



ANSFORD ACADEMY
LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

GCSE Options Handbook

2026-2028

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Foreword

Dear Ansford Student

During the next few weeks you will be choosing the courses that you will be following in Years 10 and 11. For the first time since starting school, you will have a real say in what you learn and specialise in. At Ansford there is a wide range of courses to choose from and making your choices will not be easy! There are subjects that you already know, such as History and French as well as new courses that you have not studied before.

It is important that you, your teachers and your parents/carers work together to make sure that you choose the most appropriate options for your future.

At Ansford our aims are:

- for you to study courses that suit your abilities, skills and aspirations
- for you to follow a curriculum that is broad and balanced
- for you to be given the opportunity to focus on your strengths and to explore new areas of interest

Over the coming weeks you will get many opportunities for information, advice and guidance about your options. We may recommend some courses for you personally, based on your strengths and needs. If so, we will speak with you to share this information.

We offer as much choice as we can, but every cohort is different and it is not always possible to run a subject that very few students choose. Equally some combinations of subjects may prove to be impossible to timetable. If either of these happen, we will let you know and we will help you explore other possibilities which may include providing lessons outside of your usual curriculum time.

Who can help you?

- Parents, Carers, relatives and family friends
- Your Tutor
- Subject Teachers
- Ms Walsh (Head of Year) twalsh@ansford.mnsp.org.uk
- Ms Holbeche (SENDCo) rholbeche@ansford.mnsp.org.uk

And, of course, myself. If you are unsure about anything, just ask!



Mr R Mitchell

Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum, Teaching & Learning

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Important Steps in the Options Process

There are a number of important steps students need to follow when choosing their Key Stage 4 Options:

The first stage of the Options process begins with a student assembly.

The next stage of the process will be our Options Evening on **Wednesday 28th January 2026**. This is an important event to attend and will help you to understand the importance of making the right choices to create future opportunities.

The Options Evening will start with a presentation, providing guidance on the pathways, timeframes, deadlines and the support available.

After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to visit subject bases and speak with teachers. This is your opportunity to learn about the courses and the necessary skills required to be successful in each.

You will be invited to Year 9 Parents Evening the week before, Thursday 22nd of January 2026, to discuss your progress in subjects.

This will be a valuable opportunity to speak directly to teachers about current progress and how you could prepare for the GCSE.

Over the two weeks following the Year 9 Parents' Information Evening, Mr Mitchell and other school leaders will meet with students individually to help them make informed decisions about the subjects that they would like to study at Key Stage 4. Students will start to complete the final options process.

What are the next steps?

1. **Read** though the information in the Options Handbook.

2. **Thursday 22nd January 2026**

Meet with the Subject Teachers on Parents' Evening. Mr Mitchell will then meet with students 1-1 to discuss their option choices.

3. **Wednesday 28th January 2026**

Year 9 Options Evening

4. **Friday 13th February 2026**

This is the final date to submit your options choices via the school website or to inform Mr Mitchell of any requests to change your choices.

Frequently asked questions:

Will I get my first choice?

Almost all students are allocated their first choice.

Occasionally we may not be able to allocate you a subject because:

- Not enough students requested this subject
- More students ask for it than the available teachers or facilities can accommodate
- Students may have opted for a subject which, in the judgement of staff, is not appropriate
- Some combinations of subjects may prove impossible to timetable.

Can I still study a subject at a higher level if I didn't take it at GCSE?

Students can sometimes do an A Level without having studied it at GCSE and they do not necessarily need to take a subject at A Level to study it at degree level. Examples include: Law, Sociology, Psychology and Accountancy.

If a student has a degree or career in mind it is best to check the course requirements in advance, or login to Unifrog to learn more about these.

How do I secure a place at a Further Education College or Sixth Form?

There are different pathways available to you and each of them have different entry criteria.

For example, entry to most A Level courses will require 5 or more GCSE grades at Grade 5 or above (or equivalent vocational grades).



Subject Time Allocation

English

Students will have 8 hours of English a fortnight during Years 10 and 11, studying GCSE qualifications in English Language and English Literature. These courses are interleaved throughout Year 10 and 11, developing skills and content in each. Students will receive two qualifications with two separate grades at the end of Year 11.



Mathematics

Students will have 7 hours of Mathematics a fortnight during Years 10 and 11.

Physical Education

Students will have 4 hours of Core PE a fortnight during Year 10 and 11. Some of this curriculum time may be used for English, Maths and Science intervention.



Personal, Social, Health and Career Education (PSHCE)

Students will have 1 hour of PSHCE a fortnight. These lessons include health issues, sex and relationships, drugs education, study skills, strategies for dealing with change, careers guidance and citizenship.



Science

Students will have 10 hours of Science a fortnight during Years 10 and 11. There are two pathways:

GCSE Science: Combined Science Trilogy [2 GCSEs]. This course enables students to study elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and prepares them for study in any of the Science disciplines or in related subject areas, such as Psychology and Sociology in post-16 education.

GCSE Separate Science [3 GCSEs]. Students in the top set will study the Separate Sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will be provided with extra curriculum time as necessary to cover the additional content.



Option Subjects

All option subjects have an allocation of 5 hours per fortnight

Assessment of Qualifications

When students take their examinations in Summer 2028, they will receive all of their grades for courses as Grades 9-1.

Vocational courses however are graded by a different system depending on the subject. This information is set out in the section Vocational Course below. In addition, some subjects still assess through aspects of Controlled Assessments or coursework components. It is very important that you read the Assessment section of each of the subjects so you are clear about exactly how each course will be assessed.

GCSE Grades



Grade 4 is called a 'Standard Pass' and Grade 5, a 'Strong Pass'; this is needed for entry to most College and Sixth Form courses.

The new Grade 9 can be seen as the top 25% of A* students and has been introduced as the new top grade to show academic excellence.

Controlled Assessments

Some subjects contain a significant amount of Controlled Assessment work. These subjects include Art, Business and Enterprise, Hospitality and Catering and Product Design and Textiles. This type of work is often time consuming and the number of subjects a student takes that contain a large amount of Controlled Assessment tasks should be considered.

Please look carefully at each subject page to see the examined content and extent of Controlled Assessment work. We may need to give specific guidance where students have opted for coursework heavy subjects, so they are clear about the commitment and expectations.

Vocational Course Grade

Vocational courses are GCSE equivalent. This means although they carry the same qualification weight, they are not graded using the 9-1 criteria.

GCSE 9-1 Points		BTEC First Award		BTEC Tech Award	
Grade & Points	Grade terms	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
9	Strong Pass (DfE)	L2 D*	8.5	L2 D*	8.5
8		L2 D	7	L2 D	7
7		L2 M	5.5	L2 M	5.5
6		L2 P	4	L2 P	4
5		Strong Pass (DfE)		Standard Pass (DfE)	
4	Level 1 Pass	3	1.75	3	1.25
3		2		2	
2		1		1	
1		U	0	U	0

Our vocational offer:

We offer the following vocational L1 and L2 courses:

Business and Enterprise
Child Development
Hospitality and Catering

Qualification Thresholds and University Applications

Regardless of the subject you want to study, the majority of University courses look for at least a Grade 5 in English, Maths and perhaps Science. More selective Universities however now require a Grade 6 or above in these subjects.

Some University courses go further and ask for specific subjects at GCSE, with certain grades. We highly recommend visiting University websites to view their entry requirements for each course.

Curriculum Choices and Pathways

All students study GCSEs in English, Maths and Science (Combined or Separate), Geography and/or History and core PE and PSHCE.

In the options process students choose additional option subjects for the start of Year 10. Students are strongly encouraged to choose a broad and balanced curriculum and are fully guided and supported to make the most suitable and personal choices and pathways.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The Department for Education believes that this specific combination of subjects allows students to be competitive both nationally and internationally.

At Ansford, we believe that the Ebacc qualification provides a broad and balanced curriculum and opens up further opportunities for future education and employment.

The EBacc subjects are defined as:

- English
- Humanities (History or Geography)
- Languages (Spanish or French)
- Mathematics
- Two Sciences (or Combined Science)

Creative Subjects

Students are advised to take a creative or foundation subject alongside their academic subjects to ensure their curriculum pathway is not too narrow and limited.

Creative subjects include:

- Art
- Business
- Child Development
- Citizenship
- Curriculum Support [by invite only]
- Drama
- French
- Hospitality and Catering
- Product Design
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Spanish
- Textile

Studying a Language

We believe strongly that choosing a language is the best option for some of students, however for a very small minority it may not be appropriate. Students for whom studying a language is inappropriate will be guided through their option choices to ensure that they still achieve a set of highly regarded qualifications.

Vocational Courses

We are really proud of our curriculum offer, which includes vocationally related qualifications (for example Business and Enterprise, Child Development and Hospitality and Catering). All of our vocational qualifications enable students to gain the equivalent of a GCSE at the highest Grades 9-4. These have a smaller exam component and there is a greater emphasis on projects and assignments that are based on real world situations.

Complementary Subjects

Some subjects complement each other. These subject combinations create a package of options that provide a clear pathway to certain A Levels, Further Education courses or apprenticeships.

Heritage Languages

We also have a process for supporting students who wish to gain a GCSE qualification in their heritage language. Students must be assessed by an educational professional and be able to read, write and speak the language to the required level.

Alternative Pathways

Some students with specific learning needs will be offered an alternative curriculum; Curriculum Support. Students will work with the Learning Bridge staff and study Functional Skills in English and Maths. Students will also be provided with the additional support they need to be successful in their other courses.

Pathways to Post-16

Further & Higher Education

College, Sixth Form, University and Employment may seem a long way off when students are making GCSE option choices in Year 9, however they are important to consider at this point as they can directly impact which pathways are open to students later in life.

In England, everyone must do one of the following options until they are 18:

- Stay in full-time education, for example Sixth Form or College
- Start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- Spend 20 hours or more a week working, while in part-time education or training.

Post 16 education and training pathways differ by how academic or vocational they are, based on how much time is spent in a classroom style environment vs career specific learning. GCSEs (or equivalent) are Level 2 courses. Most students will progress onto Level 3 courses such as:

- A Levels
- T Levels
- V Levels
- Extended Diplomas
- Advanced Apprenticeships

When students complete Level 3 qualifications, they can apply for:

- Higher Education courses at Universities
- Foundation Degrees
- Degree Level Apprenticeships
- Enter employment

If students have a career path, apprenticeship course or degree in mind they should look at the college or university course requirements. All universities have websites and the UCAS (University and College Admissions Service) website lists all courses and course requirements for all degree (and other) courses in the UK.

Applications to study medicine are usually required to have very good GCSE results in Maths, Science and English.

For an English degree, universities often look for applicants with a GCSE in modern foreign language.

For a Business degree, a grade 6 in GCSE maths is often required



Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance [CEIAG]

We passionately believe that all students should be able to make informed decisions about their choices and pathways. During Years 10 and 11, all students will attend:

- Careers fairs
- Sixth Form and College taster days
- Post 16 information evening
- A series of assemblies hosted by a range of Post-16 providers and employers
- 1:1 careers meetings with a qualified CEIAG advisor
- Mock interviews
- Students, Parents and Carers will also be able to access Unifrog.

A Level Facilitating Subjects

The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities, defines facilitating subjects as the following **A Level courses**:

- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Modern languages – e.g. French and Spanish
- Classical languages – e.g. Latin
- Maths and Further Maths
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry

Planning Your Option Choices

You will be completing your Options Form online; however, this table will help you to plan which option blocks you will take each subject in. You will need to complete the form online by Friday 13th January 2026.

Section 1:	Geography		Tick one Subject
	History		

Section 2	Art		Tick 5 Subjects Ranks these 1-5 (4 and 5 showing reserves)
	Business and Enterprise - (VOC)		
	Business		
	Child Development – (VOC)		
	Computer Science		
	Citizenship		
	Design Technology– Product Design		
	Design Technology – Textiles		
	Drama		
	French		
	Geography		
	History		
	Hospitality and Catering – (VOC)		
	Music		
	Physical Education		
	Religious Studies		
	Spanish		

Points to consider

You will make your final submission via a Google Form on the Ansford Academy website (www.ansford.org.uk) to provide your Option Choices. Record your choices here for your own records.

Please note that we will do our best to accommodate your choices, but it is not guaranteed.

Curriculum Support is an invite only subject. Please only tick this option if this has been agreed with Mr Mitchell and Ms Holbeche.

Section 3 (Invite Only)	Curriculum Support		
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English Language

AQA GCSE - 8700

The Two year English Language course aims to ensure you read text closely and effectively and demonstrate a confident control of your reading and writing skills. We will draw upon a wide range of texts across variety of genres with opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage through and enquiry. You will learn to express complex ideas clearly, verbally and in your writing ensuring you are communicating exactly what you want to say.

Course Content

English Language GCSE develops the core skills of reading and writing through close textual analysis of a wide range of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts. You will develop your skills of interpretation as well as creative writing across the course. You will also complete a Spoken Word task - delivering a speech and taking questions - and this is awarded with a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Paper 1

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Students will study two linked texts from different time periods which will be non-fiction and literary non-fiction, such as:

- high-quality journalism
- articles
- reports
- essays
- travel writing
- accounts
- sketches
- letters
- diaries
- autobiography and biographical passages and other appropriate texts

One source will be from the 19th and the second from either 20th or 21st century.



Assessment

100% Examination

Paper 1 - 50%

Paper 2 - 50%

Subject Specific Skills

- You will need to demonstrate your ability in functional English: to write clearly and for a range of purposes.
- As the course is entirely exam based, you will also need to work under the pressure of time constraints.
- You will set high standards in the quality of your work; proof-reading your work will avoid unnecessary mistakes.
- You will develop investigative and analytical skills as you study the English Language in detail. Those language skills will allow you to express ideas clearly.
- You should be willing to experiment and develop your writing, learning to use language imaginatively and creatively.

This subject works well with...

As a core subject, English Language is central to all other subjects. Here, we develop your communication skills, allowing you to express yourself clearly and accurately.

Confidence and ability in English Language will undoubtedly help improve your results in all subjects.

Future Pathways

Any future employment will require confident and capable levels of communication. The GCSE English Language course prepares you for expressing yourself clearly and accurately in speech and writing, as well as helping you to confidently interpret others. Specialist professions include: Marketing, Law, Politics, Journalism, Research and Education.

English Literature

AQA GCSE - 8702

In English Literature, you will study a wide range of engaging and challenging literary texts across a variety of genres and time periods. Studying these texts will give you the opportunity to develop the skills of reading comprehension and critical reading, as well as developing effective and confident writing skills.

Course Content

English Literature GCSE develops your ability to read and interpret texts, appreciating how writers use language and structure to create meaning and effect. You will access a range of types of texts, studying poetry, novels and plays, and be able to understand the purpose and joy of each form of writing. We explore texts across a range of times to understand the beauty of the British Canon of Literature.

Assessment

100% Examination

Paper 1 - 40%

Shakespeare and a 19th century novel
Written examination

Paper 2 - 60%

Modern Texts and Poetry

Students will compare poems as well as interpreting unseen poems.

Subject Specific Skills

Like the English Language course, the English Literature course requires all the same skills of producing high quality written analysis in the time constraints of an examination.

Alongside this, you should have a wish to explore Literature in more depth and be ambitious about broadening your reading choices. You should have a love of reading and actively take time and effort to read, consider, and respond to a wide range of engaging Literature.

You should be confident and open in your approach to the analysis of the text and be willing to make 'fresh' and individual responses to the range of texts studied.

You should be enthusiastic and focused, able to identify and respond in detail to key aspects of literature such as structure and features of English Language.

This subject works well with...

The English Literature GCSE will help you to develop skills of critical analysis as well as your appreciation of quality texts. These evaluative skills can be transferred to all Art, Performing Arts and Humanities subjects, especially History, when considering contextual features of a source.

Future Pathways

The English Literature course is highly regarded in Further and Higher Education. The evaluative and analytical skills developed here can be readily applied to a wide range of subjects at A Level and Degree Level. These might include: History, Art and Politics.



Mathematics

Edexcel GCSE - 1MA1

If you achieve well in Mathematics, you are showing that you are a problems solver and a logical thinking. You can also demonstrate that you are numerate. All these skills are highly sought after in the job market and for most colleges and Universities courses a minimum of a grade 5 is likely to be required.

Course Content

Number:

This contains the four operations; adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing. If that wasn't enough, you will need to be confident with fractions, decimals and percentages as well as more specific topics such as indices, standard form and surds.

Algebra:

The replacement of a number by a letter is the starting point of algebra. Simplifying, substituting and solving equations are required at all levels. More challenging topics include simultaneous equations, quadratics and manipulation of formulae.

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change:

Ratio and proportion allow you to understand how things are divided up or put together whether it is from mixing paint colours to achieve the perfect shade to sharing dividends in a company. Rates of Change starts with relationships between variables such as speed, distance and time but develops to introduce Calculus; probably the most important pure mathematics topic beyond GCSE.

Geometry and Measures:

This section is all about shapes and measures. Angles, areas and volumes are the most visited topics but there are plenty more challenging topics to discover such as circle theorems.

Statistics and Probability:

If you want to find an average, this section is for you. The course also looks at graphs and charts of varying difficulty as well as the uncertain topic of probability. Venn diagrams are a welcome addition to the new GCSE specification.

Assessment

100% Examination:

Three written Exams

- One non calculator
- Two papers with a calculator

Each paper is worth 33.3% of the final grade.

Foundation Tier: Grades 1 to 5 are available
Higher Tier: Grades 4 to 9 are available.

Subject Specific Skills

Many students believe that you are either 'good at Maths' or you are not. We don't think that way and you will achieve, if the following list describes you:

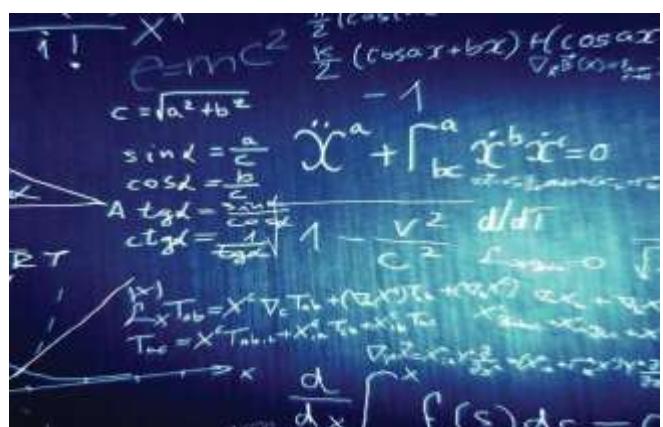
- I want to do the best I can. I am motivated
- I am resilient. I never give up. I always try every question
- I know what my Maths weaknesses are
- I know what to do if I can't solve a problem
- I'm not afraid of hard work
- I don't mind coming to after school support to fix my weaknesses
- I can work well with my teacher

This subject works well with...

Science, Technology, Geography and Business Studies.

Future Pathways

The big growth area in recent years is engineering and for this, you will need excellent mathematical skills. There is a massive demand for students who can deal with data, particularly from modern technology. Other, more traditional careers include: Banking, Accountancy, Actuary, Medicine, Statistician, Research, Analyst, Systems Analyst and of course teaching.



Science (Combined Science Trilogy)

AQA GCSE - 8464

Science is about investigating how the natural world works. Our Science courses are designed to engage student interest at every level by providing relevant and inspiring academic content a practical opportunity to undertake scientific enquiry and learn about specific process. Our Science qualifications provide choice and flexibility to suit students of different abilities and aptitudes.

Course Content

Biology

- Cell structure
- Transport in cells
- Principle of organisation
- Animals, tissues, organs, systems
- Plant tissues and organ systems
- Photosynthesis
- Respiration
- Communicable disease
- Homeostasis
- Nervous system
- Hormones in humans
- Reproduction
- Variation and evolution
- Genetics and evolution
- Classification
- Adaptations
- Organisation of ecosystems
- Biodiversity

Chemistry

- Earth and atmosphere
- Acids
- Redox and metal extraction
- Amount of substance
- Energetics and rates of reaction
- Equilibria
- Chemical analysis
- Organic chemistry
- Water
- Life cycle analyses
- Electrolysis

Physics

- Energy Transfers
- Waves Properties and The EM Spectrum
- Electrical Circuits
- Forces
- Energy equations
- Particle model

Assessment

100% Examination

- Two 1hr 15mins Biology Papers
- Two 1hr 15mins Chemistry Papers
- Two 1hr 15mins Physics Papers

Subject Specific Skills

Enjoy Science and investigation, ask questions and listen carefully to the answers solve problems and explain complex ideas to someone else.

This subject works well with...

All subjects work well with Science as it supports analytical inquiry and challenge yourself. In particular Science works well with Maths, Geography and Design Technology.

Future Pathways

Many students decide to take their Science studies beyond GCSE and Combined Science is an excellent preparation for any Post-16 Science course, whether it is A Level, FE course or vocational.

Careers include: Architecture, Medicine, Vet, Sports Scientist, Engineering, Researcher, Science, Forensic Science and many more!



Science (Separate Sciences)

Biology: AQA GCSE - 8461; Chemistry: AQA - GCSE 8462; Physics: AQA - GCSE 8463

Science is about investigating how the natural world works. Our Science courses are designed to engage student interest at every level by providing relevant and inspiring academic content a practical opportunity to undertake scientific enquiry and learn about specific process. Our Science qualifications provide choice and flexibility to suit students of different abilities and aptitudes.

Course Content

All topic areas covered in Combined Science Trilogy plus:

Biology

- Monoclonal Antibodies
- Plant Diseases
- Plant Hormones
- Trophic Levels
- Food Production

Chemistry

- Transition Elements
- Solutions, Gases, Percentage Yield, Atom Economy
- Identification
- Further Organic
- Using Materials

Physics

- Moments, Levers, Gears and Pressure in Momentum
- Using Waves
- Mains Electricity Safety
- Static and Electric Fields
- Uses of Magnetism and Electromagnetism
- Gas Pressure
- Uses and Dangers of Radioactivity
- Fission and Fusion
- Space Physics

Assessment

100% Examination

Two 1hr 45mins Biology papers, Two 1hr 45mins Chemistry papers, Two 1hr 45mins Physics papers

Subject Specific Skills

Enjoy science and investigation, ask questions and listen carefully to the answers, solve problems and explain complex ideas to someone else.

This subject works well with...

All subjects work well with Science as it supports analytical enquiry and challenging yourself. In particular

Science works well with Maths, Geography and any subject that requires research and critical enquiry.

Future Pathways

Many students decide to take their science studies beyond GCSE and science is an excellent preparation for any Post-16 Science course.

Career paths followed that can include science are: Architecture, Medicine, Vet, Sports Scientist, Engineer, Research Science, Forensic Science and hundreds more!



Art and Design

Edexcel – 1AD0

GCSE Fine Art is a fantastic, exciting course that builds up your creative skills and lets you develop your own work and ideas firstly with structured support then with more independence.

You will learn to explore the work of other artists and respond to their influence. You will refine your presentation skills and make exciting sketchbooks.

Course Content

For your portfolio you will work from direct observation and use your imagination. You will be encouraged to extend your range of skills through experimenting with different materials and techniques. You will also investigate relationships between Art and Design within a historical, cultural and environmental context.

The externally set examination in year 11 is to allow you to conceive, design, organise and complete a piece of work over a fixed period of time from one given starting point from a choice of themes.



Assessments

60% Coursework Portfolio

40% Examination Set Task Paper



Subject Specific Skills

Genuine interests in Art

Creativity

Maturity

Organisation

Independence

Good presentation skills



This Subject works well with...

Most other subjects but especially Humanities subjects.

Future Pathways

Advertising, Computer Graphics, Calligrapher, Photographer, Printing/Publishing
Artist/TEACHER, Gallery Museum Worker
Curator, Architecture, Freelance Designer, Theatre Set Designer, Graphic Design, Fashion/Textiles Design Illustration, Model Maker, Film/Media – Art Direction, Animation Design, Consultancy, Digital Design, Endless possibilities.

Business and Enterprise

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award

Business and Enterprise is an exciting course that will provide you with the opportunity to develop a broad understanding of how businesses operate and what you need to do to be a successful entrepreneur. No matter what career path you decide to follow, understanding business in all its elements, including managing risk, marketing, finance and project planning, is essential to all organisations including the creative industries, engineering, healthcare, recruitment and even teaching!

Course Content

Unit 1: Introduction to Business and Enterprise

Externally assessed, examination.

In this unit learners will show understanding of what it means to be an entrepreneur and how businesses are organised. Learner will develop knowledge of marketing, operations management and influences that affect a business.

Unit 2: Understanding Resources for Business and Enterprise Planning

Internally assessed synoptic project

In this unit learners will understand business planning, including research, resources planning and growth. Learners will develop knowledge of human resources and finance and how they support business and enterprise planning.

Assessments

40% Externally assessed examination.

60% Internally assessed project.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful you will need to develop your:

Team working skills – the qualification requires you to work with others either on small tasks or during the final project task

Communication skills – verbal and non-verbal communication skills will be developed.

Presentation skills – you will learn to present your work in a professional way

Initiative – you will learn what initiative is and why it is important in all aspects of life, including business.

Independent working skills – you will understand how to work independently on specific tasks

Problem-solving skills – you will be able to advise business on solutions to problems.

This Subject works well with...

Business Enterprise works well with all subjects at GCSE level. It works particularly well with Design and Technology subjects and Geography.

Future Pathways

From entrepreneur to charity worker to an accountant, study Business and Enterprise such as marketing or to combine all aspects of business by learning about how to run your own enterprise.



Business Studies

AQA GCSE - 8132

GCSE Business offers students the chance to explore how businesses begin, expand, compete and flourish in different markets all around the world. We learn from up to date current affairs such as the cost of living crisis, fluctuations in interest and inflation rates and how businesses must adapt. Students are tested on real world case studies and should also have strong interest in maths as we tackle challenging financial calculations.

Course Content

Paper 1: Influences pf operations and MRM on business activity

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human Resources
-

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activities

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Marketing
- Finance

Assessments

Paper 1: 50% Written exam 1hr 45mins

Paper 2: 50% Written exam 1hr 45mins

Subject Specific Skills

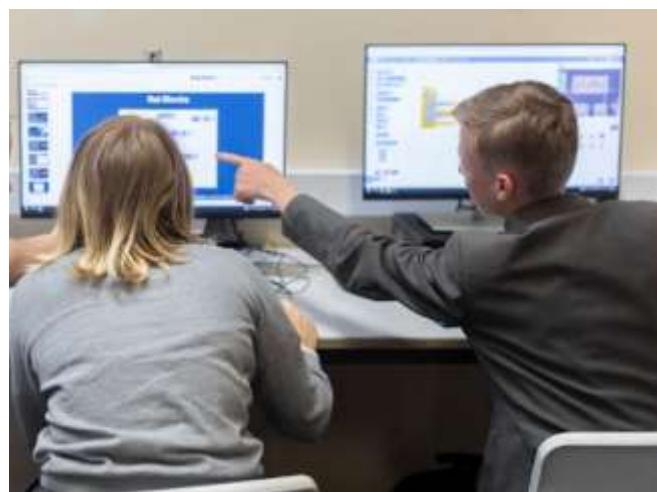
All business students are required to maintain a strong interest and awareness of current affairs, this includes regularly reading online articles or watching the news to learn about local, national and global business events. The course also requires a good levels of maths abilities [typically around 25% of the marks each year are awarded for financial calculations]. We always encourage students to work in a business like fashion, showing high levels of commitment, engagement and organisation.

This Subject works well with...

A huge range of subjects, but especially: Citizenship, Geography, Maths and D&T Product Design

Future Pathways

From an entrepreneur to management, studying Business will give you the skills to enter virtually any industry. In addition, Business gives you the choice to specialise in an area of business such as Marketing or to combine all aspects of business by learning about how to run your own enterprise.



Citizenship

Edexcel GCSE 1CS0

Students who study GCSE Citizenship develop an understanding of what it means to live in a democracy and the rights and responsibilities which come with this. Students also learn how the UK Government works, how our laws are made and the role of the justice system in upholding the law. Students get a chance to investigate news stories and discuss issues which have happened in the country from one week to the next. This allows them to develop their understanding of current affairs, to express opinions on these matters, and to debate with others in the classroom environment.

Students participate in their own Citizenship Action which gives them a chance to bring about a change or raise awareness concerning an issue. Through this, students develop skills including evaluation, analysis of statistical research and groupwork – all important skills for the 21st century responsible citizen.

Course Content

There are five themes:

Theme A: Living together in the UK

Theme B: Democracy in the UK

Theme C: Law and justice

Theme D: Power and Influence

Theme E: Taking Citizenship Action (students have to conduct a citizenship campaign)

Future Pathways

The study of Citizenship can lead to a range of future careers as it is embedded in all areas, examples being civil servants, public services, legal, political and medical professions.



Assessments

There are 2 exams at the end of year 11.

These account for 100% of your final grades.

Paper 1

Theme A: Living together in the UK

Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK

Theme C: Law and justice

Paper 2

Theme D: Power and influence

Theme F: Taking Citizenship action. In this section students will work in teams to run a campaign on a Citizenship issue.

Subject Specific Skills

This subject lends itself to students who enjoy learning about politics, law and society within Britain [historically and current]. Students must be able to conduct research, remember and recall statistics and be able to formulate and put forward opinions. Furthermore, students must have excellent group working skills in order to organise and launch campaigns.

This Subject works well with...

A huge range of subjects, but especially: English, History, Geography and Art.



Computer Science

OCR – J277

GCSE Computer Science develops your understanding of how computer systems work and how software is designed, written and tested. You will learn how computers process data, how networks and the internet operate, and how digital technology impacts individuals and society. Across the course, you will also develop computational thinking and programming skills, learning how to design, write and debug programs to solve problems logically and efficiently.

Course Content

The course is split into two elements:

Component 1- Computer Systems

You will study how computer systems work, including:

- systems architecture (CPU, memory and storage)
- computer networks, connections and protocols
- network security
- systems software
- ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Component 2- Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

You will develop your problem-solving and programming skills, including:

- algorithms
- programming fundamentals
- producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- programming languages and Integrated Development Environments (IDEs)

You will regularly practise writing, tracing and improving programs using the Python programming language, including developing a programming project of your choice during the latter part of Year 10.

Assessments

100% Examinations

Paper 1 – 50%

Paper 2 – 50%



Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

- You will develop strong **problem-solving and logical thinking skills**.
- You will learn to **design, write and debug programs** accurately.
- You will need to apply **mathematical skills** such as binary, data representation and logic.
- As the course is entirely exam based, you will need to work confidently under **time pressure**.
- You will be expected to show **precision and attention to detail**, especially when writing code.
- You will develop your understanding of how **technology affects society**, including ethical and legal considerations.

This subject works well with...

Computer Science complements subjects such as **Mathematics, Science, Business and Design Technology**. The logical thinking, problem-solving and analytical skills developed in Computer Science support success across a wide range of subjects.

Future Pathways

Computer Science is highly valued by colleges, universities and employers. The skills developed through this course are essential in a digital world and open doors to a wide range of careers, including:

- Software Development
- Cyber Security
- Data Science
- Engineering
- Game Design
- Artificial Intelligence
- Networking and IT Support

The course also provides excellent preparation for A Level Computer Science, apprenticeships and technical pathways

Child Development

NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award

Childcare is a growing sector in the UK and there is a shortage of workers in this area whether it's in education, nursing or traditional childcare roles such as becoming a Norland Nanny. Choosing this qualification will give you the theory and practical experience that you need to take this subject further as a level 3 course, progress on to university, into a job or an apprenticeship course.

Course Content

The qualification aims to:

Provide an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the early years sector or progress onto further study.

The objectives and overview of this qualification are:

Provide an understanding of holistic child development in 4 key areas;

- Physical
- Cognitive
- Social and Emotional
- Language and Communication
-
- Identify factors that influence the child's development and know about care routines, play and activities to support the child in their holistic development.
- Early years provisions including different settings, different work roles in and outside of a
- setting and legislation, policies and procedures in the workplace.
- Provide an understanding of the importance of observations in early years childcare as well as understanding the purpose of planning in early years childcare.

Assessments

50% Controlled assessment over 14 hours

50% Examinations

The exam is short answer questions for the most part with some longer answers (around 8 marks) towards the ends of sections

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

Like working with children

Have empathy and good teamwork skills

Be a confident verbal communicator who is able to adapt their language to suit different ages

This Subject works well with...

Most other subjects to give you a wide curriculum base.

Future Pathways

The course is perfect for anyone wishing to go into a childcare profession at any level, including Nursery Nurse, Nursery Assistant, Children's Nursing Playgroup Leader, Primary School Teacher, Registered Childminder, Midwife, Dietician or Paediatrician.



Curriculum Support

[By invitation only]

Curriculum Support is offered to students who will benefit from a slightly reduced GCSE curriculum to enable additional literacy and numeracy intervention. Led by our SENDCo and specialist staff, group sizes are typically small and students engage with Functional Skills English which complements their abilities in all other school subjects.

Course Content

TQUK Functional Skills English

Component 1: Reading (assessed through an exam)

Component 2: Writing (assessed through an exam)

Component 3: Speaking, Listening and Communication (assessed Internally)



Subject Specific Skills

Developing reading, writing and communication skills. Working in small groups, building Independence, building enquiry and research-based skills.

The subjects this works well with...

English Language and Literature, Geography, History and Horticulture.

Future Pathways

A pass at level 2 functional skills is equivalent to a grade 4 at a GCSE and can be used as an entry requirement for a range of post-16 courses. It complements GCSE English Literature and Language.



Design and Technology

Product Design Specialism AQA GCSE - 8552

The new GCSE Design and technology is a 21st century, career relevant subject, combining technical and design skills along with key employability skills. The Product Design pathways offered broad subject knowledge across all D&T material areas and is an excellent accompaniment to a full range of subjects, linking to numerous careers opportunities where there is currently a large skill shortage. This includes engineering and creative industries. It offers students a chance to use their imagination to solve real and relevant design problems, and with a hands-on approach and an opportunity to put theory learnt in other subjects into practice.

Course Content

The majority of this course will be taught through practical projects by exploring, creating and evaluating a range of design problems. The three main topics covered are:

Core Technical Principles – including an understanding of the working properties of a range of materials including new and smart technologies.

Specialist Technical Principles – developing an in-depth knowledge of at least one material area which would include using and working with the material, using specialist techniques, industry knowledge and how it impacts on planet Earth.

Design and Making Principles – understanding how to design and develop prototypes for a range of design problems, considering the needs of the user. Understanding how to carry out relevant research and how to communicate design ideas effectively.

Assessment

50% Non-exam assessment
(complete a portfolio and make a prototype)

50% Final exam



Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

- Have creative ideas
- Be interested in practical problem solving
- Enjoy hands-on, practical learning
- Work well as part of a team and listen to other's suggestions
- Be able to critically evaluate design ideas and suggest improvements
- Be organised and meet coursework deadlines

This subject works well with...

Design & Technology crosses a wide variety of subjects including Maths, Science, Geography, History, Computer Science and works well alongside business related courses or any creative subject such as Art.

Future Pathways

This course leads on to A Level Product Design, Design Engineering or Fashion and Textiles. From here there are many different routes to take ranging from Art Foundation courses, Degree courses, Further Education courses, Apprenticeships and Careers in the following areas:

Engineering: Civil, Mechanical, Architectural, Electrical and Electronic, Aeronautical, Automotive, Production, Restoration, Prosthetics, Robotics,

Textiles: Engineering Textiles design, Theatre and Film industries, Costume Design, Materials Science.

Product Design: Designing, Manufacturing, Marketing, Jewellery design, Spatial, interior, Landscape Design, Sustainable Design, Stage and Set Design, Furniture Design, CAD Technician and Construction.

Design and Technology

Textiles - AQA GCSE – 8552

The course enables students to express their creativity through a diverse range of textile media. A combination of traditional and modern techniques will be delivered to help students to design their own textile products from fashion garments to other textiles products such as bags, home furnishings, and other more abstract products ideas.

Course Content

The course is split into three key areas:

Core Technical Principles – including an understanding of the working properties of a range of materials including new and smart technologies.

Specialist Technical Principles – developing an in-depth knowledge of at least one material area which would include using and working with the material, using specialist techniques, industry knowledge and how it impacts on planet Earth.

Design and Making Principles – understanding how to design and develop prototypes for a range of design problems, considering the needs of the user. Understanding how to carry out relevant research and how to communicate design ideas effectively.

Assessment

50% Non-exam assessment

50% Final exam

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

- Have creative ideas
- Be interested in practical problem solving
- Enjoy hands-on, practical learning
- Be organised and meet coursework deadlines

This subject works well with...

Design & Technology crosses a wide variety of subjects including Maths, Science, Geography, History, Computer Science and works well alongside business related courses or any creative subject such as Art.

Future Pathways

The course offer progression to an A-Level in 3D Product Design / Btec in Art and Design 3D Products / Fashion and Textiles A Level. It could lead to any art-based degree course. Career progression:

Fashion Design, Fashion Buyer, Textile Designer, Fashion Illustrator, Pattern Cutter/Grader Stylist, garment Technologist, Personal Stylist / Personal Shopper.



Drama

OCR GCSE Drama – J316

If you have enjoyed any elements of Drama at school or even outside of school, then you will enjoy this course. You will need to be motivated and self-disciplined and you must be happy to perform in front of other people. To do well in GCSE Drama you must be creative, imaginative, hardworking and above all, a team player as this is a subject where working with others is essential.

This is a course where 60% of marks are in practical work and performing and we use Drama to explore a whole range of issues and topics. You will create drama from property, stories, film, songs, historical research and up to date social media reports. Students will also study plays and go to see a live theatrical performance, one of which will be analysed in the exam. There is also a written element with a portfolio of around 2000 words. This can be very creative with pictures, video, diagrams and sketches to help illustrate your analytical points.

Course Content

Component 1: Devising Drama 30%

Learners will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama. This is a Non-Examined Assessment.

Component 2: Presenting and Performing texts 30%

Learners develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. This is a Non-Examined Assessment.

Component 3: Performance and Response 40%

Learners will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama. Learners will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance. This is a written Examined Assessment.

Subject Specific Skills

Commitment, commitment, commitment! Successful Drama requires hours of rehearsing often after school and even at weekends or during holidays. You need to be prepared to work as a team and support other people (no room for divas!) and most importantly you must enjoy acting, creating and performing live theatre.

This Subject works well with...

Any other subjects, but especially: English, History, Geography, Dance, Art and Music.

Future Pathways

Apart from acting opportunities in film, television and theatre, there are a whole range of careers open to Drama students: Costume Designer,

Prop and Set builders, Stage Manager, Marketing and Publicity, Choreographer, Stage Combat Specialist, Theatre Managers, Directors.

With the skills you learn in presentation and performance, as well as increased confidence and brilliant communication skills, Drama students are sought after for jobs involving problem solving, communication and customer interaction. It is also useful for people studying Theatre Studies and Psychology A Levels.



French

AQA GCSE - 8652

If you continue to study a language at GCSE you will develop your ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing. You will be able to express and develop thoughts and ideas fluently. You will deepen your knowledge about how language works and enrich your vocabulary. You will acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a range of literature and new items. Along with developing an awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

Course Content

Assessment

Paper 1 (Listening) 25%

35 minutes (Foundation) or 45 minutes (Higher)

The exam is divided into 2 sections:

- Section A answering in English
- Section B dictation in French

Paper 2 (Speaking) 25%

7-9 minutes (Foundation) or 10-12 minutes (Higher) each with 15 minutes preparation time. Students are expected to take part in a short role play, Read Aloud, then describe a photo and have a conversation based on the relevant theme.

Paper 3 (Reading) 25%

45 minutes (Foundation) or 1 hour (Higher)

The exam is divided into 2 sections:

- Section A answering in English
- Section B translating French into English

Paper 4 (Writing) 25%

1 hour (Foundation) or 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher) Students are expected to translate from English to French and respond to longer writing questions.

Subject Specific Skills

To achieve your full potential and succeed on this course, you should:

course, you should:

- enjoy communicating with others
- be able to work well within a team by listening to the opinions and ideas of others

- enjoy analysing, evaluating and making reasoned judgements to present conclusions
- be able to think logically and like to solve problems
- have a confident grasp of grammar

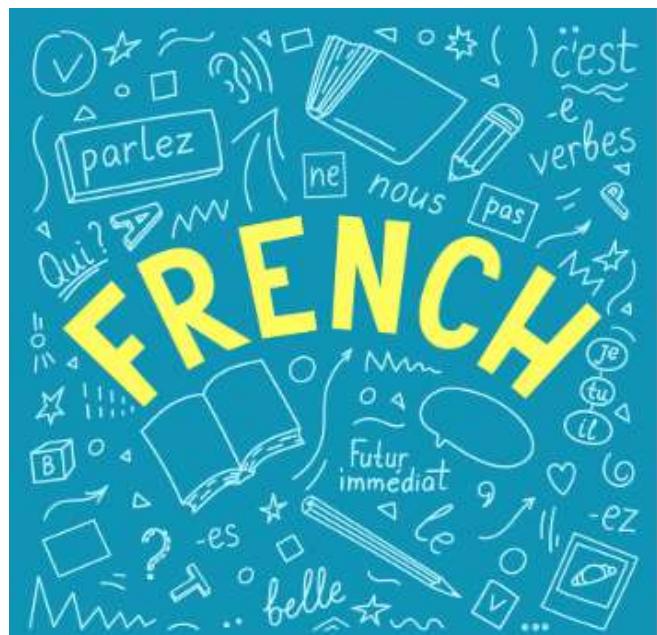
Most of all, you must not be afraid to make mistakes but just be willing to have a go at everything.

This subject works well with...

French is a 'facilitating' subject – it opens doors to universities. The skills you learn at GCSE will link to the skills you need to do use effectively in all other subjects. Languages help with cognitive development and create well rounded individuals.

Future Pathways

No matter what route you take in life, you will increasingly need to have an understanding of different languages and cultures, as the internet makes worldwide communication easier.



Geography

AQA GCSE - 8035

Geography is a relevant ever changing subject that will help you understand the modern world. Geography is the only subject which combines the humanities and the sciences. It has strong practical elements that allow you to develop real world skills such as field work, research and the use of IT.

Course Content

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment.

This unit is concerned with the dynamic nature of physical processes and systems and the human interaction with them in a variety of places and at a range of scales. The aims of this unit are to develop an understanding of the tectonic, geomorphological, biological and meteorological processes and features in different environments and the need for management strategies governed by sustainability and consideration of the direct and indirect effects of human interaction with the Earth and atmosphere.

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK (Coastal Landscapes and River Landscapes)
- Geographical skills

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

This unit is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change both spatially and temporally. They are studied in a variety of places and at a range of scales and include places in various states of development, such as higher income countries, lower income countries and newly emerging economies.

The aims of this unit are to develop an understanding of the factors that produce a diverse variety of human environments; the dynamic nature of these environments that change over time and place; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity for these environments:

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management
- Geographical skills

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

Issue Evaluation - This section contributes a critical thinking and problem-solving element to the assessment structure. The assessment will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate geographical skills and applied knowledge and understanding by looking at a particular issue(s) derived from the specification using secondary sources.

Fieldwork - Students will undertake two geographical enquiries, each of which must include the use of primary data, collected as part of a fieldwork exercise. Fieldwork will take place outside the classroom and school grounds on at least two occasions.

The two enquiries will be carried out in contrasting environments and show an understanding of both physical and human geography.

Students will be expected to:

1. Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate information and issues related to geographical enquiry.
2. Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings in relation to geographical enquiry.

Assessment

100% Examination

Paper 1: (35%)

Paper 2 (35%)

Paper 3: Geographical Applications (30%)

Subject Specific Skills

Analysing different types of information, e.g. photographs, graphs, satellite images, number data, maps and text.

An interest in the wider world. Research and practical fieldwork skills will also be developed.

This subject works well with...

Geography works well with Science in physical geography and helps with understanding of global issues relating to subjects such as Business.

Future Pathways

Many students will go on to take an A Level in Geography or other Humanities subjects.

You can specialise at Degree Level, to follow an interest in Physical Geography (for the science or environmentally minded) or Human Geography (for those more Humanities or Economics minded).

History

AQA GCSE - 8145

In History you will study the individual and events that have shaped our world. You will learn to be analytical, inquisitive and articulate; these skills will help you succeed in the wider world. This an exciting course with a great range of topics, from the significance of Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War, through the struggles faced by Elizabeth I, to the rise of the Nazi party in 1920's Germany.

Course Content

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

Section A: Period Studies- America, 1920 -1973: Opportunities and Inequalities

This period study focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of opportunity and inequality. Students will study the political, economic, social and cultural aspect of these two developments and the role ideas played in bringing about change. They will also look at the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and the impact the development had on them.

Section B: Wider world depth studies – Conflict and tension: the First World War, 1894 - 1918

This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of the Great Powers and other states. It focuses on the causes, nature and conclusion of the First World War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to bring war to a conclusion.

Paper 2: Britain: Health and the People: c1000 to the present day

This thematic study will enable students to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. It considers the causes, scale, nature and consequences of short and long term developments, their impact on British society and how they were related to the key features and characteristics of the periods during which they took place.

Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

This option allows students to study in depth a specified period, the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign. The study will focus on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints, and arising contemporary and historical controversies.

Assessment

100% Examination

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

50% of GCSE

Subject Specific Skills

The essential qualities you will need are determination and resilience; these qualities lead students to re-draft and improve their work in order to maximize their potential.

You will learn to communicate clearly; to write developed explanations (using PEEL); to question opinions and evidence; to substantiate your judgements; and most importantly, to identify those areas of the course with which you need further help; to ask for help will be the key to success.

This subject works well with...

GCSE History complements the written elements of English Language and Literature, Geography and Religious Studies. The analytical nature of History and the requirement to prove a hypothesis means it also links well with the Sciences.

Future Pathways

GCSE History opens up A Level courses in English Literature and Language, Law, Media Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Politics, Philosophy and Performance Studies. History has strong links to Law, English Literature, Economics and Politics at degree level, with many universities offering Joint Honours Degrees. It is important for careers in Journalism, Politics, Business, Accountancy, Education, Tourism, Conservation, Publishing and many others. History is in demand by employers as it teaches students to be analytical and independent thinkers.

Hospitality and Catering

WJEC Level 2 Vocational Award - 5409QA

This qualification I designed for those of you who love food and want to study food in a hands-on practical way.

This course will help develop knowledge, skills and experience that will open the door to a career in the food industry or catering environment. The hospitality industry is a growing sector in the UK economy and 25% of all jobs in this country are in the food industry. Studying this course helps you to develop key employability skills such as time management and budgeting.

Course Content

Every lesson is different, with a hands-on, practical approach to learning by exploring, creating and evaluating a range of problems.

The specification will give students the opportunity to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, product processes, diet and health choices
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes
- Prepare and cook a range of recipes using a variety of skills and equipment
- Present food to restaurant standard using appropriate garnishing ingredients and techniques

Assessment

40% Examination

60% Controlled assessment

(showcasing the skills you have developed)

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in Hospitality and catering you will need to:

you will need to:

- have creative ideas
- be interested in practical problem solving
- enjoy hands-on, practical learning
- work well as part of a team and listen to others suggestions
- be able to critically evaluate and suggest improvements
- be organised and meet deadlines

This subject works well with...

This subject goes particularly well with Biology, Chemistry, Sports and PE.

Future Pathways

This course prepares you for a wide and diverse range of careers in the Hospitality and Catering sector. Whether you choose to take a Level 3 course or get an apprenticeship, the range of roles include Dietician, Nutritionist, Chef, Baker, Food Sales or retail. Whatever your pathway, this course provides you with an excellent start.



Music

WJEC Eduqas GCSE

Music is a mainly practical course and allows those who love performing and writing music to gain a qualification doing what they love. As a qualification it develops your creativity, logical, problem solving, team working and independent learning skills, it is an exciting and rewarding opportunity to work with like minded people.

Course Content

Component 1: Performance

Students will need to perform for a total duration of 4-6 minutes. The performance submission requires a minimum of two pieces, including one ensemble performance of **at least** one minute.

WJEC consider the standard difficulty required at GCSE to be a practical Grade 3. Any pieces that are less or more difficult will be deducted or reward marks appropriately. There is no requirement to take practical graded exams to pass GCSE music.

Any style is acceptable, ranging from an accompanied exam piece to a pop song with a backing track. For the group piece, you can perform your individual part as a duet, trio, or larger ensemble. All performance work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2: Composition

You will have the chance to compose music based on a range of styles covered in 4 areas of study, using music technology and real instruments. These styles range from music written in the Baroque period to the present day. You will learn to develop musical ideas based around the genres.. This means you can write for a large number of instruments, even if you cannot play them yourself. They are completed under controlled conditions in school, but you are able to explore and develop ideas outside of lessons.

Assessed composition work will total 3-6 minutes in duration with one composition being a free choice of genre and the other being one composed in response to a choice from 4 WJEC-set briefs. All composition work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 3: Listening and Appraising

Students will complete 1 written examination in the Summer of Year 11 lasting approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. The appraising examination will consist of eight questions, two on each area of study. Of the eight questions, six will be on unprepared musical extracts and two on extracts set by WJEC which relate to two areas of study.

The 4 Areas of Study are:

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music
Area of study 4: Popular Music.

Assessment

Component 1: Performance 30% (Coursework)

1 minute Group performance minimum plus a further 3 minutes of solo or group performance.

Component 2: Composition 30% (Coursework)

Composition 1 – Compose to a brief set by the board
Composition 2 – Free composition

Unit 3: Appraising 40%

Listening and written examination

Subject Specific Skills

You will need to play an instrument or sing for the performance Unit. For project work, you will need independence, resilience, organisation, courage to take risks, share ideas and learn from a wide range of people.

This subject works well with...

Sciences, Maths, Languages, Humanities and other Arts subjects.

Future Pathways

Studying Music at GCSE can open up a wide range of career pathways. We have ex-GCSE Music students, who now work in the following fields: Musician, Studio/Theatre Engineer, Actor, Arts Management, Doctor, Engineer, Film/ TV production.



Physical Education

GCSE AQA 8582

This GCSE equivalent course in Sports is a great course if you want to develop a significant core knowledge and understanding about sport and health & fitness. It will give you a broad knowledge of different aspects of sport and cover these main areas: fitness and exercise, performance in sport activities, development of fitness and sports performance in action.

Course Content

The Human Body and Movement in Physical Education and Sport

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Movement Analysis
- Physical Training
- Use of Data

Socio-Cultural Influences and Well-being in Physical Education and Sport

- Sports Psychology
- Socio-Cultural Influences
- Health, Fitness and Well-being
- Use of Data

Subject Specific Skills

You need to have a strong scientific interest and background. You need to be participating regularly in at least one sport outside school to a high level.

You will also need to provide video evidence of you playing and/ or performing in your chosen activities.

This subject works well with...

GCSE Triple Science, particularly Biology and Physics. Please note that you cannot study Health & Fitness alongside the PE GCSE.

Future Pathways

A Level Physical Education, Human Biology, Psychology. Careers include Physiotherapist, Sports Psychologist, Sports Scientist, Sports Nutritionist, PE Teacher.

Assessment

Paper 1 (Examination) 30%

The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Paper 2 (Examination) 30%

Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical and sport

Practical Performance 40%

Assessment in 3 sports or activities as player/performer 1 Team, 1 Individual & 1 Other (25 marks each)

Analysis & Evaluation of Performance in 1 sport (25 marks) Can be written or verbal



Religious Studies

AQA GCSE - 8062MA

Religious Studies is a thought-provoking subject that encompasses a wide range of issues and big questions about life, what exists, how we should live and what it all means. Through this course you will gain a deeper understanding of how individuals and communities understand God, express their faith and how this impacts the life of individuals. We will also explore a range of ethical issues in the contemporary world, including gender roles, prejudice, sexuality, war, abortion, euthanasia, animal experimentation and crime and punishment. Through regular debate, you will practice your critical thinking and gain a deeper understanding of a range of perspectives.

Course Content

In Year 10 you will study both Christianity and Islam and explore their:

- Beliefs and Teachings
- Practices

In Year 11 you will study 4 Themes and the religious issues they raise. The Themes are

- Religion and Life
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment
- Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Assessment

100% Exam

25% Christianity

25% Islam

50% Themes

Subject Specific Skills

- Discussion skills
- Communication skills
- Textual analysis and interpretation
- Critical and evaluative skills

This subject works well with...

Other Humanities subjects such as History and Geography, as well as complementing core subjects such as Science and English.

Future Pathways

Religious Studies is useful and sometimes essential in many careers, including Broadcasting, Journalism, Teaching, Nursing, Medical professions, Social Services, Police, Politics and working abroad in areas such as International Aid and Development or Anthropology



Spanish

AQA GCSE - 8692

If you continue to study a language at GCSE you will develop your ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing. You will be able to express and develop thoughts and ideas fluently. You will deepen your knowledge about how language works and enrich your vocabulary. You will acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a range of literature and new items. Along with developing an awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

Course Content

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes.

The three themes are:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Current and Future Study and Employment

Themes are taught using a whole variety of resources, including authentic listening material, ICT, group work, pair work, project work and some grammar too. Well, we had to get it in somewhere!

Assessment

Paper 1 (Listening) 25%

35 minutes (Foundation) or 45 minutes (Higher)

The exam is divided into 2 sections:

- Section A answering in English
- Section B dictation in Spanish

Paper 2 (Speaking) 25%

7-9 minutes (Foundation) or 10-12 minutes (Higher) each with 15 minutes preparation time. Students are expected to take part in a short role play, Read Aloud, then describe a photo and have a conversation based on the relevant theme.

Paper 3 (Reading) 25%

45 minutes (Foundation) or 1 hour (Higher)

The exam is divided into 2 sections:

- Section A answering in English,
- Section B translation from Spanish to English

Paper 4 (Writing) 25%

1 hour (Foundation) or 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher)

Students are expected to translate from English to Spanish and respond to longer writing questions

Subject Specific Skills

- enjoy communicating with others
- be able to work well within a team by listening to the opinions and ideas of others
- enjoy analysing, evaluating and making reasoned judgements to present conclusions
- be able to think logically and like to solve problems
- have a confident grasp of grammar

Most of all you must not be afraid to make mistakes but just be willing to have a go at everything.

This subject works well with...

Spanish is a 'facilitating' subject – it opens doors to universities. The skills you learn at GCSE will link to the skills you need to use effectively in all other subjects. Languages help with cognitive development and create well rounded individuals.

Future Pathways

No matter what route you take in life, you will increasingly need to have an understanding of different languages and cultures, as the internet makes worldwide communication easier.



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