



GUIDED CHOICES

Subject Directory

2026-28

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Introduction

This directory provides an overview of the subjects studied at The Burgess Hill Academy during Key Stage 4, including both core and guided choice subjects.

Each subject page is designed to support students and parents in understanding:

- what the subject involves
- how it is assessed
- the skills and qualities that support success
- how the subject may support future study or career pathways

The information included reflects the current exam board specifications and the courses we intend to offer for the 2026–2028 cohort. While every effort is made to deliver the courses as outlined, final subject availability may be influenced by student numbers, staffing, and timetable constraints.

For each subject, you will find:

- the qualification type (e.g. GCSE or Cambridge National)
- exam board and syllabus information
- assessment structure
- a brief outline of the course content
- characteristics of students who typically succeed in the subject
- any relevant or important additional information
- entry requirements where applicable

Students will study a combination of core subjects, which all students follow, alongside a selection of guided choice subjects. Together, these courses are designed to provide a broad, balanced curriculum that supports academic success, personal development, and progression beyond Key Stage 4.

If you require any further information about a subject, please contact the member of staff listed on the subject page, who will be happy to support you.

Entry Criteria

Entry requirements are designed to ensure students are well placed to succeed at Key Stage 4, and where criteria are listed, students are expected to meet them at the point of Guided Choices so that subject pathways are appropriate, manageable, and supportive of long-term success.

Subject	Entry Requirements
Art and Design	• ATL of 3 or higher in Art • Student should ideally have a target of a grade 4 or above in Art
Business Studies	• ATL of 3 or higher in English and Mathematics • Target grades of 4 or above in English and Mathematics
Cambridge National Health and Social Care	• No formal entry criteria
Cambridge National Information Technology	• ATL of 3 or higher in Computing • No logged incidents of inappropriate computer use
Cambridge National Sport Studies	• ATL of 3 or higher in PE
Dance	• Some prior dance experience outside of school
Design Technology	• ATL of 3 or higher in the Technology rotation • No recorded Health & Safety concerns in Technology
Drama	• No formal entry criteria
Film Studies	• ATL of 3 or higher in English • Target grade of 4 or above in English
French	• ATL of 3 or higher in French • Target grade of 4 or above in French
GCSE Physical Education	• ATL of 3 or higher in PE • Target grade of 4 or above in Science • Must take part in a sport outside of school competitively (to a high-level).
Geography	• ATL of 3 or higher in Geography • Student should ideally have a target of a grade 4 or above in Geography
History	• ATL of 3 or higher in History • Student should ideally have a target of a grade 4 or above in History
Hospitality and Catering	• ATL of 3 or higher in Food • No recorded Health & Safety concerns in Food
Music	• Ideally working at Grade 2 or above on a chosen instrument • Weekly instrumental lessons strongly recommended • Target grade of 5 or above in Music
Photography	• ATL of 3 or higher in Art • Ability to work independently and take photographs outside of school
Religious Studies	• Target grade of 4 or above in English
Spanish	• ATL of 3 or higher in Spanish • Target grade of 4 or above in Spanish
Textile Design	• ATL of 3 or higher in Textiles
Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	• ATL of 3 or higher in Science • Target grade of 5 or above in Science

GCSE English Language

Compulsory Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8700
	Staff contact point	Dr J Buckley
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	2 written papers
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	50% per paper of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	A speaking and listening task
	Taken	Summer term in Year 10
	Coursework percentage	0%, but recorded as a separate speaking and listening grade on the certificate
Brief outline of subject	The English Language course is designed to be accessible to all students while providing the right level of challenge to inspire and stretch their skills. It helps students read, understand, and analyse a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, and to write clearly and creatively using varied vocabulary and sentence structures. Assessments are carefully structured to build students' skills step by step, supporting them as they progress from shorter tasks to more extended responses.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	With steady hard work and a positive spirit every student can thrive and grow confident in their skills. English Language GCSE welcomes curious readers, thoughtful communicators, and creative thinkers.	
Relevant information that may be important	The exams focus on reading unseen texts and writing for different purposes and audiences, rather than memorising specific set texts. Students should be encouraged to read a wide range (fiction and non-fiction from different periods), discuss what they read, practise writing in different styles, and help them develop spoken communication skills.	

GCSE English Literature

Compulsory Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8702
	Staff contact point	Dr J Buckley
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	2 written papers
	When taken?	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	50% per paper of total marks
Brief outline of subject	Students study a mix of classic and modern texts: one Shakespeare play, one 19th-century novel, one modern prose or drama text, and a cluster of poems from the official anthology, plus unseen poetry. The course focuses on understanding, interpreting, and comparing texts, exploring themes, language, and context, and writing clear, well-structured essays. Beyond preparing for further study, the course nurtures critical thinking, cultural awareness, and a lifelong appreciation of literature.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	They are curious about themes, characters, language, and the historical or cultural context of what they read and are willing to engage in careful analysis and comparison. Strong writing skills, the ability to structure clear essays, attention to detail, and the motivation to revise and prepare for exams are also key. Essentially, students who are thoughtful, reflective, and persistent with reading and writing tend to do well in this course.	
Relevant information that may be important	The examinations are now “closed book”, which means no copies of studied texts will be available during the examination.	

GCSE Mathematics

Compulsory Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8300
	Staff contact point	Mr R Ferrier Mr W Haines
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	3 written exams
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	100% of total marks
	Tiers of entry	Higher and Foundation
Brief outline of subject	Students explore number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics. Students investigate and explore both abstract and real-life mathematics with the aim of developing mathematical understanding and developing the valuable and transferable skill of problem solving.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	With dedication and the guidance from the Maths team, every student can reach their full mathematical potential. Students who are analytical, committed to practicing skills independently, and capable of applying their knowledge to complex, multi-step problems can truly excel and grow in confidence.	
Relevant information that may be important	In Year 10, students are grouped by ability: Higher (GCSE grades 4–9) and Foundation (GCSE grades 1–5). This qualification boosts employability and future opportunities. Students predicted grade 7+ may be invited to study Further Maths in Year 11, while some Higher students not taking Further Maths can opt for a GCSE in Statistics at the end of Year 10.	

GCSE Combined Science

Compulsory Subject

Details	Exam Board	Edexcel
	Syllabus number	1SCO
	Staff contact point	Mr T Izod
	Exam Qualification	2 GCSEs
Exam Structure	How many exams	6
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	100%
	Tiers of entry	Higher and Foundation
Brief outline of subject	The course helps students understand key scientific ideas and how scientists think, focusing on principles rather than just facts. Biology: Students learn how living things grow, survive, and interact with their environment, including cells, genetics, ecosystems, and evolution. Chemistry: Students explore what everything is made of, how substances interact, and how chemical reactions and energy shape the world around us. Physics: Students study the laws of the physical world, including motion, forces, energy, waves, electricity, and magnetism.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students who have a curious nature, can explore and explain ideas, have the creative ability to model their scientific ideas and can develop a critical approach to scientific evidence will enjoy this subject.	
Relevant information that may be important	Students will receive 2 grades (for example, 5-4) in combined science - equivalent to two GCSEs. Students started studying the combined science GCSE course during year 9.	

GCSE Art and Design

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8202
	Staff contact point	Mrs C Bishop
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 practical assessment
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	40% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	2 assessed units
	Taken	Ongoing throughout Year 10 and Autumn term of Year 11
	Coursework Percentage	60% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	Students will learn many creative skills which are important in the workplace of the future. The course gives the opportunity for students to develop their own ideas with increasing independence and creativity. A variety of media such as painting, drawing, clay, photography, digital media (Photoshop), printmaking and mixed media may be used. There are opportunities for trips to London galleries and a GCSE lunch club.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students who are self-motivated and want to develop their own ideas in a creative way are usually most successful in this subject.	
Relevant information that may be important	The creative industries are some of the UK's most successful, varied and fastest growing sectors and they provide millions of fulfilling job opportunities. Possible careers in the creative and media industries include: Illustration, film, product design, graphics, video games, architecture, fine art, media, fashion, textiles, glassmaking, restoration, photography, management, television, curator, advertising, ceramics, jewellery, packaging, model making, interiors, sculpture, theatre, digital arts, teaching, picture researcher, publishing. The creative and cultural industries are increasingly recognised as not only being a "defining feature of the British national identity" and vital component of our quality of life, but also as vital to the health of the UK economy generating 100 billion for the UK economy every year, and employing more than 2 million people. 1 in 12 UK roles is now a creative job. the value of UK creative industries services exports has more than doubled - increasing by 122.6 per cent - since 2010.	

GCSE Business Studies

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	Cambridge OCR
	Syllabus number	J204
	Staff contact point	Ms C Gaiger
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	2 written papers
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	Each paper is 50% of the total marks
Brief outline of subject	Students are introduced to how businesses work and the key decisions they make. They begin by exploring why businesses are created, how entrepreneurs spot opportunities, and how companies grow over time. The course also looks at the importance of marketing and how businesses manage and support their staff. They also learn about business finance, including profit, loss and cash flow, and where money for a business comes from. Finally, students consider the wider world of business, exploring how companies respond to ethical and environmental issues, changes in the economy, global influences, and how different business functions rely on one another. Business Studies also emphasises real-life business thinking, including decision-making, problem-solving, and quantitative analysis. This could be very useful for students interested in business, entrepreneurship, finance, or economics.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students who succeed at this subject have a good standard of written English and numeracy and have a good awareness of current affairs. The subject is very complementary to a wide range of guided choices.	
Relevant information that may be important	Access to a computer and a quiet space for study will support homework and revision. Students should be comfortable with basic calculations and able to think analytically, solve problems and explain ideas clearly. An interest in real-world business and current affairs is helpful, and good organisation and consistent revision are essential, as the course is assessed entirely by exams.	

GCSE Equivalent: Cambridge National Health and Social Care

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	Cambridge OCR
	Syllabus number	J835
	Staff contact point	Mr R Barrie
	Exam qualification	Level 1 or Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 written paper
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	40% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	2 non-exam assessments
	Taken	1 in Year 10 and 1 in Year 11
	Coursework percentage	60% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	This qualification will give a practical, real-world understanding of health and social care: how care works, what rights individuals have, how to support people at different life stages, and how to communicate and work with people needing care. Students learn both knowledge (theory) and skills that are useful not just if they go into healthcare, but in many jobs and everyday life: communication, planning, research, evaluation, working with people.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students who are caring and kind who work well with others. Students must be organised, have a strong work ethic and can manage deadlines.	
Relevant information that may be important	This course is good for students who hope to have careers working in nursing or care e.g. Nurses, social workers, care assistants, medical professionals and nursery key workers.	

GCSE Equivalent: Cambridge National Information Technology

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	Cambridge OCR
	Syllabus number	J836
	Staff contact point	Ms C Gaiger
	Exam qualification	Level 1 or Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 written paper
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	40% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	2 non-exam assessments
	Taken	1 in Year 10 and 1 in Year 11
	Coursework Percentage	60% (30% each) of total marks
Brief outline of subject	The collection and communication of data and storing of data/information happens all around us. Technology underpins how it's collected and communicated nearly all the time. It can be seen in all walks of life; from a wearable fitness tracker recording how many steps you have taken, your mobile phone provider recording your usage to create your bill or an online retailer being able to target you with specific promotions based on your purchase history. Knowing how and why data is gathered and being able to turn raw data into something meaningful using both spreadsheets and augmented reality is essential as the learner moves through education and into employment. To be able to do this the candidates will need to have the confidence to plan a project within the Project Life Cycle using a range of information technology, as well as being adaptable and resilient enough to work with new software and to develop creative solutions which fit client and user requirements.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students need to have a keen interest in IT, demonstrate both resilience and an aptitude for problem solving and be able to apply their skills in a range of scenarios. The ability to work independently is key for the NEA units as students will need to plan their own response to the client briefs.	
Relevant information that may be important	All results are awarded on the following scale: Level 2 – Distinction* (*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2) Level 1 – Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1) and Unclassified. These awards are equivalent to GCSE grades.	

GCSE Equivalent: Cambridge National Sport Studies

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	OCR Cambridge National
	Syllabus number	J829
	Member of staff responsible	Mrs G Rayland
	Accreditation	Level 1 or Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 written paper
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	40% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	2 non-exam assessments
	Taken	Ongoing throughout Year 10 and Year 11
	Coursework percentage	60% of total marks (1 =40% and 1 = 20%)
Brief outline of the subject	OCR Sport Studies is a GCSE-equivalent course that explores both the practical and theoretical aspects of sport. Students develop skills in leadership, performance, and organisation, while learning about the role of sport in society. The course combines practical activities with written work, research, and presentations. Assessment includes non-examined coursework (60%), focused on performance, leadership, and outdoor and adventurous activities, alongside a written exam (40%) covering participation, sporting values, major events, governing bodies, and the use of technology in sport.	
Characteristics of students who succeed in this subject	Successful students enjoy being active and participating in a range of sports. They are organised, able to plan and lead sessions, and reflective about their own and others' performance. Students who work well in teams, communicate effectively, manage deadlines, and prefer coursework and computer-based tasks tend to thrive in this subject.	
Relevant information that may be important	This course supports progression into employment in the sport and active leisure sector or further study, including BTEC Level 3, Cambridge Technicals in Sport Studies or Sport and Exercise Science, and AS or A level PE. Students must commit fully to practical lessons, as performance is assessed, and coursework deadlines are frequent. The course develops leadership, organisation, planning, problem-solving, decision-making, research, presentation, evaluation skills, and a strong understanding of health and safety in sport.	

GCSE Dance

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	TBC
	Syllabus number	TBC
	Staff contact point	Mrs Hannah Frean
	Exam qualification	GCSE/ GCSE equivalent
Exam Structure	How many exams	TBC
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	TBC
Coursework Structure	How many exams	TBC
	Taken	TBC
	Coursework percentage	TBC
Brief outline of subject	A course designed to develop dance performance and creative skills, understanding of rehearsal & production processes, and reflective evaluation of work.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students will enjoy practical, active learning and expressing themselves through performance. They are creative, work well as part of a team, and respond positively to feedback. Resilience and self-discipline are important, as regular rehearsal and improvement are expected. Dance students benefit from good coordination and expression, while vocational pathways suit those who can link performance skills to real-world industry practice.	
Relevant information that may be important	The course is largely practical and focuses on developing students' performance, rehearsal and creative skills through regular practical lessons. Assessment typically includes a combination of practical performances, coursework and written elements, such as evaluations, reflections and written exams.	

GCSE Design Technology

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8552
	Staff contact point	Mrs D Alexander-Lindsay
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 written paper
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	50% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	1 non-exam assessment
	Taken	June Year 10 to February Year 11
	Coursework percentage	50% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	Students will build on KS3 knowledge to use the design process. Starting from a design brief, researching possible solutions & being creative in their ideas. A significant amount of theory is covered, to allow students the widest access to Modern Design Principles. Students will learn a wide range of techniques, which allow them to develop their ideas from hand and electronic drawings through to digital and physical 3D models. They learn a wide range of manufacturing techniques to produce a final product from a range of materials including timber, metal, polymers, textiles and paper and board. While the course includes practical work, most lessons focus on theory, design concepts, and understanding materials and processes, rather than hands-on making every session.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students will thrive in this area if they are organised and able to work independently, while also showing resilience by trying new things, learning from mistakes, and moving forward with confidence. They should enjoy expressing ideas through drawing and have good hand-eye coordination, alongside a creative and imaginative approach to tasks. A sensible attitude toward health and safety is important, as is a basic understanding of how technology affects our everyday lives. Most importantly, this pathway suits young people who want to make a practical, positive difference to the world around them.	
Relevant information that may be important	This course is an excellent starting point for anyone wishing to become a designer, engineer or any other careers that invent, develop or create real things that we all use. Anyone intending to enter any vocational qualifications such as engineering, fashion or manufacturing or anyone looking at practical apprenticeships should look seriously at the range of skills that can be learnt and transferred from Design and Technology.	

GCSE Drama

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8261
	Staff contact point	Ms. Agius
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 written paper
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	40% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	2 non-exam assessments
	Taken	To be completed across years 10 and 11.
	Coursework percentage	30% of total marks per assessment
Brief outline of subject	GCSE Drama encourages students to develop critical thinking skills and become effective and independent learners. With the focus on working imaginatively, collaborating creatively and communicating effectively, GCSE Drama provides a solid foundation for further Drama studies and vocational opportunities.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students should be open to trying new approaches, willing to support their classmates, and able to manage themselves—and sometimes others—during practical activities. An interest in learning creatively is essential.	
Relevant information that may be important	This GCSE provides a strong foundation for those wishing to go on to college or university to do advanced performance and stage management courses and very useful for those considering jobs in which having the confidence to meet the public is part of their everyday working practice.	

GCSE Film Studies

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	Eduqas
	Syllabus number	C670QS
	Staff contact point	Mrs S Christiansen
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	2 written papers
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	70% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	1
	Taken	By May of Year 11
	Coursework percentage	30% of total marks
Brief outline of the subject	This course builds on students' interest in film to explore how films work technically, artistically, and culturally. Students study films from different countries and time periods, learning how camera work, editing, sound, acting, and design create meaning and impact. The course also includes a creative component, allowing students to apply their learning through filmmaking or screenwriting.	
Characteristics of students who succeed in this subject	Successful students are curious about film history and technology and are willing to learn new technical skills such as filming, editing, and scriptwriting. Creative learners thrive, particularly those who enjoy developing and producing original work. The analytical aspects of the course also suit students who are confident in English and History.	
Relevant information that may be important	GCSE Film Studies provides a strong foundation for further study at A level or university and is valuable for students interested in careers in film or media. The course also develops transferable skills such as project management, teamwork, responding to a brief, and meeting deadlines, which are highly valued across a wide range of careers.	

GCSE French

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	Edexcel
	Syllabus number	1Fr1
	Staff contact point	Mrs S Johnsen
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	3 exam papers (listening, reading and writing) and 1 speaking exam
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	100% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	GCSE French is designed to help students communicate confidently in French while also understanding French-speaking cultures. It covers six broad themes: My personal world (family and friends), Lifestyle and wellbeing, My neighbourhood, Media and technology, Studying and my future, and Travel and tourism. Within each theme, students practise listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They learn vocabulary, grammar, and practical skills to communicate confidently and prepare for future study, work, or travel.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	A student who would thrive in French is someone with a curiosity about other cultures and a desire to explore new perspectives. They enjoy communicating with others, whether in conversation or in writing, and approach challenges with resilience, viewing errors as opportunities to improve and grow.	
Relevant information that may be important	Learning a modern language equips students with valuable communication skills that last a lifetime and are useful in a wide range of careers. Because of this, a GCSE in languages is highly regarded by leading universities and employers.	

GCSE Physical Education

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8582
	Staff contact point	Mrs G Rayland
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	2 written papers
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	60% of total marks (Paper 1 – 30% and Paper 2 – 30%)
Coursework practical structure	How many exams	3 practical activities (include one team and one individual sport)
	Taken	Throughout Year 10 and start of Year 11
	Coursework Percentage	30% of total marks
Coursework written structure	How many exams	1 performance analysis assessment
	Taken	Summer term Year 10 and Autumn term of Year 11
	Coursework Percentage	10% of total marks
Brief outline of the subject	AQA GCSE Physical Education combines the study of the human body, sports science, and practical performance in sport. Students learn how the body works and the factors that influence performance and participation. Assessment: two written papers (60%) plus NEA (40%) made up of practical performance in three activities (30%) and analysis and evaluation in one activity (10%).	
Characteristics of students who succeed in this subject	Successful students typically participate in sport to a high level and enjoy combining practical performance with written theory. They are reflective, able to analyse and improve their own performance, and work well as part of a team. Good organisation, commitment to homework, and an interest in sport and sports science support success in this subject.	
Relevant information that may be important	GCSE PE provides a strong foundation for further study and careers in areas such as sports science, physiotherapy, coaching, and sports leadership. The course develops physical and technical skills, leadership, teamwork, communication, and analytical thinking, alongside an understanding of anatomy, physiology, psychology, and health.	

GCSE Geography

Students need to select Geography or History

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8035
	Staff contact point	Mr D Adam
	Exam Qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	3 written papers
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	100% of total marks
Fieldwork Structure	Content	Students will complete two fieldwork investigations—one physical and one human. Examples include studying coastal erosion at Birling Gap and exploring sustainable urban communities in Brighton. These trips offer hands-on experience in data collection, analysis, and evaluating geographical processes.
Brief outline of subject	GCSE Geography provides a fascinating insight into the world around us. Key topics include: Living with the Physical Environment: Natural hazards (e.g., earthquakes, hurricanes), ecosystems, coastal/river landscapes. Challenges in the Human Environment: Urban issues (e.g., Rio de Janeiro and urban sustainability), the development gap, and resource management (e.g., water and energy). Geographical Applications and Skills: Decision-making tasks, fieldwork techniques, and map reading skills. Students will develop key skills in analysis, evaluation, and problem-solving, alongside using maps, GIS, and data interpretation.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Successful geography students are curious about the world, able to analyse information and draw conclusions, and stay organised by revising regularly and meeting deadlines. They also work well with others, contributing positively during fieldwork and group discussions.	
Relevant information that may be important	Geography complements all other guided choice subjects by developing transferable skills that are valuable in further education and future careers. The course provides a strong foundation for A-level Geography and opens pathways to careers in areas such as urban planning, environmental management, and business. Field trips are an essential, mandatory part of the course, giving students practical, hands-on experience.	

GCSE History

Students need to select Geography or History

Details	Exam Board	Edexcel
	Syllabus number	1H10
	Staff contact point	Mrs C A Preston
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	3 written papers
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	100% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	History course allows students to explore significant events and societies from British and world history. It helps pupils develop skills in asking questions about the past, analysing sources, and thinking critically about how history is interpreted. The course includes thematic studies such as crime and punishment, medicine, or migration in Britain, as well as in-depth studies of specific periods in British and world history. Overall, the course aims to build a strong understanding of history and critical thinking skills that students can use in further study or everyday life.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	“History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.” – Cicero (106BC – 43BC) A successful history student will be dynamic, opinionated, aspirational, and curious about the world around them and be able to see events in a wider context. They will be keen to discuss and debate key historical events and relate them to society today. They should be able to enjoy expressing their views and ideas in extended written work.	
Relevant information that may be important	Potential future careers: Law, Journalism, Civil Service, Medicine, Teaching.	

GCSE Equivalent: Hospitality and Catering

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	WJEC
	Syllabus number	603/7022/1
	Staff contact point	Mx Edgerton
	Exam Qualification	Technical Award
Exam Structure	How many exams	1
	Taken	June (Year 11)
	Percentage of final mark	40%
Coursework Structure	How many exams	1
	Taken	September (Year 11)
	Coursework percentage	60%
Brief outline of the subject	This qualification is made up of two units. Unit 1 focuses on the Hospitality and Catering industry, where students learn about different types of providers, working in the industry, and the importance of health, safety, and food hygiene, including food-related causes of ill health. Unit 2 is practical and skills-based, focusing on nutrition, menu planning, and the skills needed to prepare, cook, present, and evaluate dishes effectively.	
Characteristics of students who succeed in this subject	Successful students enjoy practical, people-focused learning and work well as part of a team. They communicate clearly, stay organised, manage their time effectively, and pay close attention to detail. They are hard-working, adaptable, and willing to learn new skills, particularly around food preparation, hygiene, and customer service. An interest in food, cooking, or working with people is helpful, but not essential.	
Relevant information that may be important	This course develops a wide range of transferable skills valued by employers, colleges, and universities, including communication, confidence, organisation, problem-solving, independent learning, research, self-discipline, time management, stamina, and taking responsibility. These skills support progression into further education, apprenticeships, and employment within and beyond the hospitality sector.	

GCSE Music

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	Eduqas
	Syllabus number	C660
	Staff contact point	Mrs H Frean
	Accreditation	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 written paper
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	40% of total marks
Composing Structure	How many	2 compositions
	When Taken	During Year 10 and Year 11
	Composing percentage	30% of total marks
Performing Structure	How many exams	2 performing exams
	Taken	During Year 11
	Performing percentage	30% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	GCSE Music is a course that consists of FOUR <i>Areas of Study</i> - covering music from Mozart to The Beatles and beyond, by way of <i>Africa</i> and <i>India</i>. Students will explore these areas using practical activities, music technology and by simply listening! If students don't already learn an instrument, it's not too late to start. Students can also offer singing for their performance.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	To be successful, students must be confident at performing, listening and composing music. Students must be willing to put in time outside of lessons to rehearse for performances. Reading music is not a requirement, students will be taught the necessary skills relevant for passing the course.	
Relevant information that may be important	Studying music is proven to help the brain develop. Whilst not every student will become the next Ed Sheeran or John Williams there are many other benefits, these include: improved fine motor skills, teamwork, improved reading comprehension, boosting self-confidence and reducing stress	

GCSE Photography

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8206
	Staff contact point	Mrs C Bishop
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 Practical Assessment
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	40% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	Two Assessed Units
	Taken	On-going from Autumn term of Year 10 to Winter term of Year 11
	Coursework Percentage	60% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	Students will study the work of photographers who work in different ways. There will be opportunities to photograph on location and in the studio. Students will learn Photoshop for digital manipulation and the many ways that their work can develop. There are opportunities for trips to galleries, location shooting in Brighton and a GCSE lunch club.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students who are self-motivated and want to develop their own ideas in a creative way are usually most successful in this subject.	
Relevant information that may be important	Although the school has some equipment, students are expected to have at least a basic camera of their own. Students interested in a career in digital media or journalism would benefit from this subject. Other careers include illustration, film, product design, graphics, video games, architecture, fine art, media, fashion, textiles, glassmaking, restoration, photography management, television, curator, advertising, ceramics, jewellery, packaging, model making, interiors, sculpture, theatre, digital arts, teacher, picture researcher, publishing. The creative industries are some of the UK's most successful, varied and fastest growing sectors and they provide millions of fulfilling job opportunities. The creative and cultural industries are increasingly recognised as not only being a "defining feature of the British national identity" and vital component of our quality of life, but also as vital to the health of the UK economy generating £124 - £126 billion for the UK economy every year, and employing more than 2.4 million people.	

GCSE Religious Studies

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8062
	Staff contact point	Ms B Doughty
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	2 written papers
	Taken	Summer of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	100%
Brief outline of subject	Students following this course will study two sections a. Beliefs and practices of two religions: • Buddhism • Christianity b. Topics of ethics and philosophy: • Religion, Peace and Conflict • Relationships and Family • Religion and Life • Religion, Crime and Punishment	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	A student who is open-minded, curious about the world, and interested in understanding different perspectives, willing to explore big questions about beliefs, values, and human behaviour. This student enjoys thinking critically, asking thoughtful questions, and engaging in respectful discussion. They are empathetic and keen to understand the experiences of others within our multicultural society. A strong reader and communicator, they appreciate subjects that help them make sense of current global issues.	
Relevant information that may be important	The subject is highly regarded by universities and employers because it develops critical thinking, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the role religion plays in the world. Religious Studies can also provide a strong foundation for further learning in fields such as Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Law, Health and Social Care, and many others.	

GCSE Spanish

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	Edexcel
	Syllabus number	1Sp1
	Staff contact point	Mrs S Johnsen
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	3 exam papers (listening, reading and writing) and 1 speaking exam
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	100% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	GCSE Spanish is designed to help students communicate confidently in Spanish while also understanding Spanish-speaking cultures. It covers six broad themes: My personal world (family and friends), Lifestyle and wellbeing, My neighbourhood, Media and technology, Studying and my future, and Travel and tourism. Within each theme, students practise listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They learn vocabulary, grammar, and practical skills to communicate confidently and prepare for future study, work, or travel.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	A student who would thrive in Spanish is someone with a curiosity about other cultures and a desire to explore new perspectives. They enjoy communicating with others, whether in conversation or in writing, and approach challenges with resilience, viewing errors as opportunities to improve and grow.	
Relevant information that may be important	Learning a modern language equips students with valuable communication skills that last a lifetime and are useful in a wide range of careers. Because of this, a GCSE in languages is highly regarded by leading universities and employers.	

GCSE Textile Design

Guided Choice Subject

Details	Exam Board	AQA
	Syllabus number	8204
	Staff contact point	Miss L Andrews
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	1 practical exam
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	40% of total marks
Coursework Structure	How many exams	2 assessed units
	Taken	Ongoing throughout Year 10 and Autumn term Year 11
	Coursework percentage	60% of total marks
Brief outline of subject	Over the two-year course, they build a portfolio of creative work showing how their ideas develop — including research, experiments, sketches and final pieces. At the end of the course, they also complete an externally set assignment: students pick a starting point from a set of exam-board prompts, prepare ideas, then spend 10 supervised hours producing a final artwork. Throughout the course, students learn to research inspiration (from other artists or real life), experiment with different media and techniques, record ideas as they work (sketchbooks, notes, plans), and ultimately create a personal piece of art or design. In doing so they build creativity, technical skills and the confidence to express themselves visually. There are opportunities for trips to galleries and a GCSE lunch club.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Students who are self-motivated and want to develop their own ideas in a creative way are usually most successful in this subject.	
Relevant information that may be important	Students taking Textiles are usually expected to have a sketchbook or art journal for ideas, research and design work, along with some basic materials such as pencils, pens, coloured pencils, paper, paints or inks, brushes, fabrics, threads, yarns and simple embellishments. They will also need basic sewing tools, though a sewing machine at home is optional because the school provides machines for classroom use. Depending on the project, students may need to buy certain specialist fabrics or materials, while others may be supplied by the school.	

GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Guided Choice Subject

This choice converts the compulsory Combined Science course into accreditation in three separate Sciences: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics.

Details	Exam Board	Edexcel
	Syllabus number	1BIO/1CHO/1PHO
	Staff contact point	Mr T Izod
	Exam qualification	GCSE
Exam Structure	How many exams	6 written papers 2 of each subject
	Taken	Summer term of Year 11
	Percentage of final mark	100%
	Tiers of entry	Higher and Foundation
Brief outline of subject	In GCSE Edexcel Biology, Chemistry and Physics, students learn how the world works—from living organisms to chemical reactions and the forces that shape our universe. Across all three sciences, students develop practical skills, learn to interpret data and apply scientific ideas to real life, helping them understand the science around them and its impact on the future.	
Characteristic of students who succeed in this subject	Triple Science is ideal for students who enjoy science and want a greater challenge. It explores topics in depth, strengthens analytical and problem-solving skills, boosts confidence with maths in science, and provides a strong foundation for A-Level Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. It also supports STEM career pathways and offers a more engaging, motivating experience for curious students.	
Relevant information that may be important	Students started studying the combined science GCSE course during year 9. The topics they have covered so far make up part of each of the separate science GCSEs. Please note that students must take all three GCSEs if they take this guided choice.	