

MURRAY PARK SCHOOL



OPTIONS PACK YEAR 9



“PROUD TO BE HERE”

A MESSAGE FROM MR HAGEN

MURRAY PARK SCHOOL

OUR MISSION: SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN GAINING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK,
SHAPING THEIR FUTURES AND REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

“PROUD TO BE HERE”

Dear Year 9 student,

This is an important time of year, as you will need to make decisions about some of the courses you wish to follow during the next two years at Murray Park. You will study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and many students also study Languages. PE and PSHE will also be covered in Key Stage 4. This is your opportunity to select courses that interest you and in which you will be able to demonstrate skills and talents. You need to think about how you will rise to the challenge of the work required for each course and how each course is assessed.

The information you need to help you to make this decision is included in this booklet. It should be used alongside the Options page on our website which includes videos from each subject and a talk from myself about the process. On Tuesday 13th January we are hosting a Parents' Evening (booked appointments in English, Maths and Science), then an opportunity to speak with subject teachers and find out more about the options process.

I do need to make you are aware that if very few students choose a particular subject (usually fewer than 12) then we will not be able to run that subject. Students are therefore asked to give two reserve choices for their options and ensure that forms are submitted via the electronic form by Friday 13th February. Take decisions about your reserve as importantly as your first choice. It is also pertinent to note that we do not routinely allow students to move options once Year 10 has commenced, and never beyond the second week of term, so please think about your choices carefully to ensure courses are suited to you.

Please READ the information carefully, THINK about your skills and talents, ASK QUESTIONS of the staff who will teach the option subjects and BE ORGANISED to submit your completed options form by Friday 13th of February at the latest.

With best wishes,

Mr George Hagen
Deputy Headteacher



PROCESS EXPLAINED



During your lessons speak to your teachers and experience the taster classes taking place. Your work in PSHE lessons is focussed on helping you make choices.



Book onto the Options Evening and Core Parents' Evening on Tuesday 13th January. Booking is at murrayparkschool.schoolcloud.com, or via the app, for English, Maths and Science appointments.



Visit the Options page on our website at murraypark.derby.sch.uk/options. It has videos of all courses, as well as a talk from Mr Hagen about the options process.



Read the options booklet carefully for all courses to help you make your decision.



Submit your choices via the electronic form to indicate the subjects you would like to choose. Deadline: Friday 13th February. The form opens from Tuesday 13th January.

EVENT	DETAILS	DATE
Parents' Evening	An opportunity to book a face-to-face appointment with Maths, English and Science teachers, and to speak with options subjects to discuss courses.	Tuesday 13 th January
Taster Lessons and Guidance	Taster lessons will be taking place throughout January and guidance is given on our Industry/Careers days.	Monday 13 th and Tuesday 14 th January
Virtual Options Event	Hosted on our website with an introduction talk and videos from all option choices. murraypark.derby.sch.uk/options .	Available from now and throughout February.
Deadline for final decisions	Submit choices via the electronic form. You will require your school email and password. Details are on the next page.	Friday 13 th February



SUBMITTING CHOICES



Choices are to be submitted by electronic form. The form is available from Tuesday 13st January, after students have received all the Options information and guidance from school to ensure an informed choice can be made.

Please follow the instructions below for how to submit your form.

1.	Access the form, which opens on Tuesday 13 th January, by going to your school emails.
2.	Log on using your usual school email address and password. If you have any problems logging on, you can visit the IT Office in school which is next to S8.
3.	For question 3, you should choose whether you would like to study History or Geography. If you would like to study both, you can do this by selecting one here and the other in your main choice in question four.
4.	<p>You should choose the subject for question 4 as your “First Priority Choice” that you would like to study the most and question 5 the second most as “Second Priority Choice”, question 6 the third most.</p> <p>You then select two reserve choices for question 6 and 7.</p>
5.	Question 10 asks if you are able to speak another language fluently. For example, a language you speak at home or if you have ever lived abroad. If this is the case please indicate Yes and state which language this is.
6.	Scroll back through the form to check you have made the correct choices. Once you are happy, click submit at the bottom. If you need to change a choice before the deadline, please email options@murraypark.derby.sch.uk .

To submit your options, access the link sent to your email address.

Deadline for choices: Friday 13th February.



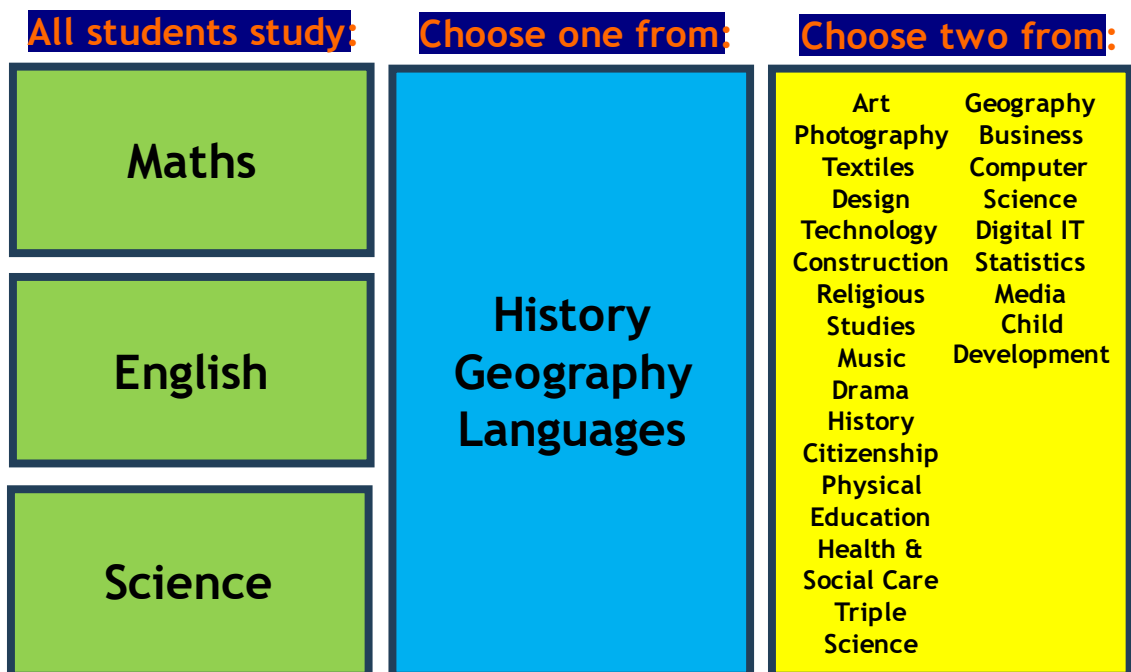
KS4 CURRICULUM – GREEN ROUTE

At Murray Park School we are proud to offer a broad and ambitious curriculum to our students. The number of subjects we offer our students to study at GCSE level exceeds most schools locally and nationally. All students in year 10 and year 11 will study:

- English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics - GCSE
- Science - GCSE (Triple Science can be chosen too)
- Core Physical Education (non-assessed)
- PSHE (non-assessed)

In the Green Route students choose at least one subject from History and Geography, and 3 other subject choices. There are a number of course combinations or entry requirements to be aware of before making choices:

- Art and Textiles cannot both be chosen by a student.
- Health and Social Care and Child Development cannot both be chosen by a student.
- Computer Science should be chosen by students with a predicted grade of above Developing in Maths. Students below this can take the subject at the Head of Department's discretion.



GCSE ART (AQA)



In the GCSE Art course you will have the opportunity to study in a variety of artistic disciplines and processes to produce a make a range of outcomes. The course begins with an extended project based on Natural Forms. You will be taught how to draw from observation and learn through experimentation how to refine your work in a more personal way. You will learn to develop your own sense of creativity through the work you do, responding to given starting points in the way that suits you. By the end of the course you will have gained significant knowledge and creative skills to prepare you for any future creative pathway.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

60% Coursework
40% Exam Project (no written exam)

Course Content:

- Project 1- Structured experimental skills project - Natural Forms - leading onto Pop Art inspired work
- Project 2 - Students' own choice - choice of starting points for an extended personal project
- Exam Project- Extended project working to an Exam Board starting point

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Work to a wide range of experimental art materials and processes.
- Investigate, explore and refine your own independent ideas.
- Research, analyse and be inspired by the work of others.
- Create artwork in your own personal style.

Careers:

Freelance designer, Craftsperson, Costume Designer, Stylist, 3D Designer, Interior Design, Architect, Fashion Designer, Graphic designer, Fine Artist, Textiles Designer, Sculptor, Photographer, Arts administrator, Art Teacher, Teaching Assistant, Nursery Teacher, Art Historian, Toy Designer, Animator, Advertising Designer, Art Therapist, Glass Designer, Furniture Designer, Gallery Curator, Medical Artist, Art Technician, Jewellery Designer and many more...

Further Study:

- Level 3 BTECs such as Art and Design/Photography/Fashion and Textiles/3D design
- A Levels including Art, 3D Design or Product Design

Please Note: a combination of Textiles and Art cannot both be selected by a student.



GCSE BUSINESS (OCR)



If you would like to find out more about how businesses operate, how adverts make us purchase products or what makes the most successful businesses dominate the market - GCSE Business is for you. Business as a subject is relevant to all students, regardless of your chosen career path, because everyone either works or manages a business or an organisation so the knowledge we gain will be useful to you in the future. We focus on not only acquiring knowledge of business, but also learning how to make justified arguments too. By the end of the course you will have gained significant knowledge and skills to prepare you for the future.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

100% Examination
2 exams sat at the end of year 11

Course Content:

- Business Activity - Looking at starting a business and deciding on legal structure
- Marketing - looks at the marketing mix, advertising, pricing strategies and how to target customers
- People- looks into recruiting staff, training and motivating them
- Operations- how a product is made, how we check quality and sell to the customer
- Finance - calculation of revenue, costs, profit, margin of safety and break-even point
- Influences on a business - Is our business operating ethically? To what extent do we impact the environment

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Write extended answers confidently to get across your argument.
- Be confident in the Maths for Business Finance.
- Make judgements about a situation and can back them up with knowledge.
- Have an interest in, and enjoy learning about, the world around you.
- Understand, and regularly follow, business news.

Careers:

- Entrepreneur/Business Owner
- General Management
- Marketing Manager
- Finance and Accounting
- Economics
- Retail Management
- Information Technology
- Sales Industry
- Human Resource Manager

Further Study:

- Level 3 Business course at College, such as a BTEC or Cambridge Nationals.
- A Levels in Business, Finance or Economics.
- An apprenticeship in a business.

*Should you require any further information, please contact Mr Williamson,
Business Subject Leader: tom.williamson@murraypark.derby.sch.uk*



GCSE CITIZENSHIP (EDEXCEL)



Citizenship and Politics can give you the knowledge and skills you need in order to take an active role in society and play a full part in our democracy. It is about our rights and responsibilities as citizens, both of the UK and the wider world.

You will learn about power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system, and the role of the UK in the wider world. You will learn about different controversial and topical issues with political, social, ethical, economic and environmental dimensions in local to global contexts.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes 50%
Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 minutes 50%

Course Content:

- Living together in the UK
- Democracy at work in the UK
- Law and justice
- Power and influence
- Taking citizenship action

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Write extended answers confidently to get across your argument.
- Understand how governments, organisations, groups and individuals can address issues in society.
- Present your own and other viewpoints and represent the views of others, in relation to citizenship issues, causes, situations and concepts.
- Plan practical citizenship actions aimed at delivering a benefit or change for others in society.
- Understand and follow the news and current affairs.

Careers:

- Politician
- Law
- Journalism
- Teaching
- Civil Service
- Public Affairs
- Police
- Finance

Further Study:

- Politics
- Law
- Sociology
- Public services
- History
- Economics & Finance



LEVEL 1/2 CONSTRUCTION (EDUQAS)



This course introduces learners to the built environment and provides them with the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment. Learners will explore a range of profession and trade roles, and some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment.

It also offers learners the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.

Course Type

Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Assessment Type:

Online Examination worth 40%
Coursework worth 60%

Course Content:

Unit 1 - 1.5 hour, online exam sat at the end of Year 11. It is worth **40%** of the final grade.

This will examine students' knowledge and understanding of the principles of the built environment. The following areas will be covered:

1.1 - The sector; 1.2 - The built environment life cycle; 1.3 - Types of building and structures; 1.4 - Technologies and materials; 1.5 - Building structures and forms; 1.6 - Sustainable construction methods; 1.7 - Trades, employment & careers; 1.8 - Health & Safety

Unit 3 - 30 hour, internal assessment (coursework) worth **60%** of the final grade. This is broken down into three trade areas, each worth 20% of the final grade. Trades delivered at Murray Park are brickwork, Joinery and Painting & Decorating.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Select suitable materials for a given task and calculate the quantities needed.
- Plan how to safely and accurately carry out a construction task.
- Undertake a construction task accurately and safely.
- Evaluate a construction task leading to suggestions of improvement.
- Understand how residential and non-residential buildings are constructed.
- Discuss the various sustainable options of materials and energy supplies and select one for a given purpose.

Careers:

- All trades areas including Joinery, brickwork, P&D etc
- Construction/Site Manager/Builder,
- Architect, Quantity Surveyor

Further Study:

- Level 3 Diploma in Professional Construction Practice
- Apprenticeships



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE (OCR)



The world depends on computers. In this GCSE you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges. Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement.

This subject is considered the fourth Science and if you feel up to the challenge then this could be the subject for you!

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

100% examination sat at the end of year 11
2 exam papers.

Course Content:

- Computational Thinking
- Data
- Networks
- Problem Solving with Programming

By the end of this course, you will be able 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.
- 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 impact of digital technology on issues of privacy and cybersecurity.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

Careers:

- Systems analyst
- Data Analyst
- Software engineer
- Games developer
- Forensic computer analyst
- IT consultant
- Web designer/developer
- Cyber crime specialist

Further Study:

- Level 3 Computer Science course at College, such as a BTEC or Cambridge Nationals.
- A Levels in Computer Science or Information Technology.
- An apprenticeship in Information Technology.

Please Note: There is an entry requirement for the course - students must have a KS3 predicted of Developing in Maths. We will consider students outside of this at the Head of Department's discretion.



LEVEL 1/2 CHILD DEVELOPMENT (CNAT)



This qualification is to engage and inspire young learners who want an introduction to life and work within the child development and early years sector.

This is a high-quality qualification that will equip students with applied knowledge and real-life practical skills set in the childcare industry. It is a mixture of coursework and examination to determine the final grade. This course recognises the importance of developing skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to support a broader experience of working with children and understanding how they grow and learn.

Course Type	Assessment Type:
Vocational	Unit R058 and R059 : Coursework tasks, externally moderated Unit R057: External 1 hour 15 minutes exam

Course Content:

- Unit R057: Health and well-being for child development
- Unit R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years
- R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Develop key skills that improve your understanding of child development, such as observing and interpreting how children grow and learn - applying this knowledge to real-life early years settings. A practical approach underpins effective ways of working with children, including promoting play-based learning and supporting healthy development.
- Understand skills and attributes that are essential in childcare, such as communication, patience and safeguarding, and have opportunities to practise using them when working with young children.
- Acquire knowledge that underpins effective support for children’s learning and wellbeing, including developmental milestones, the role of early years services in early years and the factors that can influence a child’s progress during their early life.

Careers:	Further Study:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher or Nursery Nurse• Paediatric Nurse• Teaching Assistant• Support Worker• Child Psychologist• Youth Worker• Residential or Social Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level 3 Child Development or Child Care at College, such as a BTEC or Cambridge Nationals• A Level Child Development• An apprenticeship in Child Care or Development



GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (AQA)



GCSE Design & Technology enables students to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. In addition to this, they will gain a sound understanding of the commercial techniques and processes used manufacture products of all kinds, in both industrial and consumer contexts.

Students will be required to follow an iterative design approach from identifying a design opportunity all the way through to evaluating the success of the product. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

50% Examination
50% Non-Exam Assessment

Course Content:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying & investigating design possibilities Producing a design brief and specification Generating design ideas Developing design ideas Realising design ideas Analysing and evaluating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material sourcing and processing Commercial manufacturing processes Scales of production Design calculations Quality control Technical drawing techniques CAD modelling Use of CNC machinery |
|--|---|

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify a range of design possibilities (problems) within the world we live in.
- Carry out relevant and purposeful research to allow for innovation when designing.
- Use the iterative design process to create innovative ideas.
- Plan and undertake the manufacture of high-quality prototypes.
- Make good quality judgments based on a wide variety of design principles.

Careers:

- Product design
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Entrepreneur
- Inventor
- Teaching
- Joinery
- Material Scientist

Further Study:

- A Level Design & Technology - Product design
- A Level Engineering
- Cambridge Technical in Engineering
- Apprenticeship in construction/engineering/design



BTEC DIGITAL I.T. (BTEC)



The Digital Information Technology course will build on the skills taught at Key Stage 3 where you have learned about computer systems and software applications. You will learn how effective design and planning has a major impact on the user experience and will have the chance to create your own user interface for a digital system. You will also learn about the differences between information and data in addition to how an organisation may use and process data to give meaningful information through the creation of your own data dashboard. You will gain advanced IT skills that will equip you well for the modern working world ahead of you.

Course Type

Vocational

Assessment Type:

Controlled assessment - 60% of overall mark
Examination - 40% of overall mark

Course Content:

- Investigate user interface design for individuals and organisations.
- Use project planning techniques to plan and design a user interface.
- Develop and review a user interface.
- Investigate the role and impact of using data on individuals and organisations.
- Create a dashboard using data manipulation tools.
- Draw conclusions and review data presentation methods.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Develop key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology.
- Understand processes that underpin effective ways of working, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams and legal conduct.
- Recall knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

Careers:

- Data Analyst
- Network Manager
- Network Security Engineer
- IT Consultant
- ICT Technician

Further Study:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector



BTEC PERFORMING ARTS (BTEC)



Have you ever thought, how is a show put together and rehearsed? Do you love to stand up and speak or just wish you had the confidence to? If so, BTEC Performing Arts is for you. BTEC Performing Arts is a wonderful subject where students work together and individually in a creative manner to produce performance work.

You will do things you'll have never considered in the past. You'll grow in confidence, as a performer and individually. If it's possible to do something practically, we will.

Course Type

Vocational

Assessment Type:

Mixture of recorded performances and coursework

Course Content:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

- Investigate how professional performance or production work is created.
- Demonstrate understanding of the skills, techniques and approaches used by professionals to create performance/production work.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

- Use rehearsal or production/design processes.
- Apply skills and techniques in performance or realisation.
- Review own development and application of performance or design skills.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

- Select and develop skills and techniques in response to a brief.
- Apply skills and techniques in a workshop performance in response to a brief.
- Evaluate the development process and outcome in response to a brief.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Work collaboratively with others.
- Understand character motivations and objectives.
- Be able to confidently stand up and speak in front of others.
- Write extended answers confidently explaining and analysing theatrical choices and performances.

Careers:

- Actor
- Lawyer
- Teacher
- Lighting designer
- Set designer
- Costume designer

Further Study:

- A level Theatre Studies and Drama
- BTEC Acting/ Musical Theatre / Technical Theatre
- Any degree in Theatre and acting or Technical Theatre
- Foundation degree in Acting



GCSE FRENCH (EDEXCEL)



You will be adding an international dimension to your GCSE subjects by studying GCSE French. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of the language including learning vocabulary and grammar rules as well as gaining more cultural knowledge of French-speaking countries. You will also develop better memory and literacy skills and improve your ability to understand spoken and written French as well as being able to communicate effectively in speaking and writing. During the GCSE course you will be able to develop and practise valuable, transferable skills for the future and, as a result, make yourself more employable as well as widening your choice of future opportunities. French can only be chosen if studied in Year 9.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

4 exams sat at the end of Y11 (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)

Course Content:

The course in French covers six main themes:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1: My personal world | 4. Media and technology |
| 2: Lifestyle and wellbeing | 5. Studying and my future |
| 3: My neighbourhood | 6. Travel and tourism |

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Communicate with a person from a French-speaking country and have a conversation with them on a wide range of topics.
- Understand extended pieces of written French, including poems and novels.
- Write a letter/email/blog in French.
- Discuss cultural events that take place in French-speaking countries.

Careers:

- Translator/interpreter
- Journalism
- International law
- Travel and tourism
- Medicine
- Teaching
- International companies regularly require their employees to speak two languages to allow them to work in different countries

Further Study:

- A level French
- A degree in Modern European Studies or Languages





Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE will help learners to discover the essentials of the food science behind cooking and bring learning to life. It's designed to motivate students to develop the high level of knowledge, understanding and skills to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

This course links brilliantly with PE, Health and Social Care and Biology. If you have interests in these fields Food Preparation will help. Students will be responsible for planning and organising ingredients for regular set practical tasks throughout the year.

Course Type	Assessment Type:
GCSE	50% Examination 15% NEA (Food Science) 35% NEA (Food Preparation)

Course Content:

- Diet And Nutrition
- Food Provenance and Food Choices
- Food Science
- Food Safety
- Food Preparation and Cookery Skills

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Understand the importance of a good diet in relation to our health.
- Be able to plan, prepare, cook and serve balanced meals.
- Cook confidently a range of technical dishes. Including breads, pastries, sauces, meat and vegetable preparation.
- Understand why we should buy and eat ethically sourced ingredients.

Careers:	Further Study:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chef/food preparation• Dietician• Food product development• Environmental health officer• Food science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level 3 Catering course at College, such as a BTEC or Cambridge Nationals• Many degree level courses linking to food science and manufacture• Dietetics degree



GCSE GEOGRAPHY (AQA)



Geography helps students to make sense of the complex and ever changing world around us. We explore topical issues and examine how the physical and human world is being shaped.

A GCSE in geography is excellent preparation for a career in most industries. Geography is an education for life. Employers and universities value the broad range of transferable skills that geography delivers. It is a subject that offers you a huge range of skills and opportunities and is always very attractive to prospective employers.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

100% Examination
3 papers all sat at the end of the course

Course Content:

- Natural Hazards
- The Living World (Deserts)
- Physical Landscape of the UK (Rivers and Coasts)
- Urban Issues
- Changing Economic World
- Resource Management (Energy)
- Global Issues
- Fieldwork (2 x compulsory trips)

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Confidently express your point of view, both verbally and written.
- Analyse sources of information (maps, graphs, images, news articles, documentaries).
- Discuss important global issues such as climate change and migration.
- Have developed a great knowledge and understanding of human and physical Geography.

Careers:

- Global business
- Tourism and recreation
- Environmental management
- Teaching
- Agriculture
- Environmental sustainability
- Economics
- Sustainable business management
- Town and city planning
- Armed forces

Further Study:

- A Level Geography, Geology or Environmental Science
- Apprenticeships for the environment agency, Severn Trent
- Sustainability apprenticeships for most large companies





This qualification is to engage and excite young learners who want an introduction to life and work within the health and social care sector.

This is a high quality qualification that will equip students with applied knowledge and real life practical skills set in the health and social care industry. It is a mixture of coursework and examination to determine the final grade. This course recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement and give the learner a boarder experience.

Course Type

Vocational

Assessment Type:

Coursework tasks, externally moderated
External 2 hour exam

Course Content:

- 1 Human Lifespan Development
- 2 Health and Social Care Services and Values
- 3 Health and Wellbeing

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Develop key skills that improve your aptitude in health and social care, such as: interpreting data to assess an individual's health process; a health process that underpins the effective ways of working in health and social care, such as recommended actions using a person centred approach.
- Understand skills and attributes that are considered most important in health and social care, including the 'The 6 Cs' that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them.
- Acquire knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

Careers:

- Nurse
- Midwife
- Social worker
- Health care assistant
- Dentist
- Nursery nurse
- Teacher

Further Study:

- Level 3 Health and Social Care at College, such as a BTEC or Cambridge Nationals
- A Level Health and Social Care
- An apprenticeship in Health and Social Care



GCSE HISTORY (EDEXCEL)



History GCSE is a fantastic choice for any student that has an interest in History and who has enjoyed studying it in KS3. The study of History allows us to understand how our world today is shaped by the past. Our topics at GCSE are carefully chosen to offer the study of engaging topics and content that provides a detailed narrative of key moments in history. History does require a large amount of written work and as such students must be prepared for this. It is expected of students to immerse themselves in history beyond the classroom. History is a well-respected subject and provides you a solid foundation for a multitude of careers.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

Each unit is assessed by three written exams in Year 11 between 1 hour 20 and 1 hour 50.

Course Content:

Paper 1 - Crime & Punishment through time, c1000-Present

Paper 2 - Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Write extended answers confidently to justify your argument.
- Understand how your current world is shaped by history.
- Work independently to examine historical accounts and sources.
- Collaborate with peers to debate and discuss historical topics.
- Understand the narrative of key moments in history and their ongoing consequences.

Careers:

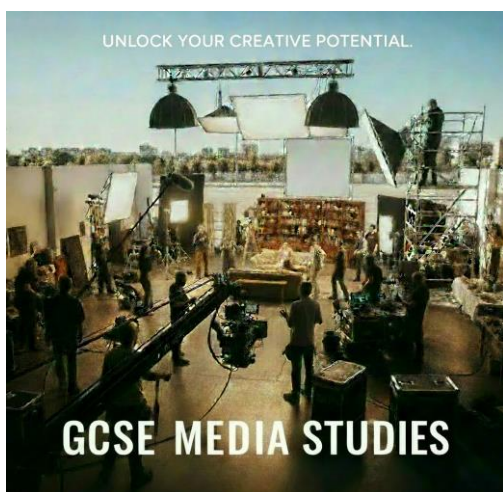
- Historian
- Solicitor/Barrister
- Archivist
- Heritage/Conservationist Manager
- Archaeologist
- Journalism
- Teaching
- Civil Service
- Political analyst
- Education Officer
- Police and Armed forces
- Historical Consultant

Further Study:

- A level History
- A level Government and Politics
- A Level Law
- Any other A Level that involves essay-writing, discussions and analysis of sources



GCSE MEDIA STUDIES (AQA)



GCSE Media Studies: Be the Critic. Be the Creator.

Unlock the secrets behind the screens. This isn't just a course—it's your backstage pass to the media that shapes our world. The media doesn't just entertain—it defines reality. In this dynamic course, you won't just watch; you'll dissect and build.

We crack the code on Media Language, Representation, Industries, and Audiences. You'll analyse Hollywood hits, news, and games, then put theory into practice by creating your own compelling media.

If you want to influence the world, you must first understand its messages. Your journey starts here.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

30% Coursework

70% Exam (Component 1 & 2)

Course Content:

Media Language: The Art of Persuasion: How do creators use the tools of the trade to tell stories, build worlds, and directly influence your emotions and opinions?

Media Industries: The Power & Profit: Who really controls major platforms like Netflix and YouTube? How do their business models—determine what content get made?

Audiences: The People & The Power: Who is the target audience? Why does the same film thrill one person and bore another?

The Things You Study:

TV and Film: Why are certain shows huge hits?

Newspapers & Magazines/Advertising: The power of print and digital news.

Video Games & Social Media: Exploring the interactive and fast-paced worlds of digital culture.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

Analyse: Decode the secret language of media to understand how films, games, and adverts influence you.

Evaluate: Investigate who holds the power—the companies and contexts that decide what gets made and why.

Create: Master professional production, from planning to making polished, industry-standard media.

Careers:

Creative Industries: Film & TV, Graphic Design, Photography, Advertising, Journalism. **Digital/Tech:** Digital Marketing, Web Creator, Game Creator

Further Study:

- **A-Level:** Media & Film Studies, Photography, Graphic Design, English Lang. & Lit
- **BTEC/Vocational:** Creative Digital Media Production, Journalism, Art and Design



GCSE MUSIC (EDUQAS)



If you have a love of music then GCSE music is for you. During the course you will have the opportunity to extend your knowledge of music and learn about the connections between all styles of music, no matter when or where they were written.

You will learn about composing music, whether it's composing a style of music that you are comfortable with or composing in a new style. You will also have the opportunity to perform on your own as well as in groups. Instrument lessons would be an advantage, these can be arranged through the school.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

- Written exam at the end of Y11 (40%)
- Composition (30%) and Performance (30%)

Course Content:

- Musical forms and devices
- Music for ensemble
- Music for Film
- Popular music
- 2 prepared extracts of music: 'Badinerie' by Bach and 'Africa' by Toto.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify and confidently talk about the different features of music, through the study of the prepared extracts and areas of study.
- Write about the music you are listening to and discuss how the use of the musical elements adds to the atmosphere and direction of the music.
- Compose music: one to a brief given by the exam board and one written using a brief of your own.
- Perform a solo on your chosen instrument, confidently and accurately. With guidance from your instrument tutor, you will be performing pieces that suit your ability and taste.
- Perform in an ensemble on your chosen instrument.

Careers:

- Private or school music teacher
- Music therapist
- Performer
- Composer
- Television production assistant
- Programme researcher
- Arts administrator
- Musical Theatre

Further Study:

- A Level in Music/Music Technology/Performing Arts
- BTEC/NVQ
- Apprenticeship (Music publishing/Theatre/Radio/Community Arts)



GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY (AQA)



Photography is an Art GCSE. Students studying photography learn how to create and manipulate digital images. More importantly arts subjects encourage self-expression and creativity and help build student confidence as well as a sense of individual identity.

Students have the freedom to develop a project from a single starting point learning to experiment and explore their ideas to create a final outcome.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

Portfolio - 60% / Externally set task 40%

Course Content:

Topics covered include:

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography
- Still life photography
- Documentary photography
- Photojournalism
- Fine art photography
- Photography involving a moving image
- Composition
- Camera techniques
- Image manipulation (Photoshop)
- History of photography

Students will work to develop the following skills:

- Critical and reflective thinking
- Creativity
- Resilience
- Planning
- Researching and planning

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Produce images using digital technology and traditional methods.
- Develop and produce static or moving images.
- Additional areas of study can include: portraiture, installation, photo-journalism, moving image (film, video and animation and fashion photography).

Careers:

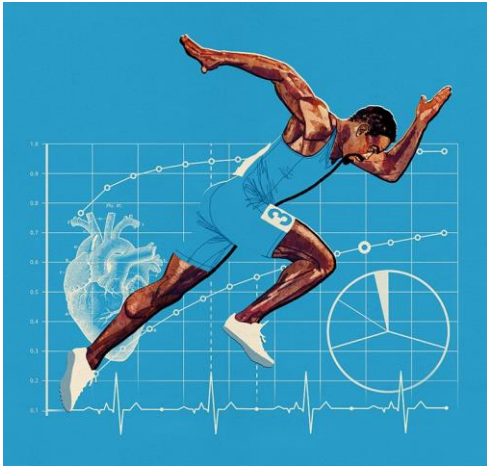
Industries include but are not limited to: Photography, Graphic Design, Advertising, Visual Media, Publishing, Social Media.

Further Study:

- Art A Level
- BTEC
- Degree



GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (OCR)



If you would like to find out how the body moves, adapts and reacts to exercise and how we can develop and improve our bodies linked to social and cultural influences, this course is for you.

GCSE PE goes into the theory and practical aspects of movement and performance. We focus on not only acquiring knowledge of the body, but also learning how to apply this knowledge in both a written and demonstration manner. By the end of the course you will have gained significant knowledge and skills to prepare you for the future.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

X2 Written examinations. Each 1 hour long
X1 Externally moderated practical performance assessment (3 Sports)
X1 Analysis of performance written task

Course Content:

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Physical training
- Sport psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health Fitness and wellbeing
- Practical performance in isolation and in a competitive and formal situation
- Analysis of performance task

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Complete extended answers confidently to demonstrate your knowledge.
- Understand how and prepare physical training, create and analyse data.
- Make judgements about a scenario and back them up with knowledge.
- Have an interest in and enjoy learning about the world of Sport and PE.
- Understand, and regularly follow, issues related to Sport and PE.

Careers:

- Teacher
- Fitness Instructor
- Physiotherapy
- Sports Data Analysis
- Diet And Nutrition

Further Study:

- Level 3 Sport course at College, such as a BTEC or Cambridge Nationals
- A Levels in Physical Education
- An Apprenticeship in Sport



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES AQA)



Religious studies is an exciting subject that enables us to better understand the society in which we live and the wider world of which we are a part. In Religious Studies lessons you will learn strong reasoning, writing and critical thinking skills which are valued by all employers.

You will take part in lively debates where you will learn about the views of others whilst also expressing your own opinions on the issues studied. Religious Studies develops key skills for any career that you choose to pursue.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

100% Examination
2 exams sat at the end of Year 11

Course Content:

- Beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Islam
- Relationships and families
- The origins of the universe and how humans use the environment
- Crime and punishment
- Human rights and social justice

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Write extended answers confidently and express your own points of view.
- Learn about the views of others and understand why people have different opinions.
- Confidently take part in class debates and discussions.
- Understand and learn about local and world issues.
- Develop your listening, reading, writing and speaking skills which are vital in the world of work.

Careers:

- Law
- Medicine
- Counselling and Social Services
- Marketing and Advertising
- Police and Civil Services
- Journalism and Writing
- Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- Education and Training
- Nursing and Service Sector Roles

Further Study:

- A-Level Religious Studies or Philosophy
- Vocational qualifications linked to religious studies, including, travel and tourism, health and social care, childcare, uniformed public services and legal studies
- Apprenticeships associated with religious studies such as, leisure, travel and tourism and the arts, media and publishing



GCSE STATISTICS (EDEXCEL)



Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives you the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data.

It allows you to have the opportunity to use the skills you already have from mathematics and build upon them, to use in real life contexts.

It complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

100% examination
Two written exams at the end of Year 11

Course Content:

- Understanding the importance of careful planning with a clear strategy for collecting, recording and processing data in order to address an identified question or hypothesis.
- Generating data visualisation and understanding the maths involved.
- These will be carefully linked through a planned curriculum that will support content delivery within GCSE Mathematics.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Use statistical techniques in a variety of authentic investigations; use real world data in contexts such as populations, climate, sales etc.
- Identify trends through carrying out appropriate calculations and data visualisation techniques.
- Critically evaluate data, calculations and evaluations that would be commonly encountered in their studies and in everyday life.
- Understand how technology has enabled the collection, visualisation and analysis of large quantities of data to inform decision-making processes in public, commercial and academic sectors.

Careers:

- Data Scientist
- Financial Quantitative analyst
- Accountant
- Operations Research Analyst
- Stock Trader
- Business Analyst

Further Study:

- A Level Mathematics
- A Level Statistics
- Mathematics Degree
- Business/Economics Degree
- Accountancy Qualifications



GCSE SPANISH (EDEXCEL)



You will be adding an international dimension to your GCSE subjects by studying GCSE Spanish. Developing your knowledge and understanding of the language including learning vocabulary and grammar rules as well as gaining more cultural knowledge of Spanish-speaking countries. You will also develop better memory and literacy skills and improve your ability to understand spoken and written Spanish as well as being able to communicate effectively in speaking and writing. During the GCSE course you will practise valuable, transferable skills for the future and make yourself more employable as well as widening your choice of future opportunities. Spanish can only be chosen if studied in Year 9.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

4 exams sat at the end of Y11 (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)

Course Content:

The course in Spanish covers six main themes:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1: My personal world | 4. Media and technology |
| 2: Lifestyle and wellbeing | 5. Studying and my future |
| 3: My neighbourhood | 6. Travel and tourism |

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Communicate with a person from a Spanish-speaking country and have a conversation with them on a wide range of topics.
- Understand extended pieces of written Spanish, including poems and novels.
- Write a letter/email/blog in Spanish.
- Discuss cultural events that take place in Spanish-speaking countries.

Careers:

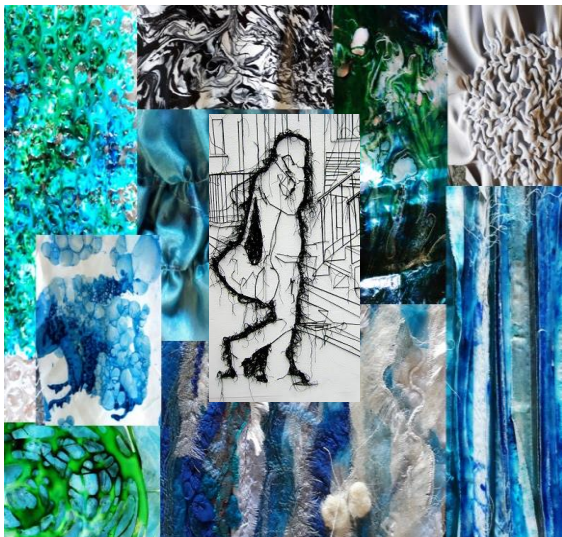
- Translator/interpreter
- Journalism
- International law
- Travel and tourism
- Medicine
- Teaching
- International companies regularly require their employees to speak two languages to allow them to work in different countries

Further Study:

- A level Spanish
- A degree in Modern European Studies or Languages



GCSE TEXTILES (AQA)



This is a practical course which offers the opportunity for students to develop skills over a broad range of textile techniques such as embroidery, weaving, felting, machine stitching, appliqué, fabric manipulation construction methods and printing, producing final outcomes for interiors to fashion and much more.

This course will give the students the freedom to express their creativity & independence by exploring different themes, textile artists and designers using textile techniques and materials that interest them, building a portfolio of work covering all the assessment objectives. Regardless of your career path, Textiles will teach you independence, creativity, time-management, and craftsmanship - transferable skills for any job.

Course Type

GCSE

Assessment Type:

60% Coursework
40% Exam Project (no written exam)

Course Content:

- Project 1- The Built World - fabric manipulation and constructed textiles
- Project 2 - Under the Sea- hand and machine decorative techniques
- Exam Project- Extended project working to an exam board brief

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Work to a range of inspirational themes, exploring the world around you.
- Investigate, explore and refine your own independent ideas.
- Work in a wide range of hand and machine techniques creatively and with craftsmanship.
- Explore, make judgements, and be inspired by the work of others from artists, designers and craftspeople.
- Create textiles pieces in your own personal style.

Careers:

Fashion or Textiles Designer, Freelance Designer or Craftsperson, Costume Designer or Stylist, Visual Merchandiser or Fashion Buyer, Surface Pattern or 3D Designer, Interior or Furniture Designer, Fine Artist or Sculptor, Art or Nursery Teacher, Art Historian or Museum Curator, Animator or Toy Designer, Advertising Designer or Journalist, Art Therapist and many more.

Further Study:

- Level 3 BTECs such as Art and Design or Fashion and Textiles
- A Levels including Textiles, Art and Design, Fine Art or Product Design
- Creative Apprenticeships including Fashion and Merchandising, Tailoring, or Art Therapy

Please Note: a combination of Textiles and Art cannot both be selected by a student.



GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE (AQA)



All students study Science at GCSE in Years 10 and 11. Triple Science allows students to study 3 separate GCSE subjects: Biology, Physics and Chemistry. Subjects will be taught in discrete lessons for each Science discipline. Triple science has been championed by the government and industry for the way it prepares students for the world of STEM employment.

Practical work is the heart of Science. By carrying out carefully considered practical work, understanding of key scientific concepts can be explored. This, alongside theory equips students with a strong knowledge of the subject.

Course Type

The course is a GCSE course with 3 separate grades awarded.

Assessment Type:

Six Written examinations : 1 hour 45 minutes each
Foundation and Higher Tier available

Course Content:

- In GCSE Biology pupils have the opportunity to develop their understanding of cells, infection, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance and ecology.
- In GCSE Chemistry sections pupils have the opportunity to develop the understanding of atomic structure, bonding, chemical changes and reactions, and the atmosphere.
- In GCSE Physics sections pupils have the opportunity to develop the understanding of energy, electricity, radiation, space and waves.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify key content of concepts in Science
- Describe, explain and evaluate different Science concepts and scenarios
- Write a scientific investigation
- Analyse data
- Evaluate methods and data

Careers:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Engineering
- Energy & Utility
- Food/Nutrition Industry
- Medicine & Health Care
- Police & Emergencies
- Science Research
- Sport & Fitness

Further Study:

- Suitable for progression to A Levels in Chemistry, Physics and Biology if pupils achieve a grade 6 or above
- University Science/Engineering qualification post-16



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between GCSEs and Vocational courses?

A GCSE course is a traditional qualification, usually assessed through 100% examination. Vocational qualifications are assessed through a mixture of exams and coursework. Both qualifications are of equal difficulty but the nature of coursework in vocational qualifications may be more suitable for some students.

Can I swap to a different choice after submitting?

The deadline for option choices is Friday 13th of February. After this date we cannot guarantee any requested swaps of choices. Once courses have commenced in September we strongly discourage students from swapping option choices due to the amount of content covered in the initial weeks of courses. We do not allow students to swap choices beyond the second week of Year 10.

Are all subjects marketed guaranteed to run?

We rely on student numbers for courses to run. We would not normally run a course that attracts student numbers below 12. Students should ensure they make two reserve choices because of this.

Are any options easier than others?

All subjects are of equal academic difficulty so subject choices should not be made because of the perceived difficulty of a subject compared to another.

Where can I get further guidance?

Should students require any further support with making their options choices, please email options@murraypark.derby.sch.uk.

Are subjects first come, first served?

No. Providing the options are submitted by the deadline.

