KS4 Guided Choices Handbook 2026



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Welcome to the Guided Choices Handbook 2026

This handbook contains all you need to know about the guided choices process for this year, it includes the core, EBacc and guided courses that make up the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is designed to help both you and your parents/carers to make the important decisions about the subjects you will study for the next two years. This is an exciting stage of your education and the first time you will really be able to choose what subjects you will study. We want you to make the right choices that suit your interests, talents and careers aspirations, so you will enjoy your education and work hard to achieve the highest possible results.

At CFS we offer a broad curriculum with access to all courses for all pupils, the process is overseen by the tutor team who will be there every step of the way to provide advice and guidance.

Every pupil will follow a balanced programme of both **Core** (compulsory), **EBacc** and **Guided** courses which meet all the statutory requirements.

- **All pupils** are required to study English (2 GCSEs - Literature and Language), Mathematics (1 GCSE), Combined Science (2 GCSEs), Religious studies (non-assessed) and Physical Education (non-assessed).
- Pupils also select either a Humanities subject (Geography or History) **or** MFL (French or Spanish) - **We encourage all pupils to select both an MFL and a Humanities subject, this is a pupil choice.**
- A few pupils select either a Humanities **or** MFL and PIP. Mr Fowler (SENCO) will contact these pupils direct.
- Previously pupils have been directed to a 'pathway' - this has now been removed from our process.
- Pupils then have a further **three** choices from the remaining subjects, and a reserve choice.
- While we will make every effort to give pupils their first-choice subjects, it may not always be possible due to class size and timetabling constraints. If this does occur pupils will be placed in their reserve option where possible. We will contact you to discuss alternatives if this is the case.
- Pupils will only be able to opt for the language they have studied in Year 9, Unless the pupil already speaks another language competently and would like to consider an extra qualification. In this case you should speak to Ms Crebbin about what extra languages might be possible.
- For all subjects that have associated costs these are detailed in the subject description (e.g., Geography fieldtrip, art supplies etc.) these are just estimates of the voluntary contributions that will be suggested for materials/trips. For other subjects pupils can purchase revision guides costing between £5-£15 depending on supplier and course.

Mr Phillips
Head of Scondary

Advice for Pupils on Making Subject Choices

Think to the future! You should try to keep your future options open and cover a range of subjects from different subject areas. This will allow you to progress to further education courses such as A levels, BTECs or other vocational studies or in the future to go to university.

- Do you know your intended first career?
- If 'no' keep your options open and make sure to choose a broad range of subjects.

What should you consider when choosing your subjects?

- What am I likely to be successful at?
- What will I enjoy learning?
- What do I want to do for a career?
- What's on offer?

What can I do to help me make my choices?

- Read this booklet
- Speak to your Tutor/Head of Year
- Speak to subject teachers and Heads of Department
- Speak to your parents
- Visit careers advice websites:
    - https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
    - https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice
    - https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/your-space/

Think carefully about your choices and make time to speak to your tutor and teachers about your choices, it's difficult to change courses after the term has started. Be sure that you are making the **right choices** for the **right reasons**!

You will be able to select the Guided Choices subjects on the online system - SIMS Options. To access this, an email will be sent to you from noreply@sims.co.uk, inviting you to register to use SIMS Online Services to enable access to SIMS Parent and the Options Online system.

When registering for SIMS Online Services, please use a third-party provider. Follow the link 'Register with an External Account' and use an existing Apple, Microsoft, Google, Facebook or Twitter account. Please do not use SIMS ID to register. Once you have registered, you can sign in at https://www.sims-parent.co.uk or you can download the SIMS Parent App to view SIMS Options.

Key dates:

- **15th January – Assembly to year 9 pupils**
- **21st January – In school Guided Choices presentation 5pm – 6.30pm**
- **23rd January – Guided Choices form goes live online** http://www.sims-parent.co.uk
- **23rd February - Final deadline for completion of choices online**

Tutors will sign off pupil choices via 1:1 conferencing in Tutor Time to discuss the subjects chosen.

Assessment and Exam Board Summary

	Subject	Exam Board	Coursework	Exam
Core	English Language	Edexcel		100%
	English Literature	Edexcel		100%
	Mathematics	AQA		100%
	Science (Combined)	AQA		100%
	PE (Core)		N/A	N/A
EBacc	Modern Foreign Languages (French or Spanish)	AQA		100%
	History	AQA		100%
	Geography	AQA		100%
Open choice	GCSE Fine Art	AQA	60%	40%*
	GCSE Business Studies	AQA		100%
	GCSE Computer Science	Eduqas		100%
	Dance	AQA	60%	40%
	Design and Technology	AQA	50%	50%
	Drama	AQA	60%	40%
	Food Preparation and Nutrition	AQA	50%	50%
	Media Studies	OCR	30%	70%
	Music	OCR	60%	40%
	GCSE Physical Education	AQA	40%	60%
	Sports Studies & Outdoor Activities	OCR	60%	40%
	Religious Studies	AQA		100%
	Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	AQA		100%

*Assessed through a practical exam over 10 hours

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1. **CORE Subjects**

    - English Language
    - English Literature
    - Mathematics
    - Combined Science
    - Physical Education

2. **Subjects (EBacc)**

    - French/Spanish
    - Geography
    - History

3. **Subjects (Open choice)**

    - Fine Art
    - Business Studies (GCSE)
    - Computer Science
    - Dance
    - Design Technology
    - Drama
    - Food Preparation and Nutrition
    - Media Studies
    - Music
    - Physical Education (GCSE)
    - Sports Studies & Outdoor Activities
    - Religious Studies
    - Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

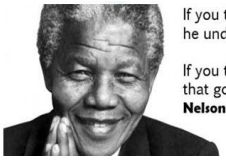
CORE	GCSE English Language
What does the course involve?	English Language focuses on all of the vital skills of communication; reading, writing and spoken language. The skills developed and assessed for this GCSE will underpin your studies in all other subjects. Throughout the course you will explore a range of different genres of writing, including non-fiction texts and classic literature. You will develop skills as a writer and develop methods of exploring and analysing complex texts. You will learn how to compare a range of texts and be taught to write accurately, with a focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar.
How am I assessed?	**Unit 1 (40%): Fiction and Imaginative Writing** 1 hour 45 minute written exam Section A – Analysis of an unseen 19th century fiction extract Section B – a choice of 2 imaginative writing tasks (linked to theme in Section A) **Unit 2 (60%): Non-fiction and Transactional Writing** 2 hours 5 minutes written exam Section A – Analysis of two linked unseen non-fiction extracts from 20th and 21st century Section B – a choice of 2 transactional writing tasks (linked to theme in Section A) **Unit 3 - A formal speech (Spoken Language grade)** Spoken Language activities will be assessed throughout the course and will lead to a separate result on the qualification certificate.
Where could this subject take me?	English Language and Literature are your "currency" for learning … you will need it for everything you do!
Who should I talk to for more information?	Ms Elmes

CORE	GCSE English Literature
What does the course involve?	English Literature will give you the opportunity to experience a wide range of storytellers through the ages. You will study novels, short stories, poems and plays and learn about different genres, the impact of literature and how storytelling has responded to historical events. You will gain an in-depth knowledge of influential authors and have the opportunity to develop your own interests in reading. The course encourages you to make comparisons between texts and to develop your skills of analysis and personal response.
How am I assessed?	**Unit 1 (50%): Shakespeare and Post 1914 Literature** 1 hour 45 minute written exam Section A – Shakespeare. First task based on an extract, second on a similar theme in the whole play Section B – Post 1914 British play or novel. 1 essay question. **Unit 2 (50%): 19th Century Novel and Poetry since 1789** 2 hours 15 minutes written exam Section A – 19th century novel. 1 essay question exploring a 400 words extract and the whole text. Section B – 1 question on a named and 1 question comparing 2 contemporary unseen poems.
Where could this subject take me?	English Language and Literature are your "currency" for learning … you will need it for everything you do!
Who should I talk to for more information?	Ms Elmes

CORE	GCSE Mathematics
What does the course involve?	**Foundation Tier:** Number 25% Algebra 20% Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change 25% Geometry and Measure 15% Statistics and Probability 15% **Higher Tier:** Number 15% Algebra 30% Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change 20% Geometry and Measure 20% Statistics and Probability 15%
How am I assessed?	You will take three written exam papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes long. Each paper could test any of the topics covered throughout the course. **Paper 1 (33%): non-calculator** **Paper 2 (33%): calculator allowed** **Paper 3 (33%): calculator allowed** GCSE Mathematics is tiered: Foundation tier covers grades 1-5 Higher tier covers grades 4-9 Your mathematics teacher will decide which tier is appropriate for you.
Where could this subject take me?	Mathematics GCSE is essential for entry to most A-level and degree courses. See www.mathscareers.org.uk for more information on where it can take you in the future.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mr Blandford-Davies or your Mathematics teacher.

CORE	GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)
What does the course involve?	GCSE Combined Science is suitable for pupils of all abilities and the course encourages pupils to understand theoretical concepts alongside developing practical Science skills. Practical and Investigation skills are now assessed within the examinations and based on pupils completing required practicals built into the curriculum. **Biology:** Cell Biology, Organisation of Living Organisms, Infection and Response, Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, Ecology **Chemistry**: Atomic Structure, Bonding, Structure and Properties, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rates of Change and Extent of Changes, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere, Using Resources **Physics:** Energy, Electricity, Particle Model of Matter, Atomic Structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism.
How am I assessed?	**Biology (33%)** 2 x 1 hour 15 minute written exams **Chemistry (33%)** 2 x 1 hour 15 minute written exams **Physics (33%)** 2 x 1 hour 15 minute written exams
Where could this subject take me?	Studying Science unlocks an understanding of how our own world and the rest of the universe works! The skills learned through scientific enquiry enable you to critically appraise everything we read, see or are told. Science can lead to A Levels, apprenticeships and other training schemes; as well as careers in Engineering, Scientific Research, Pharmaceuticals, Medicine, Nursing, Zoology, Astrophysics, Environmental work to give just a few examples! There are hundreds of other relevant careers relating to Science.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mrs Comins or your Science teacher

CORE	Physical Education
What does the course involve?	All pupils will continue to have PE/Games lessons. These will include: • Athletics • Gymnastics • Dance • Fitness and wellbeing • Invasion games • Net and wall games • Striking and fielding games • Outdoor and adventurous education
How am I assessed?	In-school assessment of your physical capability, knowledge and understanding of healthy and active lifestyles, as well as your effort and attitude towards your learning.
Where could this subject take me?	Leading a healthy and active lifestyle!
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mr Dean

EBacc	GCSE French or Spanish
Why should I choose this subject?	There are many good reasons to study a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE level:  You don't just learn the language, you get to find out about other people, countries and cultures. Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and improves your memory and boosts your general communication skills. Being competent in a foreign language can make you stand out when applying for university or a job. Learning a foreign language is an exciting opportunity that will foster your curiosity and deepen your understanding of the world. It will give you a sense of mutual understanding and global citizenship. English is not enough! Not everyone in the world speaks or wants to speak English.
What does the course involve?	Our objective is to enable you to develop your language skills to your full potential, equipping you with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. A Modern Foreign Languages GCSE builds on what you've already learnt in Key Stage 3 - you probably know more than you think! You will be working on the following topic areas: • Theme 1: Identity and culture • Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest • Theme 3: Current and future study and employment
How am I assessed?	You will be assessed in the four skills of: • Listening – 35 minutes (foundation), 45 minutes (higher) (25%) • Speaking – 7-9 minutes (foundation), 10-12 minutes (higher) (25%) • Reading – 45 minutes (foundation), 60 minutes (higher) (25%) • Writing – 60 minutes (foundation), 75 minutes (higher) (25%) These are tested through exams at the end of Year 11. You will have plenty of opportunity to practise examination style questions in class. The Modern Languages GCSE has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). You must take all four question papers at the same tier.
Where could this subject take me?	At A Level, Modern Foreign Languages are excellent subjects to complement any range of options – scientific, literary or creative. They can open up a whole new world of work, travel or study in our multi-lingual global society. One of the greatest current needs for graduate employers in the UK is for competent foreign language speakers.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Ms Crebbin or your MFL teacher

EBacc	GCSE History
Why should I choose this subject?	History is one of the most popular options at GCSE and is one in which pupils of all abilities do very well. You will gain a deeper understanding of the world in which you live. The topics studied in GCSE History will help you explain the problems and opportunities facing people in the world today. You will develop valuable skills. You study real people and real situations and discuss why people did what they did. You will develop your ability to judge what is true and whether you can always trust what you see, hear and read.
What does the course involve?	**Understanding The Modern World**. Section A: Period Studies In Section A there is a focus on two key developments in a country's history over at least a 50-year period. • 1D America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality Section B: Wider World Depth Studies In Section B the focus is on international conflict and tension. • Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945-1972 **Shaping The Nation** Section A: Thematic Studies In Section A, we look at key developments in Britain over a long period. • 2A: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day Section B: British Depth Studies including the historic environment In Section B the focus is on British depth studies which also incorporates the study of a specific historic environment. • Elizabethan England, c1568-1603
How am I assessed?	**Paper 1 (50%): Understanding The Modern World.** 2 hour written paper. Section A – six compulsory questions (40 marks) Section B – four compulsory questions (40 marks) Plus four marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. **Paper 2 (50%): Shaping The Nation** 2 hour written paper. Section A – four compulsory questions (40 marks) Section B – four compulsory questions (40 marks) Plus four marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Where could this subject take me?	You could go on to study A Level History. Studying History is an advantage for many jobs including when training to become a lawyer, for management, teaching, museum and archive work and journalism.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mrs Bentley / Mrs Gray or your History teacher

Ebacc	GCSE Geography
Why should I choose this subject?	With a current global population of over 8 billion people, the pressure on our planet is greater than ever before; Geography investigates how we can best utilise the resources we have whilst striving to create a sustainable future that considers the environment and the people around us. *'Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?'* **Michael Palin**
What does the course involve?	You will study a wide variety of different topics and carry out geographical fieldwork. **Unit 1**: **Living with the physical environment** • The challenge of natural hazards – Earthquakes, Weather, Climate Change • The living world- Ecosystems • Physical landscapes in the UK • Geographical skills **Unit 2**: **Challenges in the human environment** • Urban issues and challenges • The changing economic world • The challenge of resource management • Geographical skills **Unit 3**: **Geographical applications** • Issue evaluation • Fieldwork • Geographical skills All of these units offer an overview of the current global situation while also studying specific local, national and international examples at greater depth. The ability to recall a wide range of specific case study information is vital for this course with evaluative skills high on the list of requirements for the highest grades. **Parents may be asked for a voluntary contribution of around £20 towards the compulsory fieldtrips**.
How am I assessed?	**Unit 1 (35%)**: **Living with the physical environment** 1 hour 30-minute written paper with three sections; Section A and B answer all questions. Section C offers a choice. Questions are multiple-choice, short based and extended answers for each of the three sections. **Unit 2 (35%)**: **Challenges in the human environment** 1 hour 30-minute written paper with three sections; Section A and B answer all questions. Section C offers a choice. Questions are multiple-choice, short based and extended answers for each of the three sections. **Unit 3 (30%)**: **Geographical applications** 1 hour 30-minute written Paper with Section A based around an issue evaluation which is released 12 weeks before the exam. Section B covers both known and unknown fieldwork.
Where could this subject take me?	You could go on to study Geography at A-Level and University. Geography is highly regarded as an academic subject. Studying Geography could lead to jobs within: Environmentalism, Tourism, Conservation, Surveying, Land and Water Management, Town and Transport Planning, Teaching, Consultancy.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mr Griffiths or your Geography teacher

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Guided Choice	GCSE Fine Art
Why should I choose this subject?	Fine Art is a popular GCSE choice and is not just about an ability to draw things realistically. Creativity, exploring and developing your ideas and skills through a range of media and techniques and an ability to research and study artists are all key. You must enjoy looking at and creating art, and be open to new ideas, ways of working and want to respond to the world around you in a visual way. You need to be willing to commit personal time outside of lessons to draw, take photographs and develop ideas ready for lessons in a self-directed way. This is not an easy option, and you will need to be dedicated to meeting deadlines. You will develop your skills, creativity and work towards completing personal projects. You will develop an ability to think in a more original way, to work through ideas, explore different methods of solving problems and gain the confidence to present your work to others.
What does the course involve?	GCSE Fine Art will give you a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore your interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature. You will complete projects each based on a theme which will be teacher led in the first instance and become more self-directed as the course progresses. **There is a suggested and voluntary contribution of approximately £25 to cover the resources used in the course.**
How am I assessed?	**Unit 1 (60%): Portfolio of Work** **Unit 2 (40%): Externally Set Task** You are marked on assessment objectives that include the following: Studying other artists' work Recording ideas in a variety of media Experimenting with materials and ideas Developing and refining skills and ideas, creating personal responses as final pieces
Where could this subject take me?	Many careers require creativity, open mindedness and the ability to explore and develop ideas in a variety of ways. Therefore, many employers see Fine Art as a good option to have, as creative people are often innovative in their approaches to problems they encounter. GCSE can lead to A Level if the pupil receives a level 6 or higher, and then on to foundation and Degree courses. Careers in the creative industry include: Animator, Fashion/Textiles Designer, Artist, Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Games Designer/Developer, Advertising, Illustrator, Industrial/Product Designer, Interior/ Spatial Designer, Jewellery Designer, Make-up Artist, Medical Photographer, Museum/Gallery Work.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mr Lean

Guided Choice	GCSE Business Studies
Why should I choose this subject?	Eventually, all of us will encounter the world of business, whether you work in urban or rural areas. You must be prepared to engage in business activity with confidence and competence. Young people need to understand how business functions, the role it plays in our society, the opportunities it generates, the skills it requires, and the impact it can have on their own lives and on society, today and in the future.
What does the course involve?	• Business in the Real World - The purpose of business activity, the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business. • Influences on Business - The importance of external influences on business and how businesses change in response to these influences. • Business Operations - What business operations involve, their role within the production of goods and the provision of services, and how they influence business activity. • Human Resources - The purpose of human resources, its role within business and how it influences business activity. • Marketing - The purpose of marketing, its role within business and how it influences business activity. • Finance - The purpose of the finance function, its role within business and how it influences business activity.
How am I assessed?	**Paper 1 (50%): Influences of operations and HRM on business activity** 1 hour 45 minute written exam **Paper 2 (50%): Influences of marketing and finance on business activity** 1 hour 45 minute written exam For Each Paper: • Section A has multiple choice questions and short answer questions worth 20 marks. • Section B has one case study/data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 34 marks. • Section C has one case study/data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 36 marks.
Where could this subject take me?	To AS and A2 levels, University Degrees, apprenticeships and other training schemes. It can lead to careers in such diverse fields as: Accountancy and Finance, Marketing and Advertising, Retail, Catering, Law, Human Resources and many others.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mrs Turnbull

Guided Choice	GCSE Computer Science
Why should I choose this subject?	Computer Science is everywhere! From the obvious computers that we use down to the traffic lights that are programmed! The digital age needs more Computer Scientists. Computer Scientists theorise, design, develop, as well as apply the software and hardware for the programmes we use every day. Computer Scientists are needed in every type of industry. Problems in areas such as science, engineering, health care, and environmental sciences are just some of a few areas where Computer Science is integral to progress. It's up to the Computer Scientist to figure out how to design software for a particular problem and to then apply the solution. Computer Science graduates have excellent post-graduate and employment prospects and can earn high salaries.
What does the course involve?	You will learn to: Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society Being able to apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science
How am I assessed?	**Component 1:** Understanding Computer Science Written examination (50%): 1 hour 45 minutes **Component 2:** Computer Programming On-screen examination (50%): 2 hours
Where could this subject take me?	To AS and A2 levels, Degree Level, apprenticeships and other training schemes. It can lead to a variety of careers such as; Software Developer, Computer Systems Analyst, Computer Systems Engineer, Network Systems Administrator, Database Administrator, Business Intelligence Analyst, Web Developer, Computer Programmer and many others. Computer Science is also used within many other careers which are more creative in nature such as media, graphic design, Video Game Designers, multi-media marketing as well as being helpful to those who wish to become Entrepreneurs. It is also particularly useful in general everyday use of computer software and data analysis for jobs in both administration and education.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Miss Seal

Guided Choice	GCSE Dance
Why should I choose this subject?	The study of dance as an art form contributes to pupils' aesthetic and social development. As a physical activity it promotes fitness and well-being. Dance also supports learning across a range of subjects. As performers, pupils develop confidence and self-esteem. They develop self and body awareness as well as sensitivity to others and team-working skills. Effective performance requires physical effort and the determination to succeed and improve. As choreographers, pupils employ the skills of problem-solving and creativity. Effective choreography requires imagination and the ability to synthesise a number of elements. In directing others, pupils develop their interpersonal and communication skills. As critics, pupils make informed decisions about the dances they see. They articulate their knowledge, opinions and preferences. Viewing professional dances fulfils pupils' cultural entitlement and broadens their artistic experience.
What does the course involve?	There are two components to the course: • **Component 1: Performance and Choreography** • **Component 2: Dance Appreciation**
How am I assessed?	**Component 1 Part 1: Performance (30%):** Set phrases through a solo performance and, a duet/trio performance. **Component 1 Part 2: Choreography (30%):** Solo or Group Choreography **Component 2 (40%): Examination:** 1 hour 30-minute written exam Assessment will take place throughout the course. The written examination and practical examination will take place in Year 11. The Controlled assessments are carried out in class, teacher assessed and then verified by a moderator. The solo is videoed and sent to an external examiner.
Where could this subject take me?	A Levels, degrees and professions in The Performing Arts, health and fitness, and education.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mrs Tulley

Guided Choice	GCSE Design and Technology
Why should I choose this subject?	**"If it is not nature then it must be Design."** This qualification would suit pupils who are creative and inquisitive, self – motivated, and enjoy finding solutions to everyday problems. You will be required to investigate and explore design possibilities and will need to be resilient when your first idea for a product does not work as you imagined! It would be beneficial if you were confident at drawing although not essential. If you enjoy working with a range of materials, there will be opportunity to work with wood, metal, textiles, polymers and paper & board.
What does the course involve?	**Note**: This qualification has evolved over the years to become more academic to attract a wider range of students. There is a considerable amount of written work plus an exam which assesses technical knowledge. At least 15% of the paper assesses Maths and 10% assesses Science. You have been well prepared throughout your Key Stage 3 lessons as to what GCSE Design and Technology will entail; it is a design course with an element of prototyping. Throughout Year 10 you will deepen your understanding and skills of designing and working with materials by completing mini projects. The aim is to develop your innovative designing skills with **each** material in varied contexts. During Year 11, you will complete a substantial design and make project over the first two terms and then prepare for a written exam in the summer months. **There will be a request for voluntary contributions of approximately £20 to cover resources used in the course.**
How am I assessed?	**Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) (50%):** 20-page design folder, 4 models and a final prototype. Pupils are assessed through a 35-hour design project which: (marks shown in brackets) - Identifies and investigates a design context (10) - Presents a design brief and specification (10) - Generates and develops design ideas as sketches and 3d models (40) - Culminates in a fully manufactured prototype (20) - Analyses and evaluates all design decisions taken in the project (20) **Examination (50%):** 2 hour written paper which focuses on a range of topics including: - New and emerging technologies - Energy storage and generation - Modern and smart materials - Design communication skills to design real prototypes - The categorisation and properties of materials - Investigation and analysis of the work of past and present designers, professionals, and companies - The function of mechanical devices.
Where could this subject take me?	The course will have developed you into a highly skilled problem solver and will enable you to pursue a career in engineering, product design, interior design, fashion design, architecture or any other career path where solutions to everyday problems are required. The GCSE is a steppingstone towards A-Level, BTEC and apprenticeship routes.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Miss Hicks

Guided Choice	GCSE Drama
Why should I choose this subject?	GCSE Drama is not just for budding actors, it is an exciting, dynamic subject all about communication – an important skill that many employers are looking for (just check out the "Where could this subject take me" box below). The course helps develop confidence in inter-personal relationships through improvisation and enhances the individual's sense of empathy through role play, as well as developing the critical faculties of pupils who attend theatre trips. GCSE Drama is a very practical course ideal for enquiring and creative minds.
What does the course involve?	You will create and explore theatre through devising, directing, designing, textual analysis and performing and you will grow in flexibility, becoming confident within each sphere. You will be taken to see a range of exciting, innovative and engaging productions to feed your creativity and inspire you to really stretch your imagination. You will develop the skills to communicate thoughts, emotions and ideas to a broad range of people.
How am I assessed?	**Component 1 (40%): Understanding Drama** Externally assessed written paper (1 hour 45 minutes) in Year 11 • Section A: multiple choice • Section B: four questions on a given extract from a set play • Section C: one question on a live theatre production **Component 2 (40%): Devising Drama** Teacher assessed practical exploration in Year 10. Pupils may contribute as a performer or a designer. • Creative development of a presentation • A polished performance presented to an audience • A Devising log, recording the creative journey and outcome **Component 3 (20%): Texts in Practice** Externally assessed performance of two extracts from one play in Year 11. Pupils may contribute as performer or designer.
Where could this subject take me?	There are so many things you can go on to do with a GCSE in Drama. You could go on to AS or A level Theatre Studies or you might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have Drama experience, or, perhaps, one where you will need to use some of the skills developed during the course. These might include careers in such fields as theatre, media, retail, teaching, the law, journalism, speech therapy, drama therapy, advertising, marketing, arts administration, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or any career that involves meeting people face to face. The study of Drama can help you develop transferable skills which you can take into any career or job.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mr Gregory-Reader

Guided Choice	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Why should I choose this subject?	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on food science in addition to developing practical cooking skills. In this course you will develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.
What does the course involve?	Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics: 1. **Food, nutrition and health** – Macronutrients, micronutrients, nutritional needs and health. 2. **Food science** – Cooking of food, heat transfer and the functional and chemical properties of food. 3. **Food safety** – Food spoilage, contamination and the principles of food safety. 4. **Food choice** – Factors affecting food choice, British and international cuisines, sensory evaluation, food labelling and marketing 5. **Food provenance** – Environmental impact and sustainability of food, food processing and production. **Parents will have the option to pay a one-off yearly fee of £110 to cover all ingredients needed or pupils will need to provide ingredients for practical activities themselves.**
How am I assessed?	**Examination (50%): Food preparation and nutrition** This is a 1hour 45minute written exam. The paper will be made up of 20 multiple choice questions worth 20 marks and five questions, each with a number of sub questions, worth 80 marks. **NEA 1: Food investigation (15%): Written Report** Your understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. You will submit a written report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation. **NEA 2: Food preparation assessment (35%): Written Portfolio** This tests your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. You will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. You will submit a written portfolio (15-20 A4 pages) including photographic evidence.
Where could this subject take me?	Studying GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to exciting and well-paid career options, such as chef, nutritionist, dietitian and various roles within the food industry. Consumers are becoming increasingly reliant on the food industry to develop solutions for their nutritional needs. For more information on food careers please visit http://tastycareers.org.uk/
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mrs A Russell

Guided Choice	GCSE Media Studies
Why should I choose this subject?	Media Studies is relevant to everyone's life: media (TV, film, advertising, news, etc) is all around us, playing an increasingly influential role in society. This contemporary subject is a fascinating, challenging and creative GCSE that can open up a whole new area of life knowledge and study to you. Please note that it isn't *all* about watching videos! This GCSE demands independent study and analytical thinking. It gives you the skills and vocabulary to explore how the globalised media industry works – and how it affects us all...
What does the course involve?	During the course you will: • Analyse media texts, like newspapers and music videos, to explore their purpose, target audiences and social impact. • Apply investigative thinking skills to social and political issues such as the representation of gender in advertising, or the ownership of newspapers, or the influence of social media in politics. • Critically evaluate the role of the media in UK society. • Learn a range of digital, practical and creative skills including photography, copywriting, layout, graphic design, storyboarding, typography, and image editing. • Apply all those skills by researching, designing and creating media products such as magazine articles, music videos, TV title sequences, websites and film posters.
How am I assessed?	**Paper 1: TV & Promoting Media (35%)** 1 hour 30 minute written exam which assesses your knowledge of TV crime drama, both present and past, as well as your ability to analyse film promotion campaigns and video games. **Paper 2: News & Music (35%)** This 1 hour 15 minute written exam assesses your knowledge of newspapers, music magazines, music videos and radio shows. **Practical project (internally assessed, 30%)** You will design and create your own media product, such as a magazine, music video, website or advertising campaign. You will need to be able to work independently, with creativity and originality, creating a product that meets the exam board brief. This is a valuable research and design experience that always sees some pupils achieve full marks.
Where could this subject take me?	Media Studies GCSE is an excellent way to apply analysis and creative writing skills to real-world products. It is also a good pairing with Product Design or Business Studies. You will develop creative skills for Photography, Digital Media Production or Design Tech courses at college, as well as being an excellent route into Business Studies and English Language A Levels. Of course, this GCSE may be your first step to a career in journalism, PR, sales & marketing, advertising, graphic design, website design, vlogging, radio and TV production or working in the film industry.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Ms Edmans

Guided Choice	GCSE Music
Why should I choose this subject?	GCSE Music is a wonderful opportunity to continue extending your musical capabilities and learn some fantastic new techniques. There is a strong practical element to it, which involves both composition and performance-based coursework. It will allow you to grow and develop your musical knowledge in areas you may have not previously explored and opens up the door to a world of opportunities.
What does the course involve?	**Performing** You will have plenty of opportunities throughout the course to practise and receive feedback on your playing. You will need to give performances which could take place in a live concert environment or in a controlled recorded environment **Composing** You will also learn new specific composition techniques. You will have plenty of opportunities throughout the course to practise and receive feedback on your compositions. **Appraising** You will learn about appraising music in four different areas of study.
How am I assessed?	**Component 1 (30%): Performing** You will perform a minimum of two pieces, which must include at least one ensemble and one solo performance. One of the pieces performed must link to an area of study of the learner's choice. The total length of the performance must be 4-6 minutes. This part of the course is internally assessed and externally moderated. **Component 2 (30%): Composing** Two compositions: one composition will be composed to a brief set by the board; the other will be a free composition. The total playing time of both compositions should be between 4-6 minutes in length. This part of the course is internally assessed and externally moderated. **Component 3 (40%): Appraising (40% of qualification)** This component is assessed via a 1 hour 15 minute written listening examination. There are eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study. Two of the eight questions will be based on prepared extracts.
Where could this subject take me?	You could continue to study A Level Music or Music Technology. Music GCSE can lead to careers as a performing musician, film, video game or television composer, Radio DJ, sound engineer or technician, music teacher, music therapist.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mrs Davis

Guided Choice	GCSE Physical Education
Why should I choose this subject?	Studying GCSE Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform a sport through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a deep understanding of the how and why of physical activity and sport.
What does the course involve?	GCSE Physical Education has a practical element and requires you to be enthusiastic about participation in physical activity. If you choose this course you are likely to compete outside of school in at least one sport. You should also be aware that this course now has a large theoretical element which requires you to learn and apply scientific and mathematical knowledge. You should be prepared to apply yourself to both aspects of the course.
How am I assessed?	**Paper 1 (30%): The human body and movement in physical activity and sport** 1 hour 15 minute written paper **Paper 2 (30%): Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport** 1 hour 15 minute written paper **Non-exam Assessment (40%): Practical Performance in physical activity and sport** You are assessed on your practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).
Where could this subject take me?	This specification is particularly suitable if you wish to continue your studies in further education and if you are interested in related career opportunities such as: Sports Science, Physiotherapist, Professional Sportsperson, Sports Coach/Consultant, Secondary PE Teacher, Sports Policy at Local and National Level, Diet and Fitness Instructor, Personal Trainer, Higher Education Lecturer, Sports Marketing, Nutritionist, Fitness Centre Manager, Sport and Exercise Psychologist, Outdoor Pursuits Instructor, Sports Development Officer.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mr Dean

Guided Choice	Sports Studies & Outdoor Activities
Why should I choose this subject?	This routeway is suited for pupils who love Physical Education and want to follow it further but prefer a more 'hands-on' approach to learning and assessment. This course is also designed around the core principals of outdoor adventurous activities, sport performance and leadership skills.
What does the course involve?	The Cambridge National in Sport Studies takes a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes. Pupils have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models. Pupils will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.
How am I assessed?	You will be assessed in three units, one external exam and two internally assessed moderated work portfolios including practical and coursework elements. Unit R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport – 40% 1 hour 15 minutes written exam, externally assessed. Unit R185: Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities – 40% Internal practical assessments, coaching sessions and coursework portfolio. Unit R187: Increasing Awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities – 20% Internal practical assessments and coursework portfolio.
Where could this subject take me?	This course can take you to all the same places as the GCSE such as: Sports Science; Physiotherapist; Professional Athlete; Sports Coach/Consultant; PE Teacher; Sports Coaching Business Owner; Diet and Fitness Instructor; Personal Trainer; Higher Education Lecturer; Sports Marketing; Nutritionist; Fitness Centre Manager; Sport and Exercise Psychologist; Outdoor Activities Instructor; Sports Development Officer for Local Authority.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mr Dean

Guided Choice	GCSE Religious Studies
Why should I choose this subject?	Religious Studies offers you the opportunity to study a range of the major world religions and contemporary ethical themes, ensuring you have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore. The course is suitable for any religious persuasion or none. You will be able to reflect on and develop your own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what you have learnt. There will be a range of relevant and contemporary themes to study that will promote awareness of modern-world issues and engagement within the classroom.
What does the course involve?	The Course has been encouraged you to: • Develop your interest and enthusiasm for the study of religion and the relationship between religion and the wider world. • Develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of religion by exploring the impact of beliefs, teachings, practices, ways of life and forms of expressing meaning. • Express your personal responses and informed insights on fundamental questions about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments.
How am I assessed?	You will sit two written exams at the end of Year 11. Each component accounts for 50% of the full course marks. Paper 1 – Christianity and Islam 1 hour 45 mins Paper 2 – Thematic Studies 1 hour 45 mins
Where could this subject take me?	GCSE Religious Studies lays a solid foundation for further study of RS at A level and related A level subjects such as Philosophy, History, History of Art, Government and Politics, Sociology and English literature. Religious Studies opens careers in areas such as Law, Medicine, Psychology, Politics, Journalism, Advice Worker, Counsellor, Teacher and any career where you have to work with others.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mrs Clark

Guided Choice	GCSE Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Why should I choose this subject?	If you have a natural interest and would like to be able to explain everyday science and technological applications of science, studying separate sciences unlocks an understanding of how our own world and the rest of the universe works. The skills learned through scientific enquiry enable you to critically appraise everything we read, see or are told. This is the option to take if you are seriously considering A-level sciences.
What does the course involve?	**Biology:** Cell Biology, Organisation of living Organisms, Infection and Response, Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, Ecology (ten required practicals) **Chemistry:** Atomic Structure, Bonding, Structure and Properties, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rates of Change and Extent of Changes, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere, Using Resources (eight required practicals) **Physics:** Energy, Electricity, Particle Model of Matter, Atomic Structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism, Space Physics (ten required practicals). Practical and Investigation skills are now assessed within the examinations and based on pupils completing required practicals built into the curriculum.
How am I assessed?	**Biology** 2 x 1 hour 45 minute written exams **Chemistry** 2 x 1 hour 45 minute written exams **Physics** 2 x 1 hour 45 minute written exams
Where could this subject take me?	Studying Sciences can lead to A Levels, apprenticeships and other training schemes; as well as careers in Engineering, Scientific Research, Pharmaceuticals, Medicine, Nursing, Zoology, Astrophysics, Environmental work to give just a few examples! There are hundreds of other relevant careers relating to science.
Who should I talk to for more information?	Mrs Comins or your Science teacher