



**ASTREA ACADEMY
WOODFIELDS**

IN LABORE AD ASTRA

Year 9 Options Booklet 2025 - 2027



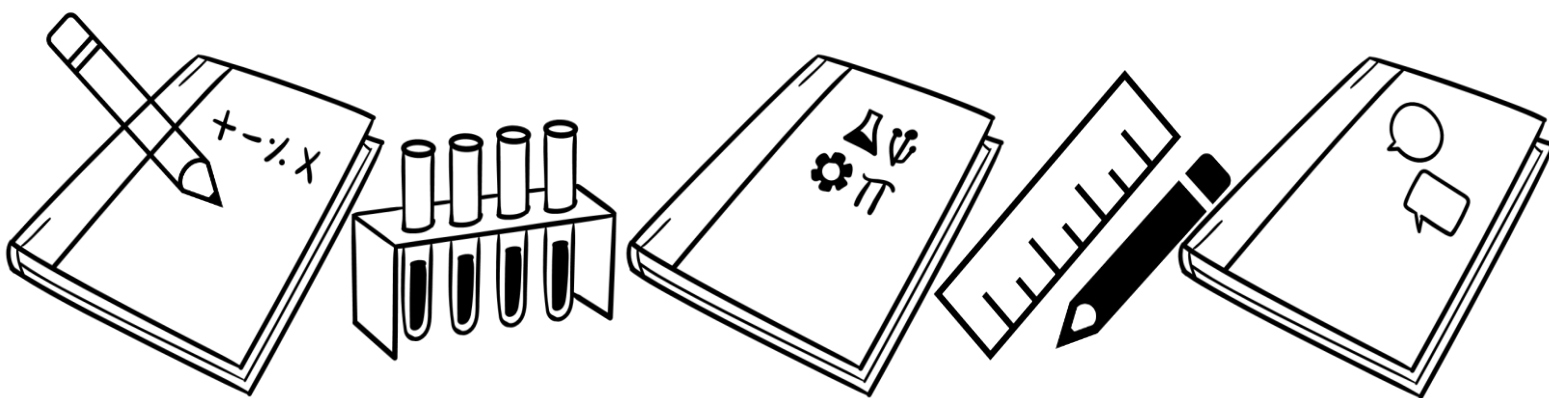
Scholarship



Curiosity



Tenacity





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Deciding which subjects to study is an important and exciting part of being in Year 9, as it gives you your first opportunity to choose the subjects that will lead you to university or a real alternative.

All scholars will study

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science (Combined or Separate)
- RE
- PSHE
- Core PE

All scholars will study an additional three subjects.

Our options process follows two pathways: pink and blue.

All scholars on the pink pathway will study Spanish and follow the English Baccalaureate. The English Baccalaureate is a combination of English, Maths, Science, History or Geography, and a language. Some colleges and/or universities indicate that they prefer scholars to have studied these subjects.

Scholars on the blue pathway can choose to study the English Baccalaureate by opting to study Spanish.

You can see your pathway on your letter.

Pathway	Option A	Option B	Option C	Reserve
Pink Pathway	Spanish	History Geography	History Geography Music Art Drama Sport BTEC*	History Geography Music Art Drama Sport BTEC*
Blue Pathway	History Geography	Spanish History Geography Music Art Drama Sport BTEC*	Spanish History Geography Music Art Drama Sport BTEC*	Spanish History Geography Music Art Drama Sport BTEC*



*Sport BTEC is not a GCSE qualification but is an equivalent qualification.

If you want to take Art and Sport BTEC we will check your attendance first. You will not be able to take both if your attendance is below 95%. This is because there is a lot of coursework and you have to be in school to complete it.

You can only choose each subject once.

You need to make your option choices by 8am on Wednesday 26th March.

We aim for all scholars to study their first-choice option, but if this is not possible, we will use your reserve option. We also cannot guarantee that all courses will run.

You will not be able to change your option choices after the deadline, so it is important that you make the right choice.

You should:

- Speak to your parents
- Think about your likes and dislikes
- Find out if you need particular subjects for the career you are interested in
- Leave as many doors open as possible
- Ask for help if you need it (Co29 team, subject teachers, Miss Smith)

You should not:

- Rush into your choices without doing some research
- Choose the subjects that your friends have chosen
- Choose a subject because you like or dislike a teacher. Teachers change!
- Choose the subjects that you think will be easy. Often they are not!
- Be afraid to ask for help.

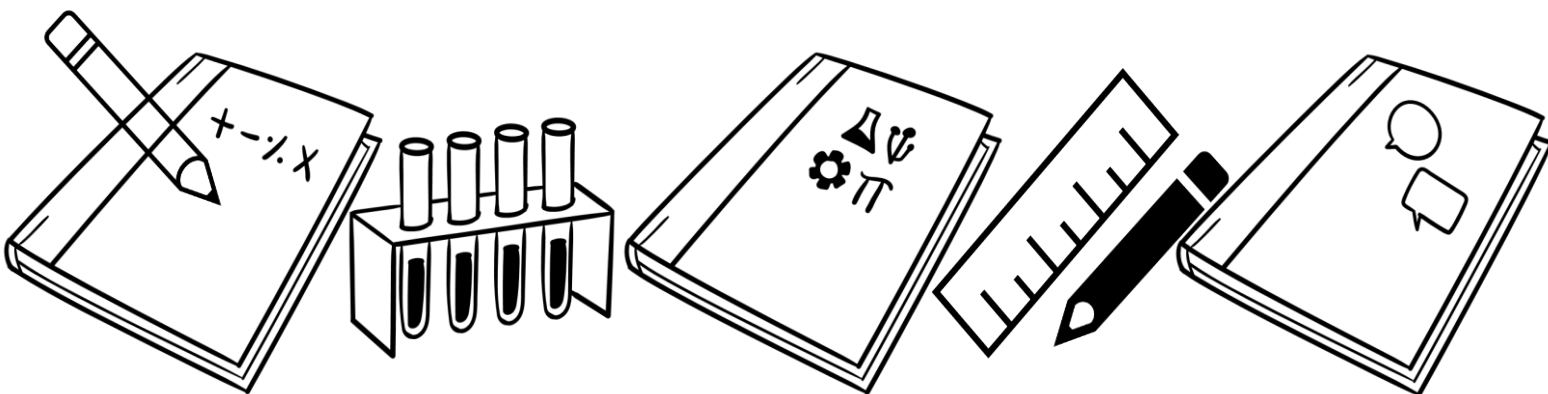
Compulsory Subjects

Examined Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science

Non Examined Subjects

- PSHE
- RE
- Core PE





English Language

Curriculum Leader: Mrs M. Coffield

Assessment Methods in English Language:

English is assessed through a series of examinations, which will take place at the end of Year 11. There are two papers that scholars will sit.

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of qualification

Section A (20%) – Reading

Understanding of one prose extract (about 60-100 lines) of literature from the 20th century assessed through a range of structured questions

Section B (20%) – Prose Writing

One creative writing task selected from a choice of four titles

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing

Written examination: 2 hours 60% of qualification

Section A (30%) – Reading

Understanding of two extracts (about 900-1200 words in total) of high-quality non-fiction writing, one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century, assessed through a range of structured questions

Section B (30%) – Writing

Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks

Component 3: Spoken Language

Non-exam assessment Unweighted

One presentation/speech, including responses to questions and feedback
Achievement in Spoken Language will be reported as part of the qualification, but it will not form part of the final mark and grade.



English Literature

Curriculum Leader: Mrs M. Coffield

Assessment Methods in English Literature:

English is assessed through a series of examinations, which will take place at the end of Year 11. There are two papers that scholars will sit.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and Nineteenth Century Novel (40% of GCSE)

Section A: This is based on the study of one play by Shakespeare, Macbeth, and will be assessed through one extract question linked to the whole play.

Section B: A Christmas Carol, will be studied and assessed through one extract question linked to the whole novel – following the same format as the Shakespeare question.

Paper 2: Post 1914 Prose/Drama; Anthology Poetry; Unseen Poetry (60% of GCSE)

Section A - Post 1914 Prose/Drama: One text will be studied, An Inspector Calls, and assessed through a source-based question.

Section B – Power and Conflict Anthology Poetry: One comparative question based on a given poem and theme to a poem of their choice.

Section C - Unseen Poetry: Having developed the skills of writing about poetry, you will answer two questions on poems you have not studied before; one of these will be a comparison.

Scholars will not have copies of these texts in the examinations.

All assessments include some marks for the quality of your writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar.



Why should I study GCSE English?

Studying English will allow you to develop your important empathy and communication skills. In a world that is becoming increasingly divided, it is crucial that we can understand the experiences of others and empathise with people whose experiences we can read about in the texts we study.

Good written skills are vitally important in most future pathways. In English, you will learn to communicate effectively through your writing. Additionally, there will be numerous opportunities to improve your speaking skills to provide you with confidence for the future.

Where will it take me?

There are very few careers where you will not need English skills which are transferable and highly valued in many occupations. English can lead to careers in law, the media, public services, retail, medical services or academic service. GCSE English Language is required for many further education college courses as well as apprenticeships. It is vital for any scholars wishing to take A Levels in any subjects.



Mathematics

Curriculum Leader: Mr L. Sanders

Assessment Methods:

In Edexcel Maths, scholars will sit 3 exams at the end of Year 11: 1 non-calculator and 2 calculator. These are worth 80 marks each for a total of 240 marks.

There are 2 tiers of entry. Foundation covers grades 1 to 5 whereas higher covers grade 4 to 9.

Brief overview of content:

GCSE Maths covers a range of mathematical concepts across several key areas. The main topics include:

1. **Number:** Basic arithmetic, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, and powers.
2. **Algebra:** Expressions, equations, sequences, and functions, including solving linear and quadratic equations.
3. **Geometry:** Properties of shapes, angles, symmetry, transformations, and theorems (e.g., Pythagoras' theorem).
4. **Measures:** Units of measurement, perimeter, area, volume, and scales.
5. **Statistics:** Data collection, representation, averages (mean, median, mode), probability, and interpreting data.
6. **Ratio and Proportion:** Proportional reasoning and solving related problems.

The course includes problem-solving, applying mathematical concepts to real-life situations, and developing reasoning skills.

Why should I study GCSE Mathematics?

- You will develop skills such as problem solving, analysing data, communication, logical thinking and attention to detail. All skills that can be applied to any future career path.
- Most jobs and careers will need you to use maths in some way and it's particularly useful in job families like accountancy, banking and finance, management, environmental sciences, construction, engineering and manufacturing, medical technology, and science and research.
- Having a grade 4 or above in Mathematics is something that almost all employers will look favourably on during the recruitment process.



Combined Science – Double Award

Curriculum Leader: Mrs L. Barraclough

Assessment Methods:

- Worth 2 GCSEs
- All assessment is by final exam the end of Y11.
- The exams will consist of 2 exam papers per science (6 in total) 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics papers.
- Each exam paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes and worth 70 marks. Each paper has an equal weighting in the overall grade.

Brief overview of content:

The course is divided in to 24 units of study which cover:

- GCSE Biology includes: Cell Biology, Organisation of Living Organisms, Disease, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Variation and Inheritance and Ecology.
- GCSE Chemistry includes: Atomic Structure, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rates of Reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Atmospheric Chemistry and Using Resources.
- GCSE Physics includes: Energy, Electricity, Particle Model, Atomic Structure and Radioactivity, Forces, Waves and Magnetism and Electromagnetism.

Practical will be used as a teaching tool wherever appropriate, including required practicals that are set by the exam board.

Why should I study GCSE Combined Science?

- Science is core subject that must be studied at GCSE but it opens up a whole range of opportunities, not just for those wishing to pursue science pathway.
- There are many disciplines within science that scholar can on to study further including medicine, research, engineering and teaching.
- In additional to this, the analysis, evaluation and critical thinking skills developed in science are transferable across many other career pathways.



Separate Science – Triple Award

Curriculum Leader: Mrs L. Barraclough

Scholars that are placed in group X1 or group X2 in year 10 will study the separate science curriculum and will have the option to sit the separate science GCSE at the end of year 11 which will result in 3 GCSE qualifications; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This could be useful for anyone interested in a medical or scientific career.

Assessment Methods:

- Worth 3 GCSEs - Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- All assessment is by final exam the end of Y11.
- The exams will consist of 2 exam papers per science (6 in total)
2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics papers.
- Each exam paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes and worth 100 marks. Each paper has an equal weighting in the overall grade.

Brief overview of content:

The course is divided in to 25 units of study which cover:

- GCSE Biology includes: Cell Biology, Organisation of Living Organisms, Disease, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Variation and Inheritance and Ecology.
- GCSE Chemistry includes: Atomic Structure, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rates of Reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Atmospheric Chemistry and Using Resources.
- GCSE Physics includes: Energy, Electricity, Particle Model, Atomic Structure and Radioactivity, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism and Space Physics.

Pink Pathway

All scholars must take

- Spanish
- History or Geography
- One additional subject

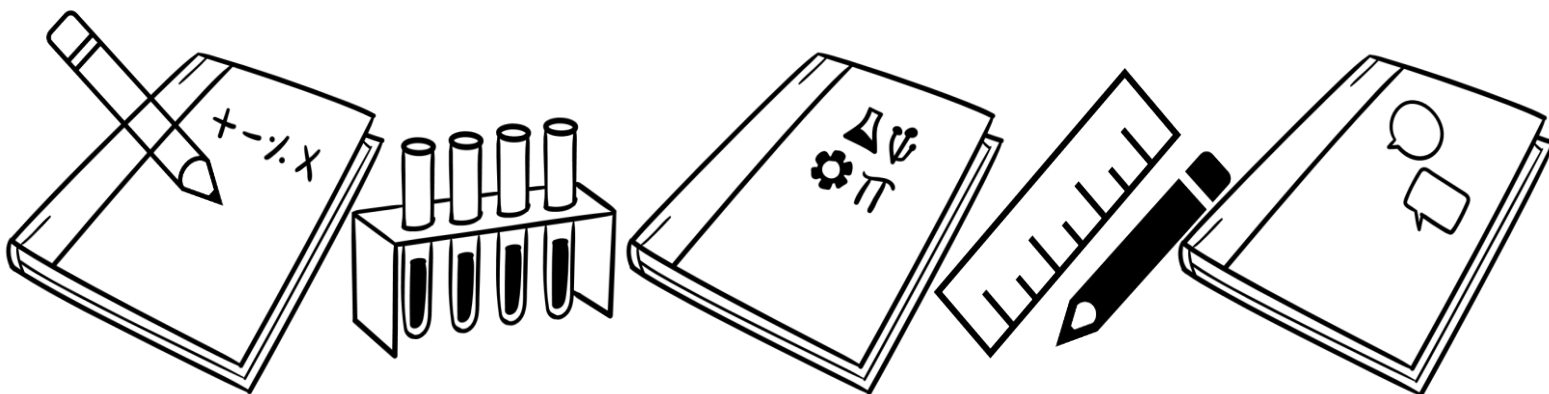
Pathway	Option A	Option B	Option C
Pink Pathway	Spanish	History Geography	History Geography Music Art Drama Sport BTEC

Blue Pathway

All scholars must take

- History or Geography
- Two additional subjects

Pathway	Option A	Option B	Option C
Blue Pathway	History Geography	Spanish History Geography Music Art Drama Sport BTEC	Spanish History Geography Music Art Drama Sport BTEC





GCSE Spanish

Curriculum Leader: Ms S. Bordeianu

Assessment Methods: In the Spanish GCSE AQA examination you are examined in four components each one worth 25%: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

1. Component 1: Reading (25% of the GCSE)

- **In Section A**, scholars' understanding of written language will be tested by a range of question types in English, requiring non-verbal responses or responses in English. The tests will contain some items which are common to both tiers. Responses will be assessed according to a detailed mark scheme. Scholars will be required to identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions from items such as public notices and advertisements. Scholars will also be required to infer, by using knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar.
- **In Section B**, there will be a translation of sentences from Spanish into English. In this context, translation means an appropriate and sufficient rendering of the meaning of the original language

2. Component 2: Writing (25% of the GCSE)

- Scholars will be assessed with different length writing tasks, going from:
 - Write 5 short sentences describing a picture
 - 50-word task to demonstrate language accuracy with 5 bullet points as prompts
 - Scholars will complete five short sentences with a missing word, selected from three options.
 - A translation of sentences from English into Spanish, requiring a minimum of 35 words.
 - Scholars are expected to write approximately 90/150 words to complete the task.

3. Component 3: Listening (25% of the GCSE)

- Scholars will be assessed with different listening tasks:
 - Listening comprehension
 - Dictation

4. Component 4: Speaking (25 % of the GCSE):

- Scholars will be assessed on their speaking through:
 - Roleplay
 - Reading aloud
 - Photo card discussion



Why should I study GCSE Spanish?

Studying GCSE Spanish offers several benefits, including:

1. Spanish is one of **the most widely spoken** languages in the world.
2. This course will build on your communication and **interpersonal skills**.
3. This course will enable you to learn about **culture** in the world around you.
4. Spanish is also an attractive choice for those who wish to **travel**, perhaps as cabin crew, for those who want to work abroad on a gap year helping disadvantaged people or simply for holidays.
5. It makes you a highly **desirable employee** as you will be able to showcase your foreign language's ability

Where will it take me?

Here are some options for the future:

1. **Further Study:** You could continue studying Spanish at A-Level which may lead to a degree in Foreign Languages. Many Russell group universities run Spanish degrees eg *The University of Southampton*.
2. Learning Spanish opens the door to a plethora of jobs, such as: **Interpreter** at the EU, Translator, broadcast journalist, diplomatic, sales executive, systems operator and patent examiner. There are many authors who pride themselves with knowing a foreign language. These jobs would put in contact with some of the most knowledgeable and important people.
3. Popular areas of **work** for those who have studied Spanish are **business and journalism**, where you will be able to converse with many people from around the world and interpret information effectively. It could lead you to create books for learning Spanish, consequently engaging with some of the brightest minds the world, like we have in Manchester at the *Instituto Cervantes*.
4. **Teaching and Spanish:** With further qualifications, you could become a Spanish teacher, sharing your passion for performance with others. *This could then lead you to Curriculum Leadership, Senior Leadership and maybe one day Headship!*

Employers value young people who can communicate effectively, lead others and express themselves, especially in several languages. GCSE Spanish helps you to do just that.



What will I study?

In the **GCSE Spanish** course, here's what you can expect to study:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Topic 2: Media and technology
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live

Key strengths required for studying this subject:

1. Confidence

Spanish involves speaking in front of people, which will in the end prepare you to speak to native speakers (just like our teachers!), this will give you the confidence to meet new people. **Be prepared to be asked questions and answer them aloud!**

2. Attention to Detail

Whether you're listening or reading a text with unfamiliar words, its tenacity that will move you forward into finding the right answer. Spanish grammar has small changes and is more complicated than English grammar. **You must be able to memorise and be keen to observe the changes in grammar with reading and listening tasks.**

3. Problem solving

Spanish requires to use what has been learnt, yet when we want to say or write something that we are not sure how to say, it is our ability to use what we know already to communicate our message. **Be prepared to think for yourself.**

4. Curiosity.

Spanish can be challenging yet is the desire to understand why things are the way they are that will enable you to understand more. **You must ask questions!**



GCSE Geography

Curriculum Leader: Ms A. Bowskill

Assessment Methods:

All exams are taken at the end of the course, you will sit 3 exams.

Paper 1 - Living with the physical environment

- Written exam – 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 6 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology - SPaG)
- 30% of GCSE

Paper 2 - Challenges in the human environment

- Written exam – 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology - SPaG)
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 3 - Geographical applications

- Written exam – 1 hour 15 minutes
- 76 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology - SPaG)
- 35% of GCSE
- Pre-release resource booklet available 12 weeks before paper 3 exam

Why should I study Geography?

GCSE geography is a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers, and hazards. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big issues which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

GCSE geography is designed to allow a large number of topics to be studied and to provide an insight into a variety of the most important and relevant geographical issues. This diversity also allows all scholars to find topics they are interested and engaged in.

Geography can be very practical, with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work



and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

Fieldwork, or working outside the classroom, is an important part of geography.

Whether you go locally or get the chance to travel further away, it will be a brilliant opportunity to experience some of the things you have learnt about in class, see things differently

You will gain a wide variety of transferable skills which will support you into your next stage in education.

Skills include:

- Visual communication skills;
- Place knowledge;
- Looking at issues differently;
- Highly relevant knowledge;
- Fieldwork;
- Data and geospatial skills;
- Teamwork;
- Geographical argument.

Where will it take me?

There has never been a more important time to use geographical knowledge and skills to pursue a career. None of the changes and challenges facing the UK and the world in the 21st century, including climate change, energy security, migration, urbanisation and globalisation, can be properly understood, let alone tackled, without geography.

This is the discipline that connects the natural and the human, the local and the global and in doing so, enables us to plan sustainably for the future. Whether your future career lies in the environmental sector, business, education, the natural or social sciences, the media, in geospatial industries or in travel, geography opens up a range of choices for your future work and career.

1. Environment and ecology
2. Town planning
3. Surveying
4. Cartography (making maps)
5. Conservation
6. Teacher
7. Weather forecaster
8. Environmental lawyer



9. Management
10. Business owner
11. Computer programmer
12. Travel writer
13. Market researcher

What will I study?

Paper 1 - Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Section B: The living world

Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

Paper 2 - Challenges in the human environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

Paper 3 - Geographical applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

Geographical skills

Geographical skills make up an important component of the GCSE course. You will not be assessed by having a distinctive section in an exam paper, instead they will be embedded throughout the specification and within all 3 exam papers.

Fieldwork

You will be undertaking **two geographical enquiries** where you will need to collect, process and evaluate your own primary data. The two enquiries must be carried out in contrasting environments and show an understanding of both **physical** and **human** geography.

Key strengths required for studying this subject:

- Scholarship
- Geographical curiosity
- Good communication skills
- Motivated to effect change
- Able to ask questions
- Challenge yourself
- Critical thinking
- Mathematical skills
- Debate



GCSE History

Curriculum Leader: Mrs J. Roe

How will you be examined / assessed?

The History exam is split into two History papers. Each paper is 2 hours long and worth 50%.

Why should I study History?

- We believe that scholars deserve a broad and ambitious History curriculum, rich in skills and knowledge of a range of different time periods and cultures.
- We study national and international history in Medieval, Early Modern and Modern time periods.
- Be exposed to different people's perspectives on issues and events throughout history.
- Develop an understanding of how to apply and write about historical concepts such as causation; continuity and change; significance; consequence; diversity.

Where will it take me?

- Studying History does not mean you have to become a Historian or History teacher. The skills you develop in History help you in any career that involves large amounts of information or making judgments.
- Many who study History go on to careers in Law, English, Politics, Sociology, Business, Journalism, Finance, Psychology, Tourism, Medicine, and others.

What will I study?

The course is divided into 4 topics that we study over the two years.

- British Thematic Study - Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day
- Period Study – Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and dictatorship
- British Depth Study including the historic environment – Elizabethan England, c1568-1603
- Wider World Depth study – Conflict and Tension: The inter-wars years, 1918-1939



How will you be taught?

- The History department will teach you history through enquiries and investigations within each of the topics as well as stimulating discussions and debates.
- There will also be analytical thinking about events and sources as well as lessons being mainly written based through note taking and practicing exam questions to prepare you for your exams in year 11.

Key strengths required for studying this subject:

- Time management and organisation
- Motivation and curiosity for the subject
- Scholarship and tenacity
- Good communication skills
- Able to ask questions
- Critical thinking



GCSE Art and Design

Curriculum Leader: Mrs A. Harker

Assessment Methods:

60% Portfolio – 10 Hour mock exam concluding project

40% ESA (Externally Set Assignment) 10 Hour Exam concluding the project

Why should I study Art and Design?

Art and Design at GCSE level will provide you with a creative and exciting opportunity to explore the visual world. You will develop a number of skills that are transferable to other subject areas, as well as knowledge of different art forms, media and techniques. Art opens up different possibilities to think outside the box and create your own unique body of work.

Where will it take me?

- Further study at A Level or BTEC Extended Diploma
- Can lead onto careers such as Architecture, Photography, Theatre Design, Interior Design, Art Teacher, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Marketing, Advertising, etc.

What will I study?


60% of your grade will come from a portfolio based on the theme of **Food and Drink**. You'll have the freedom to develop your own creative ideas and artworks within this theme. As part of the project, you'll research three different artists, explore new printmaking techniques, and improve your painting skills. One of the artists will be a sculptor, giving you the chance to work with clay and create your own 3D piece. At the end of year 10, you'll also take part in a **10-hour mock exam**, where you'll create a large-scale final piece based on everything you've learned throughout the course. This is a great opportunity to showcase your skills and creativity

40% of your grade will come from the Externally Set Assignment, this only starts in January of Year 11. The exam board will give you the option of 10 different themes, you will choose a theme and develop it into your own unique idea and follow the same process as the previous project where you will look at artists and will have a 10-hour exam at the end in May/June.




Key strengths required for studying this subject:


 **Creativity & Imagination** – Being able to come up with unique and interesting ideas

 **Drawing & Observational Skills** – Being able to sketch and observe details is important.


 **Experimentation & Open-Mindedness** – Trying out different materials, styles, and techniques


 **Research & Analysis** – Understanding and analysing artists work, and responding to it

 **Practical Skills** – Using a range of art materials like paint, clay, printmaking effectively

 **Patience & Dedication** – Art takes time! Being willing to refine and develop your work will help you achieve great results.

 **Time Management & Organisation** – Keeping on top of coursework, meeting deadlines, and planning your final pieces carefully.

 **Confidence in Presenting Ideas** – Being able to explain your thought process and artistic decisions in your sketchbook and evaluations.

 **Motivation & Passion for the Subject** – You'll need a real love for art to stay motivated, put in the effort, and push through challenges.

 **Taking Own Photographs & Completing Work at Home** – Being able to take your own reference photos and work independently outside of class is essential for success in GCSE Art.

Even if you're not the best at drawing, a willingness to experiment and improve is what really matters in GCSE Art!  



GCSE Drama

Curriculum Leader: Mrs J. Atkins

Assessment Methods:

In the **Eduqas GCSE Drama** course, you are assessed in a combination of practical and written formats.

1. Component 1: Devising Drama (40% of the GCSE)

- **Practical Assessment:** create a piece of devised drama based on a given stimulus.
- **Written Evaluation:** write an evaluation of the entire process.
- **Assessment Focus:**
 - Your contribution to the devising process.
 - The performance of your devised work.
 - The quality of your written evaluation.

2. Component 2: Performance from a Text (20% of the GCSE)

- **Practical Performance:** perform a scene or monologue from a text. **This is to a visiting examiner from the exam board.**
- **Assessment Focus:**
 - Your performance

3. Component 3: Written Examination (40% of the GCSE)

- **Theoretical Assessment:** This exam will test your understanding of drama as a subject and your ability to analyse live theatre performance and written texts.
- **Exam Structure:**
 - **Section A:** You'll answer questions about a play you've studied,
 - **Section B:** You'll answer questions on a live theatre performance you've attended,
 - **Assessment Focus:**
 - Your knowledge of the studied text.
 - Your ability to analyse and evaluate a live theatre experience.
 - Your use of appropriate drama terminology.



Why should I study GCSE Drama?

Studying GCSE Drama offers several benefits, including:

1. **Expanding your knowledge of theatre history, practitioners and plays:** You will learn more and in greater depth about the playwrights, practitioners, genres and theatre companies that you learned in KS3.
2. **Improving Communication Skills:** Drama helps build confidence in speaking, listening, and presenting, which are essential in everyday life and future careers.
3. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Drama fosters collaboration, cooperation, and understanding as you work together in a group.
4. **Emotional and Social Development:** Exploring characters and stories can deepen your empathy and understanding of others' perspectives and emotions.

Where will it take me?

Here are some options for the future:

1. **Further Study:** You could continue studying drama at A-Level which may lead to a degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. Many Russell group universities run Drama degrees eg *The University of Birmingham*.
2. You could also go on to study a non-Drama related degree at a Russell group university and then go on to a **non-Drama related career– A Level Drama does not hold you back!** *Eg you could have A Level Drama and still go on to do a degree in Maths at a top UK university.* The communication, creativity, and confidence gained through drama can be valuable in a wide range of professions.
3. **Acting and Performance:** You could pursue auditions for a professional Drama school eg *RADA, LAMDA or Rose Bruford*.
4. **Theatre Production:** If you're more interested in behind-the-scenes work, you could explore careers in stage management, lighting, sound, set design, or costume design within the theatre industry.
5. **Teaching and Drama Education:** With further qualifications, you could become a drama teacher, sharing your passion for performance with others. *This could then lead you to Curriculum Leadership, Senior Leadership and maybe one day Headship!*

Employers value young people who can cooperate, communicate effectively, lead others and express themselves. GCSE Drama helps you to do just that.



What will I study?

In the **Eduqas GCSE Drama** course, here's what you can expect to study:

1. **Devised Performance**

You will create your own performance piece based on a given stimulus. This involves:

- **Collaborating with peers** to develop ideas, characters, and scenes.
- **Exploring and experimenting with different dramatic techniques.**
- **Performing the devised work** and reflecting on your creative decisions.

2. **Textual Study**

You will study a couple of plays in depth, which might include classic or contemporary works. You'll explore:

- **Character development, themes, and structure** of the text.
- **The roles of different characters** and their relationships within the play.
- **Directorial decisions** and how they affect the performance.
- **Design elements** like lighting, sound, and set.

3. **Live Theatre Review**

You'll watch live performances (usually a professional show) and learn to analyse and evaluate them in terms of:

- **Acting, directing, and design elements** (lighting, sound, set, costume).
- How the performance communicates its themes, emotions, and ideas.

4. **Performance Exam**

You'll be required to perform a scene or monologue from a set text, showcasing your ability to interpret and perform dramatic material. This part of the exam allows you to demonstrate your acting skills and your understanding of the play.

Key strengths required for studying this subject:

1. **Creativity**

Being able to think outside the box when devising performances, creating characters, and interpreting texts. This may require you to put yourself outside your comfort zone.

2. **Confidence**

Drama involves performing in front of others, so being confident in yourself and your abilities is essential. **You must be prepared to perform in front of people who you know and people who you don't know.**

3. **Teamwork and Collaboration**

Much of the work in GCSE Drama is done in groups, so you need to be



able to collaborate well with others. This includes listening to different ideas, compromising, and working together towards a shared vision.

You must be prepared to work with whoever your teacher puts you with.

4. **Attention to Detail**

Whether you're working on a script, developing a character, or analysing a live performance, paying attention to detail is crucial. **You must be able to learn lines from a script.**

5. **Time Management**

Drama often involves rehearsals outside of lessons, research, and writing assignments. Being organized and managing your time effectively will help you balance practical work with written tasks and deadlines. **You must be prepared to stay after school to rehearse and come in at holiday times leading up to exams in Y10 and 11.**

6. **Resilience**

Drama can be challenging, especially when rehearsing or performing under pressure. Being resilient and not giving up when things don't go as planned will help you stay focused and improve.



GCSE Music

Curriculum Leader: Mrs J. Atkins

Assessment Methods:

In the Edexcel GCSE Music, scholars are assessed through three main components:

Component 1: Performing (30%)

This involves practical music performance. Scholars must perform both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble. Solo performances can be on any instrument or voice, while ensemble performances require at least two musicians, including the scholar.

Component 2: Composing (30%)

Scholars must compose two pieces of music: one to a set brief (a specific composition task) and one free composition (their own choice). These compositions are submitted as recordings or notation.

Component 3: Listening and Appraising (40%)

This is a written exam that assesses scholars' understanding of musical elements, contexts, and vocabulary. Scholars will listen to unfamiliar music and analyse it in relation to different musical styles, periods, and genres. The exam also covers the set works, which are pieces of music that scholars study during the course.

Each component plays a significant role in determining the final grade for the GCSE, with a balance between practical and theoretical skills.

Why should I study GCSE Music?

- 1. Creativity and Self-Expression:** Music allows you to express yourself in unique ways, whether through performance or composition.
- 2. Improved Academic Performance:** Studies have shown that scholars who study music tend to have improved cognitive skills, such as better memory, concentration, and problem-solving abilities. Music also enhances skills in other subjects, like maths (through understanding rhythm and patterns) and languages (through reading notation and understanding musical terminology).
- 3. Enjoyment:** It's engaging and fulfilling to study something you're passionate about. You'll deepen your appreciation of the music you love and discover new genres or artists that you may not have



considered before.

- 4. Sense of Achievement:** The sense of accomplishment when you complete a performance or composition is unique. GCSE Music allows you to challenge yourself, set goals, and see tangible progress as you improve your ability.

Where will it take me?

Here are some options for the future:

- 1. Further Study:** You could continue studying Music at A-Level which may lead to a degree in Music. Many Russell group universities run Music degrees eg *The University of Birmingham*.
- 2.** You could also go on to study a non-Music related degree at a Russell group university and then go on to a **non-Music related career– A Level Music does not hold you back!** *Eg you could have A Level Music and still go on to do a degree in Maths at a top UK university.* The creativity, and confidence gained through music can be valuable in a wide range of professions.
- 3. Performance:** You could pursue auditions for a professional Music school eg *Leeds Conservatoire*.
- 4. Teaching and Music Education:** With further qualifications, you could become a music teacher, sharing your passion for performance with others. *This could then lead you to Curriculum Leadership, Senior Leadership and maybe one day Headship!*

What will I study?

- **Solo and Ensemble Performance:** You will perform music both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble (group performance). These performances can be on any instrument or voice, and you'll be assessed on your technical skill and musicality.
- **Repertoire:** You'll have the opportunity to choose pieces of music that suit your ability and style. Your performances can range across various genres, including classical, rock, pop, jazz, and more.
- **Free Composition:** You'll compose an original piece of music based on your own ideas. This gives you the chance to explore your creative side and experiment with different musical structures, instruments, and styles.
- **Set Brief Composition:** You'll also need to compose a piece based on a set brief provided by Eduqas. The brief will ask you to create music that fits specific criteria, like using certain instruments or styles (e.g., creating music for a specific context, such as a film or an advertisement).



- **Composition Techniques:** You will study various compositional techniques, such as melody writing, harmony, rhythm, and structure, and apply these techniques to your own compositions.
- **Musical Elements:** You'll study the key elements of music, including **melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, dynamics, timbre, and form**. You'll learn how to describe and analyze these elements in different pieces of music.
- **Set Works:** Eduqas has a list of **set works**—specific pieces of music that you will study in-depth throughout the course. These works are from different time periods and genres, giving you a broad musical foundation.
- **Contextual Understanding:** You'll be expected to understand the **historical and cultural context** of the music you study—what inspired the composers, the significance of the pieces in their time, and how music evolved across different periods and genres.
- **Listening Skills:** You will develop the ability to listen to a piece of music and analyse its key features. For example, you might listen to a short extract and be asked to identify the tempo, instruments, key changes, or any specific musical features that stand out.

Topics You'll Cover:

1. **The Western Classical Tradition (e.g., Baroque, Classical, Romantic)**
Study iconic composers like **Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven**, exploring their music and its influence.
2. **Popular Music (e.g., Rock, Pop, Jazz, and Blues)**
You'll explore genres like **rock** (The Beatles), **jazz** (Miles Davis), **blues**, and **pop** (Elvis Presley, Beyoncé), learning about the development of these genres and their impact.
3. **Film Music**
This might involve studying how music is used to create mood and emotion in films, looking at composers like **John Williams** and **Hans Zimmer**.
4. **Musical Theatre**
You'll study the integration of music, lyrics, and storytelling in musical theatre, learning about composers like **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and **Stephen Sondheim**.
5. **World Music**
Explore music from different cultures, such as **African drumming, Indian classical music, or Caribbean music**, understanding their musical characteristics and cultural contexts.



Key strengths required for studying this subject:

1. Musical Skills

- **Instrumental or Vocal Proficiency:** It's important to have some ability on an instrument or voice, as performing both solo and in ensembles is a key part of the course. **You must be prepared to perform in front of others.**
- **Listening Skills:** You'll need to be able to listen carefully and identify musical elements, such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and texture.

2. Creativity and Imagination

- **Composing and Improvising:** For the composing section, you'll need to be creative and imaginative, coming up with original music. This can be on any instrument, using a variety of styles and genres.
- **Problem-Solving:** Composing involves a lot of trial and error, so being able to solve problems (like figuring out how to make a piece sound cohesive or how to develop a musical idea) will be essential.

3. Discipline and Focus

- **Practice and Dedication:** Success in music often requires consistent practice. Whether you're playing an instrument or composing, being disciplined with your practice will help you improve and prepare for assessments. **You must be prepared to practice outside of school.**
- **Time Management:** The performance and composition tasks need preparation over time. Being able to manage your time effectively to practice, compose, and revise for exams is crucial.

4. Understanding and Appreciation of Different Music Genres

- **Interest in Variety of Music:** You'll study a wide range of musical styles, from classical to jazz to popular music. Having an interest in different types of music and being open to exploring new genres will make the course more engaging and enjoyable.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Understanding music's role in different cultures and contexts will help in both the listening and appraising sections of the course.

5. Patience and Persistence

- **Handling Setbacks:** Music often involves challenges (like mastering a difficult piece or solving a composition issue). Patience and persistence will help you work through these hurdles without getting discouraged.
- **Willingness to Learn and Improve:** Like any art form, music requires continuous learning and improvement. Being open to feedback, practicing regularly, and striving to improve will help you grow as a musician.
- **If things go wrong, you must keep going.**



BTEC Sport

Curriculum Leader: Mr S. McClune

Assessment Methods:

2 Internally Assessed Components
1 External Assessed Component

Why should I study BTEC Sport?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport is for Scholars who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by exploring the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participation as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. They will also explore the different types of participants and their needs to gain an understanding of how to increase participation for others in sport and physical activity and further develop their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology.

Where will it take me?

Further study - Level 3 at college or 6th Form, Apprenticeships in leadership and coaching, employment within the sport sector. University to study Degree level.

Career prospects – Teacher, Personal Trainer/Fitness Instructor, Nutritionist, Psychologist, Sports Analyst, Sports Media, Leisure Manager, Sports Coach, Outdoor Activities Instructor, Sports Development, Lifestyle Advisor, Sports Therapy, Sports Event Management

What will I study?

Three overarching areas:

- Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity
- Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance
- Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

Scholars will undertake practical sessions to develop skills in planning and delivering sports activity sessions to participants. The qualification enables



Scholars to develop their sector-specific skills, such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge, and vocational attributes to compliment GCSEs. The qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

Key strengths required for studying this subject:

- Leadership
- Punctuality (Attendance)
- Tenacity
- A willingness to learn theory
- Curiosity
- Commitment to Independent research
- Organisation
- Regular engagement at Extracurricular Enrichment or competitive sport after school