improving your rehearsal skills and developing your creativity.

You need to be able to play a musical instrument to take this course.

However, singing is also an option during this course. There are also options for technology based performances, including sequencing and DJ-ing.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

During the GCSE Music Course, you will learn about the following areas of study;

- Western Classical Tradition
- Music for Ensemble
- Film Music
- Popular Music

You will also learn how to compose music and perform as a soloist and as part of an ensemble.

How is the qualification assessed?

Component 1: Performing Assessment (72 Marks, 30% of the GCSE).

Component 2: Composing Assessment (72 Marks, 30% of the GCSE).

Component 3: Appraising (1 hour and 15 Minutes Listening/ Written Examination, 96 marks, 40% of the GCSE).

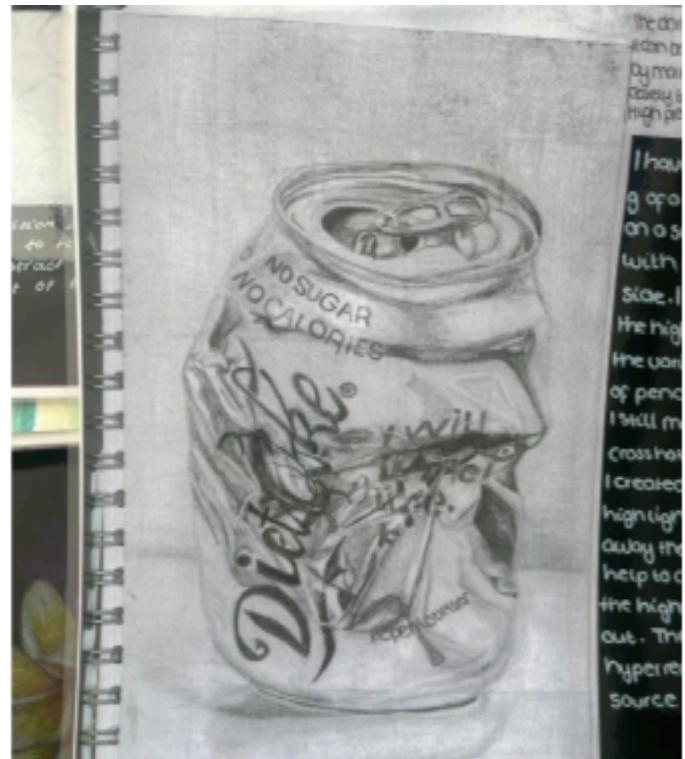
Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

Studying Music GCSE can lead to further KS5 courses in both Music and Music Technology, and to careers such as performer, teacher, music therapist, songwriter, conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter, or music publisher.

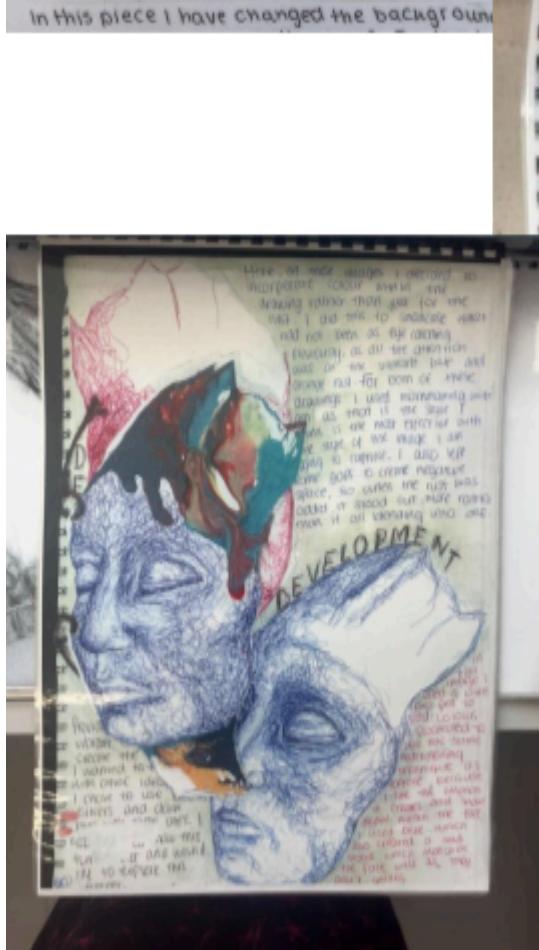
OPTION: FINE ART



In this piece I have changed the background.



I drew a crushed can because it can form of distortion and the theme of angles and crumpling the object, creases and fo





Exam Board: AQA

What will I study?

Fine Art GCSE is an exciting and creative course which will challenge students to improve their art skills, understand artwork and other sources of inspiration, and develop personal art projects from start to finish in response to a given theme. They will have the opportunity to use a wide variety of media, including drawing and painting techniques, printing, sculpture, photography, digital art, collage and mixed media.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

Whatever their source of inspiration and choice of media/technique, students will need to meet the following assessment objectives (AOs):

- AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding.
- AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

How is the qualification assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio (Completed throughout Year 10/11, 96 marks, 60% of the GCSE) The portfolio must include both:

1. A sustained project developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief evidencing the journey from initial engagement with an idea(s) to the realisation of intentions. This will give students the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across their course of study.
2. A selection of further work resulting from activities such as trials and experiments; skills-based workshops; mini and/or foundation projects; responses to gallery, museum or site visits; work placements; independent study and evidence of the student's specific role in any group work undertaken

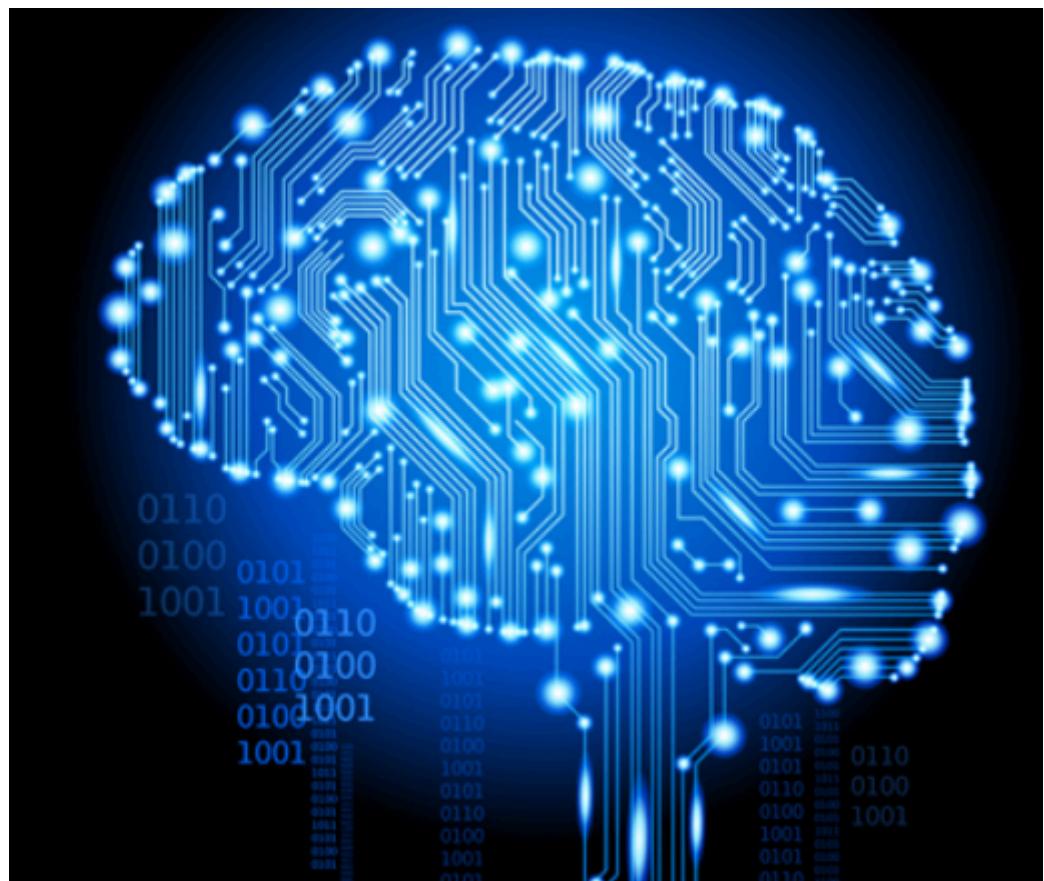
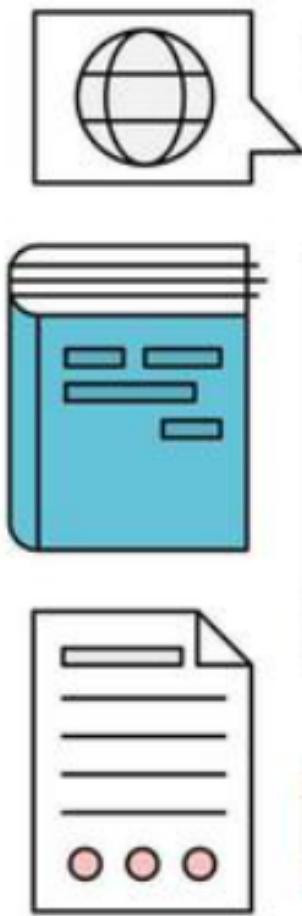
Component 2: Externally set assignment (Preparation period followed by 10 hours of supervised time, 96 marks, 40% of GCSE).

The externally set assignment provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding in response to their selected starting point.

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

This subject will appeal to students that enjoy expressing themselves creatively and developing their ideas towards a personal outcome. They should also enjoy carrying out research and analysing art. As it is a course-work heavy subject, students will need to complete a significant amount of artwork/ art research in their own time. Possible future careers include: artist, architect, illustrator, graphic designer, games designer, fashion designer, animator, art therapist, photographer, prop maker, tattooist, art exhibition curator, art historian, web designer.

OPTION: GCSE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE





View QR Code

Exam Board: OCR

The Computer Science GCSE will provide the students with valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in a modern workplace. The students will also gain a deep understanding of computational thinking and how to apply it to Python Programming language.

Students will understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science. They will gain practical experience of solving problems by designing, writing and debugging programs.

Two Exams – Each worth 80 Marks

EXAM 1 will contain questions on – Computer systems, this includes systems architecture, memory, storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security, system software and ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

EXAM 2 will contain questions on – Algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of languages, data representation.

Both exams will be during the summer of Year 11. The format will be a written paper for the duration of 1 hour 30 minutes each.

Each exam is worth 40% of the final mark, therefore the total exam element is 80% of the final mark.

The controlled assessment will take the format of a programming project.

During this project the student will be tested on programming techniques, including analysis, design, development, testing, evaluations and conclusions.

This will be a total of 20 hours and form 20% of their final mark.

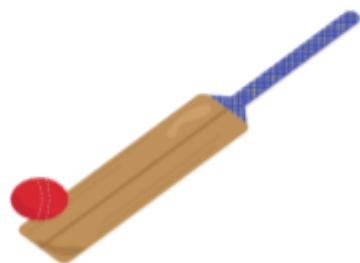
Skills and Interests required for the course:-

This subject will appeal to students who are able to apply analytical, logical and critical thinking whilst thinking creatively and innovatively.	The student will need to have resilience as well as well as a strong aptitude for maths.	It would be advantageous for the student to have an interest in programming and digital technology.
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Possible future careers for students taking this subject include

Computer programmer, Business analyst, App designer, Web designer, Computer and information systems managers, Data analyst, Database administrator, Games developer

OPTION: SPORTS STUDIES





Exam Board: OCR

What will I study?

This qualification is a technical award that will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that can be used in the exercise, physical activity, sport and health sector.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

The qualification equips you with sound specialist knowledge through practical application. Students will study two mandatory units and one optional unit from a choice of two.

The two mandatory units are:

1. Contemporary issues in sport
2. Performance and leadership in sports activities

The two optional units are:

3. Sports and the media
4. Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

How is the qualification assessed?

This is a Level 2 qualification (equivalent to one GCSE). It is graded as a pass/merit or distinction at Level 1 or Level 2. It is assessed through one exam taken at the end of Year 11 and two assignments.

Exam: Contemporary Issues in Sport (1 hour and 15 minutes, 70 marks).

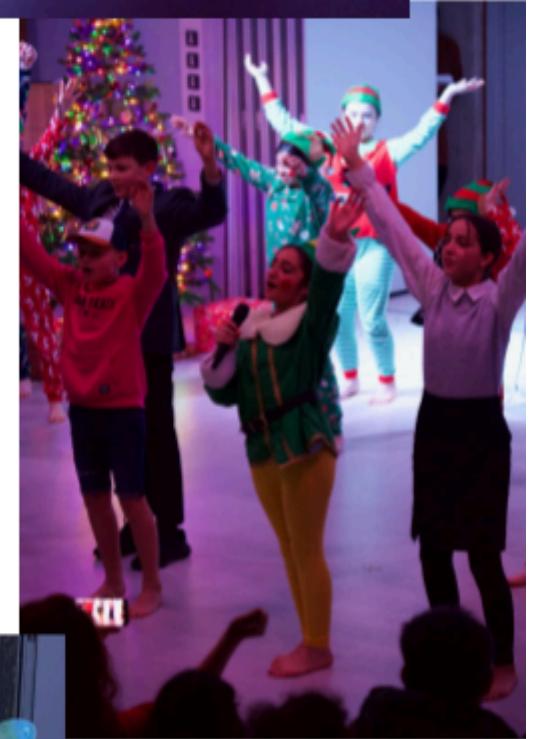
Assessment: Performing & Leadership in Sports Activities Assignment (80 marks)

Assessment: Sport & the Media or Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities Assignment (40 Marks).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

This course suits students who demonstrate or are willing to demonstrate a commitment to sport and clubs inside or outside of school. Typically a Cam Nat student will be involved in recreational clubs. We can provide additional opportunities for students willing to offer that commitment. The qualification will help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as: completing research, creating and delivering presentations, writing reports, working with others, planning training programmes, leadership skills, evaluating and making recommendations to help improve performance and healthy living and lifestyle skills. It could lead to further Level 3 qualifications and careers in the sport and health sector.

OPTION: BTEC IN PERFORMING ARTS





What will I study?

This qualification is for students interested in taking a hands-on course that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the performing arts sector particularly focusing on Musical Theatre. This course enables students to develop the foundational skills that are integral to a wide range of roles (from performing to designing and directing) across the creative industries, including film and television, theatre, games, and advertising.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

This course enables students to develop the foundational skills that are integral to a wide range of roles (from performing to designing and directing) across the creative industries, including film and television, theatre, games, and advertising. Through this course,

students will acquire knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying professionals' work and processes used, the skills and techniques used in different roles, and how to contribute to the creation of a performance in either a performance or non- performance role. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their own technical, practical and interpretative skills through workshops and classes.

How is the qualification assessed?

This is a Level 2 qualification (equivalent to one GCSE). It is graded as a pass/merit or distinction at Level 1 or Level 2.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts Internal Assessment (60 marks, 30% of the award).

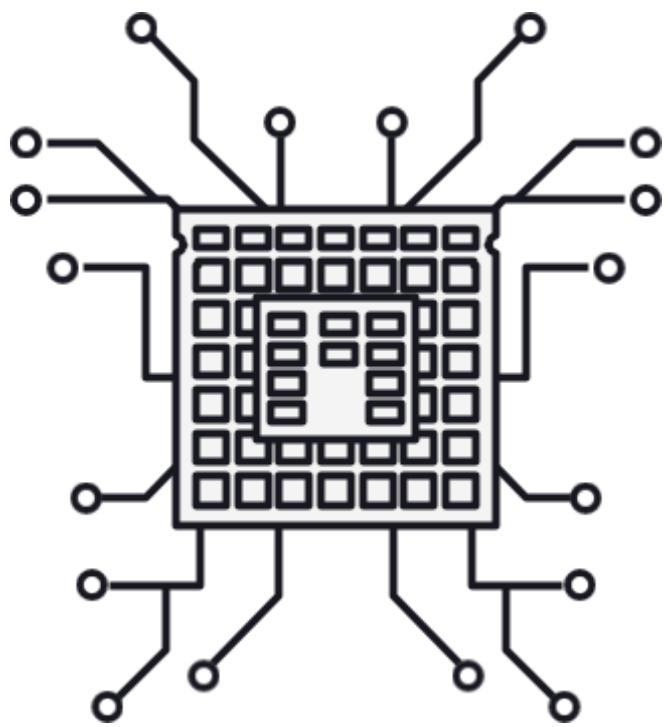
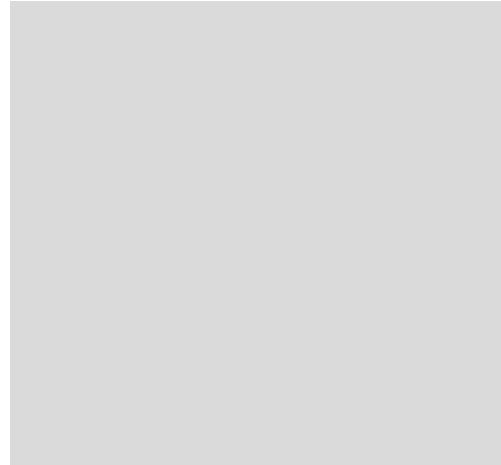
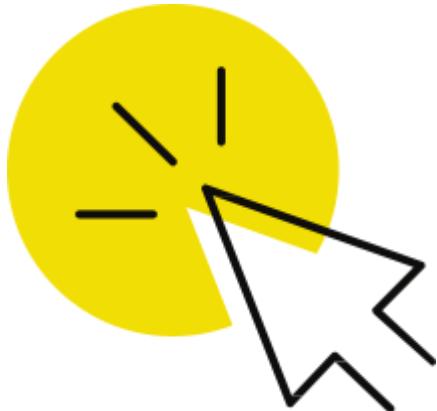
Component 2: Developing Skills & Techniques in the Performing Arts Internal Assessment (60 marks, 30% of the award).

Component 3: Responding to a Brief Externally Marked Task (60 Marks 40% of the award).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

In addition to preparing students to continue their studies for Level 3-5 qualifications, students emerge with a toolkit of highly valued transferable skills for the workplace, including communication skills, team work, creative problem solving, initiative, analysis, self management and self evaluation. This course is suitable for those wishing to pursue a career in theatre and performing industry, be that as a stage performer, designer, director or event manager.

OPTION: BTEC IN DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Subject: Level 1-2 Vocational Award in ICT
Qualification: Level 1/2 Technical Award
Subject Lead: Mr Phil Bagge

Exam Board: WJEC

View QR Code



What will I study?

The WJEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying the use of ICT in society and developing a working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets and automated documents and images.

The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs.

Component 1 - ICT in Society

Component 2 - ICT in Context

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

By the end of Year 11, you will have learnt about the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society, investigating how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use. You will also gain a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images and apply your knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings.

How is the qualification assessed?

Component 1: ICT in Society

(On Screen Examination, 80 Marks, 40% of Qualification).

Component 2: ICT in Context (Controlled Assessment, 120 Marks, 60% of qualification).

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

The WJEC Technical Technical Award in ICT is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills. The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. This qualification may also lead to further study such as a Level 3 award or A Levels.

OPTION: GCSE IN DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (TIMBERS)



Subject: Design Technology (Timbers)

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

Subject Lead: Miss Gemma Morrison

View QR Code



Exam Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

Design and technology will allow students to develop a broad range of creative designing and making skills. Students will develop their skills through a number of tasks, based on the sound theoretical principles that underpin them. The area studied for this course will be Timbers (Resistant Materials).

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

Students will need to meet the following assessment objectives (AOs):

AO1: Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities to address needs and wants

AO2: Design and make prototypes that are fit for purpose

AO3: Analyse and evaluate:

- Design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others
- Wider issues in design and technology

AO4: Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of:

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles

How is the qualification assessed?

Component 1: Written Examination (1 hour and 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of the GCSE)

Component 2: Non Examined Assessment (A design project based on a contextual challenge, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE).

The externally set assessment provides students with the opportunity to investigate, design, make and evaluate a prototype of a product.

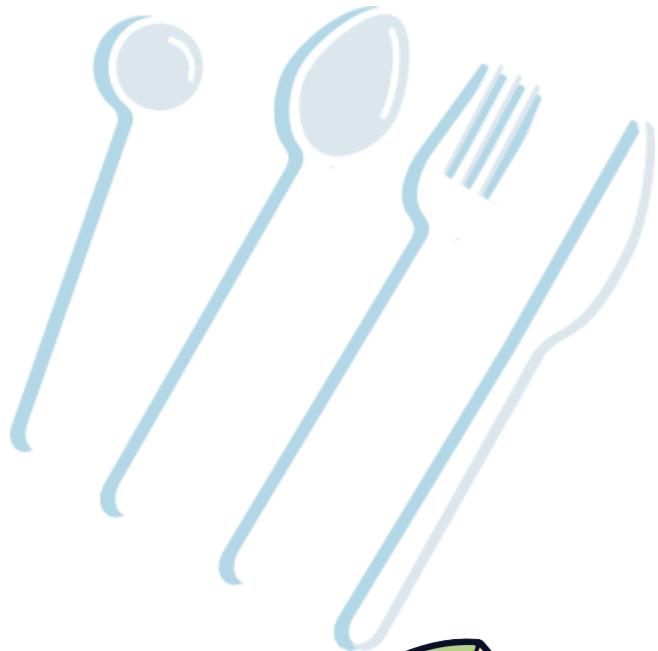
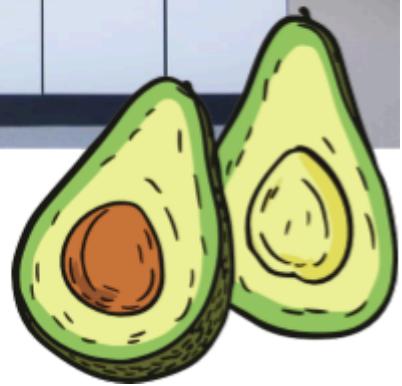
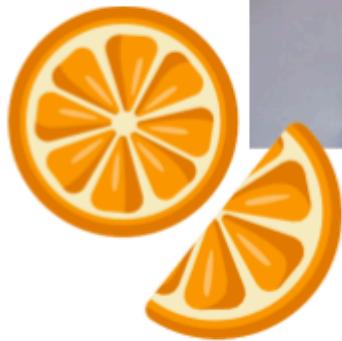
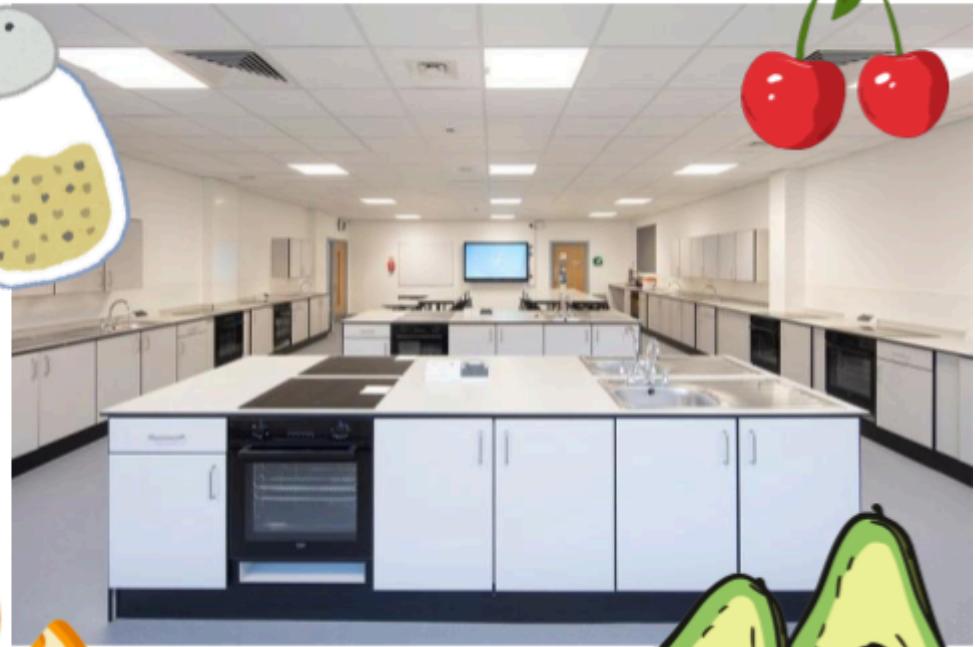
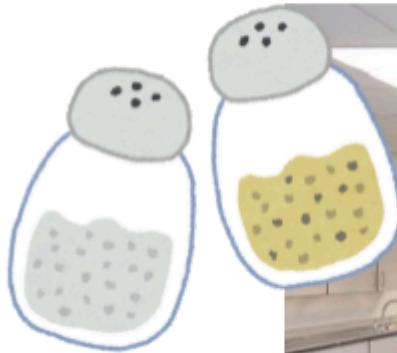
Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

Design and technology is a very broad based, creative, subject that is designed to enable students to develop independent thinking skills.

As such, it is a skill set that is transferable to almost all career paths. In addition to this, students of design and technology at GCSE can expect their career opportunities to be particularly enhanced within the following occupations:

Product design, engineering, architecture, fashion design, self-employment, the armed services, graphic design, teaching, advertising, the emergency services, hospitality and the many building trades.

OPTION: GCSE IN DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (FOOD & NUTRITION)



Subject: Design Technology (Food & Nutrition)

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

Subject Lead: Miss Gemma Morrison

View QR Code



Exam Board: AQA

What will I study?

This GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

What will I have learnt by the end of year 11?

Through this qualification, you will learn the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

Food, nutrition and health

Food science

Food safety

Food choice

Food provenance

How is the qualification assessed?

Paper 1 - Food Preparation & Nutrition Written Exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes (100 Marks, 50% of the GCSE)

Non-Exam Assessment: Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved (50% of the GCSE).

Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500-2000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation

Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence of the final 3 dishes.

Who is the course suitable for and where could it lead?

Working in the food and cookery industry requires you to have a passion for food and an interest in how nutrition impacts on the body.

It will provide you with experience of different cooking techniques and methods to enable them to use these in further education, apprenticeships and a wide range of food based industries.

OPTION: GCSE IN BUSINESS STUDIES



OPTION: GCSE IN BUSINESS STUDIES

Business Studies is a dynamic and exciting subject that explores the world of business. It covers a wide range of topics, including:

- Planning
- Finance
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Supply
- Demand
- People
- Success
- Ethics
- Government
- Revenue
- Leadership
- Branding
- Enterprise
- Environmental Influences
- Growth
- Motivation
- Ideas
- Business Structure
- Marketing Model
- Globalisation
- Competition
- Production
- Costs





[View QR Code](#)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Overview GCSE Business is not a course about how to run your own business. This is a frequent misconception and often means students select it for the wrong reasons. On the course students will learn about how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, they will learn about employment law, marketing, finance and economic. The GCSE in Business looks to inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in one of the many business disciplines, such as marketing, finance, sales, recruitment or retail.

The qualification also supports progression to a more specialised level 3 academic or vocational business course or an apprenticeship. Business related courses are currently the most popular university degrees in both the UK and the U.S so this will give students the first steps on this educational path. This course will also allow pupils to see how real businesses operate through case studies about the world's most famous brands. They will also have the opportunity to visit businesses to learn more about them as well as hear from local entrepreneurs who will be invited in.

Topics Covered Students will cover a variety of different topics within the subject of business including:

- Marketing
- Enterprise
- Business planning
- Production
- Finance
- Economics
- Business activity and organisation
- Employment
- Motivation
- Law
- Competition
- Ethical and environmental considerations

Assessment

The GCSE Business assessment is as follows:

- Two exams: 'business activity, marketing and people' and 'operations, finance and influences on business. Both exams are 90 minutes and worth 50% each of the total course.
- Some questions will be extended writing to test your ability to explain why you made a particular decision.
- Both exams are marked out of 80. At least 10% of these marks are awarded for quantitative skills, with the rest being based on a pupil's ability to demonstrate knowledge, apply theory to business contexts and analyse / evaluate business decisions.

Skills and interests required for the course:-

Maths skills are essential	The ability to work independently and have experience of Business settings outside of the school environment is helpful	Well established reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are really important.
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