History - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: *Edexcel*

Why study *Subject*?

We all live in a volatile, dynamic and interconnected world. Knowledge of the past is essential in understanding and trying to make sense of what's happening now. GCSE History helps us to do both, through studying key events and individuals from the past and the ways in which they have shaped our present. History will provide you a range of skills from excellent communication to writing skills. How to construct an argument, research , analyse and investigation skills.

Possible Careers:

History provides you with inter-transferable skills which allows you to go into many different careers from journalism, law, business, politics, archaeology, marketing to teaching.

Aptitudes Needed:

A curiosity to investigate the past, and look how things happened and from whose perspective. Strong literacy skills are needed for the exams as it is a written based subject.

Topic Structure:

There are four units which are taught over the two years. You study Migrants in Britain C800-Present and Notting Hill, Elizabethan England 1558–88, Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91 and Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39.

Assessment Structure:

100% exams. Paper 1 is a Thematic study and historic environment: Migrants in Britain C800-Present and Notting Hill, Paper 2: Elizabethan England 1558–88 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91. Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39.

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course):

HISTORY

GCSE Geography (Loom link)

Exam board AQA: Website here

Why study Geography?

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, advernterous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the worlds currents problems boil down to geography and we need you, the future generation, to help us understand them more and push for change. Geography will help you to develop your communication and teamwork skills, as well as your ability to research and analyse. It is a fairly unique subject because it looks at both the physical structure of the planet and the social structure in regards to how we affect the environment, as well as how it affects us. This is looked at across the past, present and future.

Possible Careers:

According to the Royal Geographical Society, geography graduates have some of the highest rates of employment due to a mix of technical and social skills that are developed over time which they see as transferable. Popular careers include: conservation, sustainability management, disaster management. The police, research organisations, the law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop. Geographers learn about human and population development also which is useful for jobs in charity and international relations too.

Aptitudes Needed:

A great geography is one who realises that they have the power to change and impact the future world. An individual who is ready to debate and challenge misconceptions that exists and someone who is able to acknowledge the other side to an argument even when they feel strongly about one side.

Topic Structure:

The specification is taught by alternating between Paper 1 and Paper 2 throughout Y10 and Y11. This is to support progress through allowing retrieval time and spaced revision. It also allows students to build on concepts and bring them into units as they deeper their geographical understanding.

Assessment Structure:

2 exams. Paper 1 - Living with the physical environment (1hr 30 minutes). Paper 2 - Challenges in the human environment (1hr 30 minutes).
Paper 3 - Geographical applications (1hr 30 minutes)

GEOGRAPHY

GCSE Computer Science - Loom

Exam board & link to website: AQA

Why study Computer Science?

Students study a range of practical skills and theoretical concepts, developing knowledge regarding the operation and functionality of computing systems, networking, computer maths, tracing and designing algorithms, and cyber security threat prevention. In addition, students will develop practical and written programming skills on and off the computer. For the majority of the course, students will study Python as their main programming language but will gain experience in SQL and other algorithm design.

Possible Careers:

Computer science gives a number of problem solving and analytical skills which could be transferred to many careers. On top of this the evolving world of work is moving towards more technological jobs. Computing jobs today often lead towards: Software Design, Engineering, Robotics, Web Design, Graphic Design, App Design, Game Design and many more

Aptitudes Needed:

For computer science GCSE, students need a good grounding in problem solving and a strong understanding of mathematics. The course also requires a good understanding of Computing from Y7-9 and will require students to do extended writing as well as programming.

Topic Structure:

T1: Algorithms **T2:** Fundamentals of Python **T3:** Advanced Python **T4:** Data Fundamentals **T5:** Computer Systems **T6:** Networks **T7:** Cyber Security **T8:** Ethics, Environment and Law **T9:** SQL

Assessment Structure:

Paper 1: Computational Thinking and Written Programming (50%)

Paper 2: Written assessment – Theoretical Knowledge of Computer Systems (50%).

COMPUTING

Religious Studies - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: AQA https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse

Why study Religious Studies:
Religious studies offers a unique opportunity for you to explore diverse beliefs systems, ethical dilemmas, and the cultural impact of religions. It fosters critical thinking and encourages you to analyse complex moral issues, promoting deeper understanding of global perspectives. Religious studies enhances communication skills by engaging students in thoughtful discussions about the role of faith in society. It provides a foundation for tolerance, empathy and open-mindedness, essential qualities in our increasingly interconnected world.

Possible Careers: Religious Studies provides you with inter-transferable skills which allows you to go into many different careers. With a GCSE in RS, you can explore careers in fields such as law, journalism, social work, diplomacy and counseling. RS equips you with valuable skills in analyzing complex issues, respecting diverse perspectives and effectively communicating with people from different backgrounds. Whether you aspire to work in law, teaching, or human rights, a GCSE in RS serves a path to a broad spectrum of meaningful and impactful career paths.

Aptitudes Needed: A genuine curiosity about different belief systems, an open mind to appreciate diverse perspectives and the ability to engage in thoughtful and respectful discussions. RS also demands empathy as understanding the human experience and the significance of beliefs is central to the subject, as well as an interest in ethical debates.

Topic Structure: There are 6 units taught over two years. These consist of: Christian Beliefs and Practices, Islamic Beliefs and Practices, Religion and life, God and Revelation, Religion Crime and Punishment, Religion Peace and Conflict.

Assessment Structure: 100% Exam
Paper 1: Christian Beliefs and Practices, Islamic Beliefs and Practices.
Paper 2: Religion and Life, God and Revelation, Religion Crime and Punishment, Religion Peace and Conflict.

GCSE Photography

Photography Promotion Video / Exam board & link to website: Edexcel (P22-28)

Why study Photography? Photography is a creative course with an emphasis on photography as an art form. The camera will be used as a tool to develop visual and thought processes as well as creative and critical abilities. Such skills are in high demand within the Creative Industries. Studying Photography will make you more aware of your surroundings, more in tune with life and the ability to see things differently - a gift!

Possible Careers: The creative industries in the UK are considered amongst the best in the world. Your ability to be imaginative and original will serve you well in the following careers where Photography is a good starting qualification. Studying Photography at GCSE is a gateway to many jobs and careers- ranging from film, tv and animation to graphic design and creative magazine director. Of course there are more traditional roles photography jobs like fashion, wedding food photography but really the possibilities an endless- you can work free lance taking assignments and jobs and choosing your work life balance-a real sense of freedom!

Aptitudes Needed: A great photographer is someone who not only knows how to take a good photo but also has a keen eye for composition, lighting, and storytelling. We are looking for students with imagination, a creative mind and an eye for detail. We will provide the cameras and the software and initially and critical thinking but encourage you to take control of your learning and work on your own personal portfolio

Topic Structure: The Foundation unit consists of a series of tutorials and set tasks that will help students understand how to use the digital camera and SLR camera,and editing using software. Following this Unit 1 will be Transformations which is a mixture of studio based and experimental work using lighting and software such as Photoshop for manipulation followed by Faces Places- which is primarily focussed on Photo journalism and location based Photography Unit 2 is an Externally set Topic starting in January in Yr 11

Assessment Structure: Unit 1 - Portfolio Portfolio 60% of the grade Assessment will be ongoing with weekly homework tasks and interim and final grades given for each project. Self-assessment and teacher assessment will be used. There will also be ongoing, intermittent one-to-one tutorials. Exam board marking criteria will be used at all times.
Unit 2 - External Assessment 40% of the grade The same criteria are used for the portfolio. Teachers advise and assess work until the final 10 hour exam where students must work unaided. The final assessment will be carried out by staff and moderated by the exam board.

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course): A background in art and photography or creative media is good however not essential. Come willing to learn and work hard, this subject will change the way you view the world and provide an abundance of career choices

GCSE Sociology

Why study sociology?
Sociology aims to broaden students' minds, helping them to see their world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways. Across these units, students explore social processes including socialisation, social control and social change. Students also explore social issues, including the causes and consequences of inequality, concepts of crime and deviance as well as relevant areas of social theory and methodology.

Possible Careers:
Government, journalism, social work, police, law, mental health services etc.

Aptitudes Needed:
A curiosity for how people think, feel and function is essential! You must be keen to put forward your ideas in debate and discussion. Strong literacy skills are also desirable as the exam requires essay writing skills.

Topic Structure:
There are 5 units taught over two years. The sociological approach, the sociology of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

Assessment Structure:
100% exams. Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education and Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Social Stratification.

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course):

GCSE Drama

Exam board & link to website: Eduqas

Why study Drama? Despite if you want to become a performer or not, there are many **transferable skills** that you will learn and develop in drama that will assist in other academic subjects and those required as adults in **any** profession. Some of these important skills are: *self-esteem • confidence • creativity • adaptability • self-discipline • collaboration • communication • teamwork • independence • compassion • empathy • critical thinking • literacy development • cultural awareness • problem solving • motivation • concentration • commitment • evaluation and analysis • cross curricular advances • initiative • respect • leadership • and more!*

For those that strive for a career in the performing arts industry, GCSE drama will guide you to become a confident performer, designer and director - ready for the next stage in your performing arts journey.

Possible Careers: Performer • Director • Set Designer • Artistic Director • Costume Designer • Lighting Designer • Sound Designer • Theatre Technician • Voice Over Artist • Production Manager • Stage Manager • Agent • Teacher • Drama Therapist • Teacher • Stand Up Comedian • Stage Crew • Arts Administrator - ***Although*** *you* ***do not*** *need to want to work in the performing arts industry to benefit from studying drama! Many professions, if not all benefit from the skills you gain in GCSE drama!*

Aptitudes Needed: Communication, respect, creativity, independence, teamwork, organisation, driven, resilience, self discipline, self reflection, flexibility, critical thinking and problem solving. Although confidence is key in drama - you do not need to be the most confident performer to choose this subject - *you will gain more confidence by studying drama.*

Topic Structure: GCSE drama is structured via **three components**.

Component 1 - Devising Drama (Students will explore different styles of drama, ultimately devising their own performance and reflecting on the process through a portfolio and evaluation). **Component 2 - Performing from a Text** (Students learn, build a character and perform extracts from a play text). **Component 3 - Interpreting Theatre** (90 minute exam which students respond to questions in the role of an actor, director and performer against a set text, and also evaluate and analyse live theatre).

Assessment Structure: Students are assessed against **four assessment objectives.**

AO1 - Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance. **AO2** - Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance. **AO3** - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed. **AO4** - Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others. Students are assessed both **practically** and via **theory work / exam.**

Did you know? Participation in structured arts activities can increase cognitive abilities by 17%. • Learning through arts develops skills and behaviour that lead children to do **better in school**. • Students from low-income families who take part in arts activities at school are **three times more likely to get a degree.** • Employability of students who study arts subjects is higher and they are more likely to stay in employment. • People who take part in the arts are 38% more likely to report good health.

DRAMA

GCSE Art

Exam board & link to website: Pearson

Why study Art? Develops transferable skills – students will learn to:
● Apply a creative approach to problem solving ● Consider and develop original ideas from initiation to realisation ● Analyse critically your own work and the work of others ● Express individual thoughts and choices confidently ● Take risks, experiment with materials!

Possible Careers: *Art Auctioneer, Art Historian, Art Therapist, Journalist, Museum Curator, Talent Agent, Ceramic Artist, Muralist, Food Stylist, 3D Animator, 3D Modeler, Illustrator, Comic Book Artist, Computer Animator, Game Level Designer, Motion Graphics Designer, Multimedia Designer, Web Designer, Visual Effects Artist, Web Developer, Set Designer, Costume Designer, Makeup Artist, Cinematographer, Video/film Editor, Tattoo Artist, Prop designer, Photographer, Director, Animator, Painter, Sculptor, Printmaker, Conceptual Artist.*

Aptitudes Needed: ● Passionate about the subject. ● Disciplined and a hard worker. ● Patient and persistent. ● Enjoy expressing yourself and trying new things. ● Organised and proactive. ● Have a creative outlook.

Topic Structure:
Component 1 - Project 1, Project 2 are two sketchbook based coursework tasks. Pupils research, investigate, record and develop ideas and produce a final piece.
Component 2 - Exam unit, pupils select from a range of topics provided by the exam board and produce a project responding to it which culminates in a two day practical exam where they make a final piece.

Assessment Structure: Assessment consists of two internally assessed and externally moderated components. ● Component 1: Personal Portfolio (60% of the qualification 72 marks, 18 marks for each of the four Assessment Objectives). ● Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of the qualification 72 marks, 18 marks for each of the four Assessment Objectives).

Did you know… the creative industries are a global British success story growing at more than 1.5 times the rate of the wider economy over the past decade and contributing £108 billion in gross value added (GVA) annually!

ART

GCSE Music

Exam board & link to website: **Eduqas**

Why study Music?

GCSE music is for anyone who is **creative** and wants to learn to make music and learn more about music. It is **highly practical** with 60% of the course assessed through coursework. Your skills of **composing** music and **performing** will be developed and refined and you will demonstrate **creativity**, **reflection** and **resilience**, as well as developing **confidence** and **presentation skills**. Studying music will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too. You will gain a deep understanding of a number of transferable skills and practice applying these to new situations, developing analytical and problem solving skills.

Possible Careers:

The possibilities are endless. Music will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities are looking for. In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum.) When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions.

Aptitudes Needed:

You may already play a musical instrument or sing, and may already enjoy composing and creating music. Or maybe not! Whatever your background, music GCSE is still accessible to you if you are passionate about music and developing your creativity. The best thing you can bring to the course is **openness, curiosity and resilience**. Music GCSE will challenge you and push you but it will be worth it!

Topic Structure:

There are 4 areas of study: Musical Forms and Devices; Music for Ensemble; Music for Film; and Popular Music. These are very broad areas that cover a range of genres such as classical music, musical theatre, chamber music, jazz, film and pop that you will explore through performing, listening and composing.

Assessment Structure: 60% Non Examined Assessment (coursework) + 40% exam

Performing - 30%. 2 performances of at least 4 minutes in total. You can perform on any instrument or voice. One of your performances has to be as part of an ensemble.
Composing - 30%. 2 compositions. One of these has to be in response to a brief set by Eduqas; the other can be anything you want!
Listening & Appraising Exam - 40%. You will hear 8 pieces of music in the exam and have to answer questions about them. 2 of the pieces will be set works that you have studied.

Additional Information:

Students who study Music GCSE will receive free instrumental or vocal lessons as part of the course. This is to prepare you for the performance aspect of the course (30%) but is also a brilliant opportunity to develop your skills on an instrument.

GCSE Business

Exam board & link to website: Edexcel

Why study Business?

Edexcel GCSE Business will provide students with the key business theoretical concepts that they can take into whichever career path they choose in the future. Preparing students for the workplace Business will give students the transferable skills required to not only evaluate all business types, but provide them with the understanding of how to best maximise business performance in all situations. From establishing how entrepreneurs take an idea and turn it into a viable business in Year 10, to growing a large multinational corporation in Year 11, students will be better prepared for the workplace when they leave education.

Possible Careers:

The knowledge and skills gained from GCSE Business support students' entry into any form of employment or other training in specific aspects of business, such as apprenticeships and vocational qualifications which focus on more specialised business areas. GCSE Business provides a strong foundation for employment, with students progressing, with further training, to a wide range of careers training such as banking, sales, product management and general management.

Aptitudes Needed:

• Reading • Problem solving • Critical thinking • Creativity • Writing • Mathematics • Communication

Topic Structure:

Y10: Enterprise and entrepreneurship / Spotting a business opportunity / Putting a business idea into practice / Making the business effective / Understanding external influences on business

Y11: Growing the business / Making marketing decisions / Making operational decisions / Making financial decisions / Making human resource decisions

Assessment Structure:

Paper 1: Investigating a small business (50%) (90 marks - 105 minutes)

Paper 2: Building a business (50%) (90 marks - 105 minutes)

BUSINESS

GCSE Creative iMedia - Loom

Exam board & link to website: **OCR Cambridge Nationals**

Why study Creative iMedia?

Cambridge Nationals in Creative Media is media sector-focused, including film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and has a strong IT focus. The course will give students knowledge of key areas in this field from pre-production of media right through to post-production editing and finishing. The course has a motivational, hands-on approach to learning, whilst teaching students how to write extended reports for clients and media producers. The subject delivers skills across a wide range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things.

Possible Careers:

Creative iMedia explores a wide range of media industries such as working in: Film, TV, Sound engineering, lighting, photography, graphic design, animation, game design and many more. The course also gives students industry experience of team working and project report writing.

Aptitudes Needed:

Students need to be creatively minded, as they will be sketching, designing, filming, recording and making a range of media products and designs. Students also need to be able to write extended reports to support their reasoning for making their projects in the coursework.

Topic Structure:

Students will study the following topics: 'Creative iMedia in the media industry', ' Visual identity and digital graphics' and ‘Sound and Animation’

Assessment Structure:

Independent project 1: 25% (Animation with audio)
Independent project 2: 35% (Visual identity and digital graphics)
Written paper: Creative iMedia in the media industry completed at the end of Year 11 - 40%

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course):

A strong grasp of ICT and computer literacy is needed as well as a good grasp of written english for the media coursework sections

COMPUTING

Food Preparation and Nutrition - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: ***exam board Eduqas***

Why study Food?
Study food because you are passionate about learning the theory and practical skills involved in creating high standard dishes. If you are creative and love to try new skills this is the subject for you. The course will help you develop high standard presentation of dishes, create and adapt recipes, have sound knowledge of basic recipes, allow you to learn about what food does to our bodies. It will also teach you about the science behind food.

Possible Careers: Endless possibilities : Chef, Catering or Hospitality industry, Food Scientist, Engineer, Food Technologist, Food Developer, Quality Assurance, Dietician, Nutritionist and Marketing or Research.

Aptitudes Needed: A love and passion for food, Problem solving, creativity, independence, teamwork, organisation skills, driven, discipline and a willingness to try and try again.

Topic Structure: Food commodities, Principles of nutrition, Diet and good health, The science of food, Where food comes from, Cooking and food preparation and the Function of ingredients. All theory and practical skills are taught over 120 learning hours throughout year ten to prepare you to showcase your theory and practical skills in year eleven.

Assessment Structure: Two components all completed in year 11.
Component one: NEA1 15% (Food Science Investigation with an 8 page portfolio report)
NEA 2 35% (Food preparation and display with an 15 page research portfolio)
Component two: Written paper 50% (All theory topics examined.)

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course): Ability to research recipes and willingness to learn new skills. Be able to use ICT and learn about the theory of food preparation.

Product Design (DT) - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: *AQA exam board*

Why study Design & Technology Product Design?
If you are a creative person and passionate about making beautiful functional products this is the subject for you. Design technology allows you to explore designers, historical movements and showcase this in your handmade product. You can further add personal detail with a variety of materials with your knowledge of machines, CAD and hand tool skills. You will learn about modern materials, manufacturing methods, design skills and CAD/CAM techniques and how to apply them to their creations. This subject offers a focus on Graphics, Resistant Materials, Electronics or Systems and Control with a variety of career opportunities.

Possible Careers: Art foundation, Art, Product Design, Set design, Engineering, Architecture, Carpentry and many more

Aptitudes Needed: A passion to design and create high quality products, the ability to problem solve and share findings, creativity, independence, teamwork, organisation, drive to improve,

Topic Structure: Problem solving of everyday products, Modelling, Manufacture and construction techniques,New and emerging technologies, Materials and their working properties, Energy generation and storage, Developments in new materials, Systems approach to designing and Mechanical devices.

Assessment Structure: All assessments will be completing in year eleven, year ten prepares you through mini projects and assessments.
NEA1 50% (A practical project lead by the exam board and a portfolio encompassing the Plan of manufacture
Written paper 50% (This will cover all theory topics taught across year ten and eleven)

DT

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course): ICT skills and willingness to learn CAD and workshop machines. Keen to make products and research.

Engineering - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: *NCFE exam board*

Why study VCert Level ½ Engineering ?
This is a creative and solution based subject, with lots of areas to take real life scenarios and problem solve them. This course allows you to develop and showcase your technical workshop skills alongside your engineering theoretical skills. These are both highly important in the industry to be able to lead teams to complete tasks for your client or contractors and fully plan projects from start to completion.

Possible Careers: Engineering: Electrical, Mechanical - Auto, Aerospace, Nuclear, Civil, Carpentry, Architecture, Software. Many more opportunities.

Aptitudes Needed: Problem solving, drive, determination to redesign, trial and test projects to reach the end goal, creativity, independence, teamwork, organisation skills, an interest in computers and technical drawing.

Topic Structure: Learning all relevant theory, how to use tools, machines and various materials, mini projects to develop technical skills and confidence. Theory is based on Engineering in the modern world, Tools, equipment and materials, Properties and characteristic of materials, Engineering Drawing hand drawn and CAD, SI units, All engineering disciplines and Health & Safety.

Assessment Structure: All assessments are completed in year eleven. Year ten you will learn all the relevant theory and practical skills to support your NEA project and written exam. Grades are awarded as Pass, Merit or Distinction over levels ½.
NEA1 60%
Written paper 40% (Covering all theory taught over year ten and eleven)

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course): ICT skills, basic drawing skills, an enjoyment with problem solving and enjoyment making products in the workshop.

Mathematics - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: Edexcel

Why study Mathematics? Maths is a subject that you all have to study, but even so it is worth thinking about why this is and how it can be useful to you. While studying Maths you will learn about a range of techniques and methods, develop your problem solving skills and improve your ability to think logically. You will be given opportunities to develop your IT skills and your communication skills. All of these are attributes potential employers will look for, as well as being useful to you if you choose further and higher education.

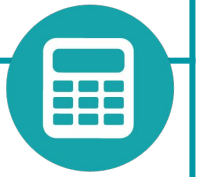
Possible Careers: Almost all jobs and careers require you to have Maths GCSE but there are also many careers in which you would make a lot of use of your Mathematics. These include business management, psychology, banking, ICT, engineering and medicine, to name just a few. You will also find that you will need a 5-9 grade for entry to most university courses.

Aptitudes Needed:A willingness to persevere with an activity when you feel unsure of your ability is essential. You will be expected to cope with not knowing and to use problem solving and reasoning skills to work out the answers to problems. You need to be prepared to work and think hard (but the buzz you get when things suddenly fall into place is worth waiting for!).

Topic Structure: There are 243 topics which are tested on the Mathematics papers. These are broadly divided into the areas of Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Number, Data and Statistics and Geometry. Any of the topics on the specification can appear on either/all of the papers

Assessment Structure: Paper 1 – Non-calculator (Foundation and Higher papers – 1hr 30mins) Paper 2 – Calculator (Foundation and Higher papers – 1hr 30 mins) Paper 3 - Calculator (Foundation and Higher papers - 1hr 30 min)

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course): Students will have to pass GCSE Mathematics and so, should they fail to achieve a Grade 4 they will have to redo their qualification as part of their College studies or apprenticeship. Students wishing to study A level Maths need to achieve a Grade 7 or higher.



GCSE Combined Sciences

Exam board & link to website: OCR Gateway A

Why study Science?
Science helps our understanding of the world around us. Everything we know about the universe, from how plants grow to what an atom is made up of, is the result of scientific research and experiment. Human progress throughout history has depended on scientific advancement. From our knowledge of gravity to the development of new vaccines, students of Science have shaped our modern world.

Possible Careers:
Science, Engineering, Technology, Law, Business

Aptitudes Needed:
A curiosity in the natural world, how things work and being able to work systematically and methodically. Strong literacy and numeracy skills are needed for the exams.

Topic Structure:
Students will study key concepts from Biology, Chemistry and Physics. An example of topics is shown below: Biology: Cell biology, organisation of organisms, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology 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, using resources Physics: Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter, atomic structure In addition, students will carry out 16 compulsory experiments that will then be examined within the exam papers

Assessment Structure:
Combined Science is equivalent to two GCSEs. Assessed by 100% exams. 6 exams 1hr15mins each. 2 for papers Biology, 2 papers Chemistry and 2 papers for Physics.

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course): Students do not need to take Separate Sciences to study A Level Sciences. Students are fully prepared by obtaining high grades (> grade 7) in Combined Science.

GCSE Separate Sciences

Exam board & link to website: OCR Gateway A

Why study Science?
Science helps our understanding of the world around us. Everything we know about the universe, from how plants grow to what an atom is made up of, is the result of scientific research and experiment. Human progress throughout history has depended on scientific advancement. From our knowledge of gravity to the development of new vaccines, students of Science have shaped our modern world.

Possible Careers:
Science, Engineering, Technology, Law, Business

Aptitudes Needed:
A curiosity in the natural world, how things work and being able to work systematically and methodically. Strong literacy and numeracy skills are needed for the exams.

Topic Structure:
Students will study key concepts from Biology, Chemistry and Physics. An example of topics is shown below: Biology: Cell biology, organisation of organisms, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology 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, using resources Physics: Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter, atomic structure In addition, students will carry out 16 compulsory experiments that will then be examined within the exam papers

Assessment Structure:
Three separate GCSEs, awarded individually. Assessment is 100% exams; 1hr45mins each. 2 for papers Biology, 2 papers Chemistry and 2 papers for Physics.

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course): Students do not need to take Separate Sciences to study A Level Sciences. Students are fully prepared by obtaining high grades (> grade 7) in Combined Science.

GCSE English Language

Why study English Language? English Language is an important foundation for many of the courses you may take in employment or further education, and a requirement for many university courses. It is a core subject, which helps you to develop your powers of self-expression and improve your reading and writing. It also offers valuable learning experiences that enhance critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deeper understanding of the English language.

Possible Careers: Almost all jobs and careers require you to have English Language GCSE but there are also many careers in which you would make a lot of use of your English Language skills. These include Advertising Copywriter, Academic Librarian, Arts Administrator, Editorial Assistant, Social Media Executive, Marketing Assistant, Web Content Manager, Information Officer, Creative Director, Talent Agent or a Writer.

Aptitudes Needed: Reading fluently, writing in Standard English, communication, respect, creativity, independence, teamwork, organisation, driven, resilience, self discipline, self reflection, flexibility, critical thinking and problem solving. Strong literacy skills are needed for the exams as it is an essay based subject.

Topic Structure: Students will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, including literary non-fiction and will learn how to identify the language and structural devices used by writers to achieve specific effects on the reader. In addition, students will learn to write accurately and skilfully, adapting the style of their writing for different purposes and audiences. The accuracy of students' spelling, punctuation and grammar makes up 20% of the overall assessment for this GCSE. Spoken Language is a taught component of English Language GCSE. Students receive an additional qualification of their proficiency in this area through an in-class assessment that does not form a part of their GCSE accreditation.

Assessment Structure:
Language Paper 1: 50% Reading: Fiction text, 4x comprehension questions and a creative writing task
Language Paper 2: 50% Reading: Two non-fiction texts, 4x comprehension questions and a persuasive writing task
Speaking and Listening Assessment

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course): Students will have to pass GCSE English Language and so, should they fail to achieve a Grade 4 they will have to redo their qualification as part of their College studies or apprenticeship. Students wishing to study A level English need to achieve a Grade 6 or higher.

GCSE English Literature

Why study English Literature? Studying English literature helps to sharpen your analytical skills. GCSE English Literature is important in everyday life because it connects individuals with larger truths and ideas in a society. Literature creates a way for people to record their thoughts and experiences in a way that is accessible to others, through fictionalized accounts of the experience. Studying for an English Literature GCSE allows you to develop a thorough knowledge of literary history, theory, and criticism, and enhances your understanding of a wide range of cultures and intellectual traditions.

Possible Careers: Almost all jobs and careers require you to have English Literature GCSE but there are also many careers in which you would make a lot of use of your English Language skills. These include Advertising Copywriter, Lawyer, Teacher, lexicography, journalism, Public Relations, Academic Librarian, Arts Administrator, Editorial Assistant, Social Media Executive, Marketing Assistant, Web Content Manager, Information Officer, Creative Director, Talent Agent or a Writer.

Aptitudes Needed: Reading fluently, writing in Standard English, communication, respect, creativity, independence, teamwork, organisation, driven, resilience, self discipline, self reflection, flexibility, critical thinking and problem solving. Strong literacy skills are needed for the exams as it is an essay based subject.

Topic Structure: Students will study a Shakespeare play, a pre-19th century text, modern prose/drama and poetry. They will learn how to identify the language and structural devices used by writers to achieve specific effects on the reader. They will also understand how to link and compare seen and unseen texts. The accuracy of students' spelling, punctuation and grammar makes up 5% of the overall assessment for this GCSE.

Assessment Structure:
Literature Paper 1: 50% Macbeth and Jekyll and Hyde
Literature Paper 2: 50% An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry

Did you know: Students will receive two separate English GCSEs. One for Language and another for Literature.

Catering - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: NOCN

Why study Catering? Level One Catering is a two year course where you can learn a variety of cooking skills. These include: basic food preparation and cooking, safety around the kitchen, introduction to healthy eating, introduction to the hospitality industry, team building, customer service skills and much more! Students will also have the opportunity to experience outdoor learning by going on variety of trips each year to enhance their practical learning experiences!

Possible Careers: Catering is a pathway to different career opportunities within the catering and hospitality industry.
Student have gone on to complete their level two and three courses, enabling them to start their chosen careers.
Here are some of their fields that some of students have ventured into: chef, events management, hospitality and other careers within the food industry.

Aptitudes Needed:
A keen interest in preparing and cooking food; the ability to work with different peers and follow instructions.

Topic Structure:
Learners will be completing modules to gain credits towards their qualification. There are seven units taught over two years, these are: food safety in catering, using kitchen equipment, basic food preparation and cooking, introduction to healthy eating, introduction to the hospitality industry, introduction to food commodities and customer service in the hospitality industry.

Assessment Structure: Our NOCN vocational courses are all coursework and practical based; there are no examinations. All students will work from their personal copy of the Catering Workbook, which is moderated by an examiner at the end of the course.

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course):

Functional Skills - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: NOCN

Why study Functional skills? Functional Skills is a course designed to equip learners with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life, education and work. The course teaches practical skills to support young people throughout their time in school and beyond.
Functional Skills are transferable skills that will assist students throughout their lives. They will have awareness of prejudice and discrimination; a basic understanding of the law and legal processes; they will know how to maintain high levels of personal hygiene; how to develop their emotional intelligence and how to manage their time effectively. All of this in addition to generic employability skills, designed to build confidence for the workplace, as well as a knowledge of different occupational sectors.

Possible Careers: Functional Skills will give young people a head start in the world beyond school. Students learn transferable skills, ranging from legal knowledge to personal hygiene and oral health as well as employability skills and a knowledge of different occupational sectors. Additionally, emphasis is placed on oracy skills, and students developing their confidence to discuss their ideas within their small group.

Aptitudes Needed: A keen interest in learning about society and the impact of prejudice and discrimination. Willingness to learn about key independent living skills, including budgeting and personal hygiene.

Topic Structure: Learners will be completing modules to gain credits towards their qualification. There are four units taught over two years, these are: prejudice and discrimination awareness, personal hygiene skills, budgeting and an introduction to substance misuse.

Assessment Structure: Our NOCN vocational courses are all coursework and practical based; there are no examinations. All students will work from their personal copy of the Functional Skills Workbook, which is moderated by an examiner at the end of the course.

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course):

Horticulture (Land) - Loom link

Exam board & link to website: NOCN

Why study Horticulture? Entry Level Three Horticulture is a two year course where you can learn a variety of horticultural skills. These include: an introduction to horticulture, planting and maintaining a garden, health and safety procedures, an introduction into the tools used, an introduction into the horticulture work environment, team building and much more!

Possible Careers: Horticulture is a pathway to different career opportunities within the horticulture and gardening industry. Learners have gone on to complete their level one and two courses, enabling them to start their chosen careers. After leaving Heartlands, some of our learners have taken the following career paths: community gardener, landscaper, florist, forester and tree surgeon.

Aptitudes Needed: A willingness to get your hands dirty and to work outside! An interest in gardening, garden habitats and nature.

Topic Structure: Learners will complete modules to gain credits towards their qualification. There are eight units taught over two years, these include: health and safety in a work environment, using and maintaining hand tools, planting a container and maintaining garden habitats.

Assessment Structure: Our NOCN vocational courses are all coursework and practical based; there are no examinations. All students will work from their personal copy of the Horticulture Workbook, which is moderated by an examiner at the end of the course.

Additional Information (including any entrance requirements for the course):