

Heartlands
High School

**GCSE OPTIONS 2025
Bespoke Journey**



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A warm welcome from our Head of School, Elen Roberts

We are driven by a desire to inspire students to find their own individual talents and enable them to develop a passion for their chosen specialisms. Making option choices is an important and exciting decision. These choices are critical in shaping their academic future and career paths so they must be made with careful consideration to maximise individual achievement and to provide the widest possible range of future educational and professional opportunities.

Consequently, we provide a lot of information and expert advice to you and your child during this process, so that the optimum curriculum offer can be made for each and every student.

We recognise the importance of collaboration between parents/ carers and the school to establish the best route for each child, providing the support and encouragement needed at this pivotal stage in their secondary education.

Our school ethos is founded upon high aspirations. We have a track record of delivering excellent results and at the core of this is committed dedicated students working hard in subjects they love.

The national landscape for qualifications has changed and the standards expected of students in external examinations are now higher than ever. With this in mind, our curriculum model has been carefully designed to maximise students' achievement and make them desirable candidates for Sixth Form Centres, colleges, apprenticeships, Universities and ultimately, employers.

Alongside this set of courses our Character Education programme, SEARCH ethos, Citizenship and PSHE programmes actively promote the broader personal development of students. These values are integral to our success as a school in shaping students into adults who not only have excellent qualifications, but also the character to succeed and lead happy, healthy lives.

Elen Roberts
Headteacher

Planning for the Future

This is an exciting opportunity for you to choose courses which you enjoy and which suit your interests, skills and future career ambitions. Most students will not have decided on a career path, but many will know which subjects they prefer and are interested in pursuing.

In order to go to university or into high-quality professional training, such as an apprenticeship, it is a very important for students to achieve a good set of qualifications at GCSE level so that they can progress onto A-levels or other suitable Level 2/3 courses.

English and Maths are critical subjects for their progression and it is now a legal requirement that students resit these subjects if they do not achieve a standard pass at GCSE on their first attempt.

We expect all of our students to follow a broad academic journey, and it is important that students consider this option carefully with a view to future educational and career aspirations, as well as their own individual strengths.

Parental and school guidance in this process is invaluable in supporting them to make choices which will allow them to thrive and develop their passion for learning.

Journeys Explained

The school offers two distinct journeys: Bespoke & Heartlands.

These are recommended to students and parents, and provide the flexibility to design a curriculum package for each student which is tailored to their needs, abilities and potential. Student journeys are based on your child's prior and current attainment.

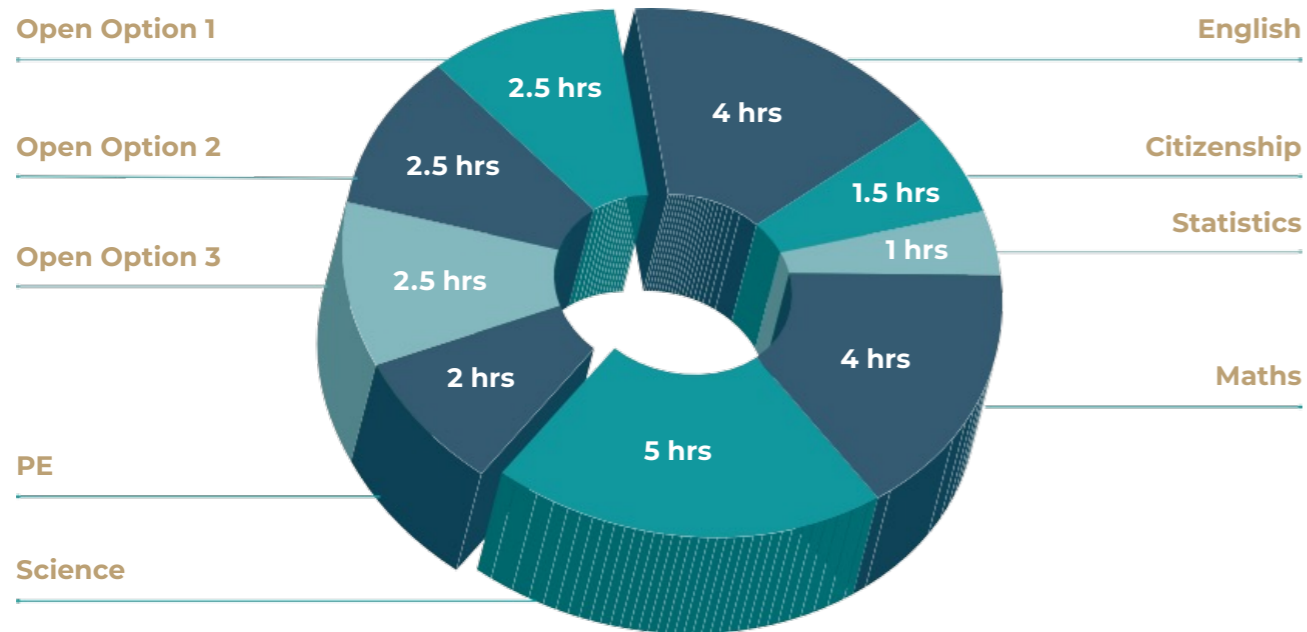
Bespoke Journey

The Bespoke Journey is designed for students who require extra support in order to reach their full potential. Students following the Bespoke Journey will study English Literature and Language (2 GCSEs), Maths and Combined Science (worth 2 GCSEs). As this journey suggests there is an element of tailoring this journey to the individual needs of students.

All students on the Bespoke Journey will meet with our SENDCo to discuss their choices and any further adaptations to the course that they might require. Students have the opportunity to choose Entry Level History, Land, Functional Skills and Catering. These courses are specifically designed to be accessible and engaging for our learners who require extra support.

Bespoke: 25 hours/week

If a student has a special case to study a subject that is not in this journey then they need to arrange a meeting with the SEN department.



Journey Structure

SUBJECT	HEARTLANDS	BESPOKE
English Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
English Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mathematics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Geography or History or French or Spanish or Computing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	2 CHOICES	3 CHOICES
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Functional Skills		<input type="checkbox"/>
Business Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Catering		<input type="checkbox"/>
Computing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Creative Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drama	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Food Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	
French	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	
History	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Land		<input type="checkbox"/>
Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Product Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Religious Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sports Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Compulsory Subject that your child can choose

Core Subjects (Compulsory)



English Language

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 Method: 100% exam
Exam Board: AQA



English Literature

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 Method: 100% exam
Exam Board: AQA

Core Subjects (Compulsory)



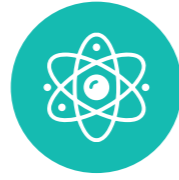
Mathematics

The new Maths GCSE covers broader and more challenging subject content. There is greater emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning, with more marks being allocated to these higher-order skills.

Students will now be required to memorise formulae. Each paper will have a range of question types, utilising both structured and unstructured questions. Some questions in the papers will be set in context (both mathematical and non-mathematical).

Key topics include: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measure, Probability and Statistics.

Assessment Method: 100% exam
Exam Board: Edexcel



Science

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 Method: 100% exam - six exams, two in each science
Exam Board: OCR Gateway A, equivalent to two GCSEs

Options



Art

Students are encouraged to be experimental, to work from observation and imagination, and to develop their ideas from the beginning to the end. Year 9 will focus on equipping students with the skills and from Year 10 Students are encouraged to take their own creative journeys.

The discipline of independent study and thought is an extremely useful one to acquire. It is a subject which can give the student confidence and a real sense of achievement. Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies at A level, which can lead to study at a Foundation Course in Art or and/or a degree in various areas of Art and Design, for example Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design, Fashion, Photography, Graphic Design and Fine Art.

Assessment Method: 60% coursework, 40% exam
Exam Board: Edexcel



Photography

Photography jobs are as vast as the medium is visible in the world. This course will make you a great creative thinker and you will be able to construct your photographic images so that they contain high visual appeal. In this way you will be able to carve out your desired career in photography. We use Photoshop extensively to edit and manipulate images idea and desired skills for future graphic designers.

Careers in photography include Art careers, Advertising, Commercial work, Editorial, Fashion, Film, Food, Forensic, Industrial, Architectural, Aerial, Portraiture and Wedding photography, Sports and Travel etc.

Assessment Method: 60% coursework, 40% exam
Exam Board: Edexcel

Options



Functional Skills

The Functional Skills course is designed to give students an introduction into building the skills required to thrive as an adult.

It focuses on important aspects of personal development such as personal hygiene, shopping for your home and healthy living.

The Functional Skills course also helps develop a learners confidence and competence in exploring the occupational sector; from researching potential careers, identifying jobs within a sector to identifying personal skills that would allow them to flourish.

There is also an emphasis on building transferable skills such creating presentations, public speaking and developing research skills.

Assessment Method: 100% portfolio work
Exam Board: NOCN



Land

The Land course is designed to provide an introduction to the skills and knowledge required for working in the horticulture sector. There are numerous careers that this course can begin to prepare learners for, for example; landscape gardener, garden designer and a garden centre worker. Within the course students will study areas such as; Introduction to horticulture, Clearing and weeding,

Maintaining garden habitats and Health and safety in a work environment. On top of the practical skills learners will develop on this course there are also transferable skills that they can build such as teamwork and planning. There are also physical and mental health benefits to taking part in land and working within the horticulture sector.

Assessment Method: 100% portfolio work
Exam Board: NOCN

Options



Catering

The Catering course is a fantastic way for learners to get a taste of what it is like to work in a catering environment. Learners will develop their understanding of working within the environment by learning both practical and theoretical skills. Students will learn modules such as; Food safety in catering; Using kitchen equipment; Introduction to food commodities; Introduction to the hospitality industry and Customer service in the hospitality industry.

Completing this course will support students in going on to study a similar course in college and then possibly move onto a career in the sector. The Catering course will not only give students an understanding of what is required to work in a professional catering environment but also help them develop cooking skills and knowledge that they can use for the rest of their adult life.

Assessment Method: 100% portfolio work
Exam Board: NOCN

The Options Process 2025

Key Dates

W/B 27 January

Parents/students will receive Option Form. Journey booklets and subject information videos will be available to view on the HHS website.

Students will take part in the GCSE taster session and will start to be invited for a one-to-one careers interview.

5 March

Options Evening

25 March

Option Form deadline

4 June

Students will receive confirmation of their choices





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