

Options Booklet 2024-2026



Dear Year 9 Student,

You have now reached an exciting and extremely important stage in your educational life. In Years 7, 8 and 9 you have followed a wide range of subjects that have provided a firm foundation for your next two years in Years 10 and 11.

Now you have to make certain crucial decisions about some of the subjects you will follow. A few students may find these choices easy because they are already certain about their future career or path in further and higher education. However, all students should think carefully about exactly which subjects will support their chosen career path or enable them to continue their journey in education. It may be better, at this stage, to follow as wide a range of subjects as possible in order to keep all options open to allow for a change of direction. However, students with the ability to study at University must seriously consider the subjects they need in order to do this.

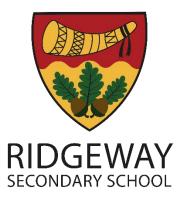
You should examine the details provided in this pack carefully and try to put together a combination of subjects that best suits your interests and abilities. Read the subject information sheets carefully, **discuss them with your parents/carers** so that you make the most effective choices for you.

Finally, please remember that all the staff are here to help you at this important stage in your education. We want you to make the best decision for yourself so that you will achieve the very best of which you are capable and enjoy your last two years at Ridgeway Secondary School.

I wish you every success!

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Mr M Ball Headteacher



Year 9 Options

This pack was written to help you make informed choices in the areas you wish to continue studying in Key Stage 4. It is important that you choose a combination of subjects that will allow you to progress in Further Education and beyond or into employment.

Everyone will follow courses in:

English Language English Literature	Mathematics	Science
PE (Core)	RE (non-exam)	R360 (non-exam)

In addition, you need to select an appropriate course from each of the 4 option blocks. Whilst we will endeavour to give you your first choices, this may not always be possible.

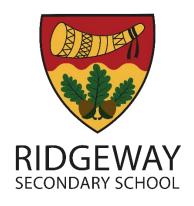
After the Year 9 Options Evening it is important that you get your signed Options form back to Mr Vernon by **15th March** to help organise subject allocations as quickly as possible.

Options Timetable	
26 th February 2024	Options Information delivered to students
7 th March 2024	Options Information Evening
15 th March 2024	Signed Options forms to be returned by this date

Subject Content

The subjects included in the 2024-2026 curriculum for Year 10 and 11 (current year 9s) are listed in this section.

You should discuss your choices with your parents/carers and seek their advice. You should read the subject information sheets and listen carefully to what each Head of Department, teacher in charge or subject teacher has to say about the courses and your suitability for them. The intention of the options process is to encourage you to look closely at each subject and to help you give serious thought to your future curriculum. We will then consider your choices, taking into consideration your academic performance, prior attainment, your attendance, enthusiasm and commitment for the subject. Courses will only run if there are **sufficient numbers of students to make them viable.**



Option Subjects

All of these subjects are offered at Level 2. Level 2 (L2) courses are equivalent to GCSE grades 9 - 1.

GCSE Art	GCSE French	GCSE Media Studies
GCSE Business	GSCE Geography	GCSE PE
GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE History	GCSE Religious Studies
GCSE Food & Nutrition	OCR iMedia (BTEC)	GCSE Triple Science

Option Blocks 2024

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C	Option Block D
GCSE Geography	GCSE French	GCSE Triple Science	GCSE Design & Technology
GCSE History	OCR Creative iMedia	GCSE PE	GCSE PE
	GCSE Art	GCSE Food & Nutrition	GCSE Religious Studies
	GCSE Media	GCSE Art	GCSE Business

The following people are available to help you:

Headteacher	Mr M Ball	
Deputy Headteacher	Ms A Page	
Associate Assistant Headteacher	Mr A Vernon	
Head of Key Stage 3	Mrs T Dodd	
Year 9 Tutors	Mr Hampton, Mr Smith and Miss Payton	
Heads of Department	English	Miss J Powell
	Maths	Mr C Seager
	Science	Mr A Vernon
	French	Ms M Micah
	Humanities	Mr D Cowan
	Technology	Mrs L Hampton
	PE & Creative	Mrs C Sandall



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do I have to choose?

The GCSE and vocational courses in Key Stage 4 need to be studied in more detail than the course you are currently following and this takes more time. Therefore, you will need to study fewer subjects and spend more time on them.

2. Why do I have to choose from this set of subjects?

You need a broad and balanced education to prepare you for the full range of opportunities in education or work at 16+. In addition to this consideration, the National Curriculum sets down requirements for you to study at this stage in your school career.

3. Can I change my mind later?

The subjects you choose are for the next two years. We expect everyone to complete their courses once they have decided on them. This means fulfilling the requirements of the examination syllabus including completion of non-examined assessment / assignments and sitting the final examination. Therefore, it is very important that the right choice is made at the outset. As a result, we ask you to spend quite a long time considering your decisions. It is only in exceptional circumstances that you are permitted to change your courses once you have begun them in September. Some subjects will be full and a change to one of these at a later date will be impossible. Please bear that in mind.

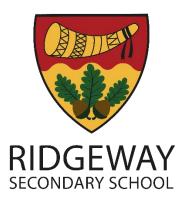
4. How should I choose?

To make a good decision you should consider:

- Your level of achievement in your current courses
- Your current commitment and attitude towards subjects
- Subjects that you enjoy
- Your interests
- Your plans for further and higher education, e.g. A level, degree courses
- Your future career plans
- The appropriateness of the course

You should not base decisions on:

- What your friends are doing
- A teacher that you like



5. Will I have to do more homework and independent study?

Yes. You will have to spend more time on homework for each subject as the courses you are following involve more independent study. Regular work at school and home and good study habits will be essential to relieve the pressure and help you to achieve success.

6. Will I definitely get all the subjects I ask for?

A student's academic performance, prior attainment, attendance and commitment for the subject will be considered when allocating subjects. Most students will receive their first choice subjects, however, some students may be allocated their second choice should numbers mean that courses do not run. It is therefore important that your second choice is something that you are happy to study.

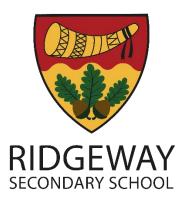
7. Someone said that if there are not enough students opting for a subject, it will not run. Is this true?

While we would like to be able to run all courses, it will cost too much to do so if the number of students opting for a subject are too small. Where this is the case your second choice will be allocated.

8. How many examinations subjects can I take at the end of Year 11?

Most students will study 8 GCSE or equivalent accredited subjects but some of you will take more, for example Triple Scientists will take 9. English counts as two subjects, one for Language and one for Literature. Science is a double or triple award (two or three GCSEs). Each of your options count as one subject. Everyone studies Mathematics and this is a single award. This means that most students will leave Ridgeway with 9 or 10 GCSE or equivalent grades.

Most colleges and Further Education establishments require 5 or 6 good grades to get onto a college course so all will have a sufficient number of subjects to apply for post -16 courses.



A list of terms used:

Assignments Tasks, often written or practical, which are part of the course.

Core Subjects English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, RE and PSHCE.

Non examined Assessment Completed in class under 'controlled' conditions, this has replaced

coursework in many subjects.

GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education.

Its features are:

• It is a single subject exam. Those in which you achieve a grade will appear on your certificate.

• The normal age for sitting it will be 16+, at the end of Year 11.

Certificates are awarded on a single scale of grades 9
 1; the highest and lowest pass grades respectively.

Internal Assessment The marking of your coursework or assignment by your teacher.

Examination BoardsAQA (Assessment and Qualification Alliance)
EDEXCEL

OCR (Oxford and Cambridge and RSA Examinations)

WJEC (Welsh Joint Examination Council)

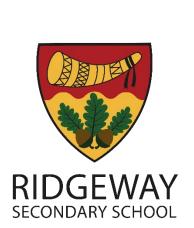
Options The choice of subjects – you can opt for certain subjects while

deciding not to study others.

Moderation Means that the standard of your work, even if marked in school, will

be checked externally and looked at alongside the work of other

candidates, before a final mark is decided upon.



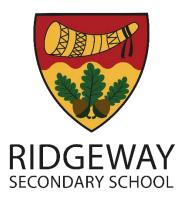
SUBJECT LIST

Over the next 12 pages you will find more information regarding the subjects offered at Ridgeway Secondary School for the 2024-2026 KS4 curriculum.

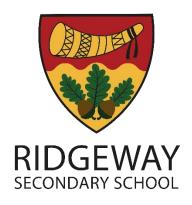
- Art
- Business
- Design & Technology
- Food & Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History
- iMedia (L2 BTEC)
- Media Studies
- PE
- Religious Studies
- Triple Science



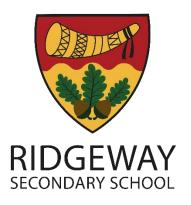
Included is an overview of what is covered at KS4 as well as links to possible further education or a career link to each subject. Information on methods of assessments are included as well in order to best prepare you to choose the correct options for you. If you require further information on what content is included, please see the curriculum overview and delivery grids on the school website for each subject following the Curriculum link.



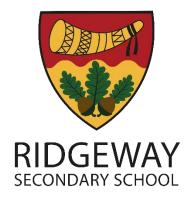
GCSE Art	
What is involved?	 This GCSE is designed to bring Art and Design to life. You will develop your artistic skills. You will expand your creativity, imagination and independence. You will be able to express yourself through different materials, media and techniques.
What will I study?	 You will gain knowledge and understanding through the study of art, craft, design, media and technologies today and in the past. You will study art in different cultures and societies. You will develop understanding of the different roles, audiences and consumers for art, craft and design. You will explore different ways of working, using a range of processes and equipment.
How will I be assessed?	 Examination: - 40% - There is a 10 hour practical exam for which you will have preparation time. Controlled Assessment - 60% - You have to produce a portfolio of work in a supervised environment.
I need to:	 Be creatively minded. Be well organised and able to manage my time effectively. Be able to meet deadlines.
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 A Levels in Art and Design, Fine Art or Graphic Communication such as animation. Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Art & Design and Degree courses. Art & Design Apprenticeships and employment in the Art & Design sector.



GCSE Business		
What is involved?	 This GCSE is designed to equip students with an understanding of the business world, from small start-ups to multinational corporations. You will develop your analytical skills. You will expand your understanding of different types of businesses and business influences. You will be able to understand how recessions and exits from trading bloc can affect economies and performance of small and large business. 	
What will I study?	 You will study from two themes. Theme 1 is based around small business start-ups and the steps they must go through the minimise risk and ensure survival. Theme 2 involves content linked to how a business looks to move from survival to expansion and growth. You will study various calculations linked to different measures of profitability and investment. 	
How will I be assessed?	 Examination: - 100% One GCSE examination on Theme 1 and one GCSE examination on Theme 2 – both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes. GCSE papers questions vary from 1 mark short questionins to 12 mark evaluation questions, requiring solid understanding of content and command words. 	
I need to: What is this useful	 Be analytical. Have confidence with mathematical skills in rearranging equations. Be able to justify decisions based on content acquired throughout the course along with context from given case studies. Have inference skills. A Levels in Business and Economics. 	
for, after Ridgeway?	 Various apprenticeships in Business management and marketing. Understanding of how interest rates can affect spending and saving patterns of businesses and people. 	



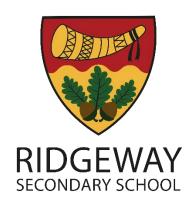
GCSE Design 8	& Technology
What is involved?	 This GCSE is designed to open your mind to the design world around us. You will develop your analytical, drawing, evaluation, making and organisational skills. You will expand your creativity, imagination and independence. You will enhance your learning and express yourself through different materials and techniques.
What will I study?	 You will study three main areas of topics through a range of material areas: Core Technical principles, Specialist Technical Skills and Designing and Making Principles. You will study design in the modern world and emerging trends and developments within society. You will explore different ways of working, using a range of processes and equipment.
How will I be assessed?	 Examination: -50% - There is a 2-hour exam, made up of multiple choice and longer written questions that tests your understanding of the contextual aspects of design, processes and materials in depth. Non- Exam Assessment - 50% - Divided into a piece of written coursework worth 40 marks, which will be based on a contextual challenge of design, and the making of a prototype version of your final design made from timbers, polymers, textiles or clay.
I need to:	 Be well organised and able to manage time effectively, meeting deadlines where necessary. Be responsible and well behaved. Be enthusiastic and willing to give something a go (both written and practical)
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 A Levels in Art and Design, Design Technology, Graphic Design. Diplomas in Engineering, Manufacturing, Design, Building & Construction, Game Design. Apprenticeships and employment in areas such as Engineering, Interior Design, Architect, Fashion and more.



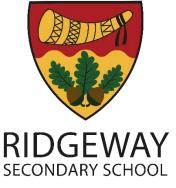
GCSE Food & N	utrition
What is involved?	 This GCSE is designed to provide you with an understanding of nutrition and food preparation skills. You will develop your investigational and practical skills. You will expand your knowledge of Nutrition, Food Science and Food awareness. You will gain imagination and independence and be able to express yourself through your edible products.
What will I study?	 You will gain knowledge and understanding through six areas of the course: Food and nutrition, Food commodities, Diet and good health, Where food comes from, The science of food and the Cooking and preparation of food. You will develop your practical skills and enhance your theoretical knowledge of food and nutrition.
How will I be assessed?	 Examination: - 50% - There is a 2-hour written exam to test your understanding of all aspects of the subject. Non- Exam Assessment - 50%: NEA 1- 15% Food science investigation - Investigate the scientific principles
	 underlying the preparation and cooking of food. Write up your findings based on a small food scientific investigation. NEA 2- 35% Food preparation assessment - Plan, prepare and cook 3 dishes within 3 hours to meet a brief. Produce written theoretical work to support your practical skills.
I need to:	 Be well organised and able to manage time effectively. Be responsible and able to work safely independently. Be enthusiastic and willing to give something a go (both written and practical)
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 Diplomas, BTECS and NVQs in Professional cookery, Hospitality and catering, Food Science and Technology. A Levels in Science: Chemistry, PE, Food and Nutrition (Diploma but worth an A Level). Apprenticeships and employment in sectors such as Hospitality and Catering, Travel and Tourism, and Manufacturing and Processing.



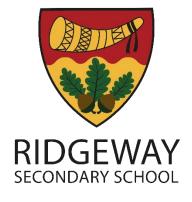
GCSE French	
What is involved?	You will develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. You will develop language learning skills which can be transferred to other languages you may wish to learn in the future.
What will I study?	 Topics studied will be 'units' of the following 3 main themes: Identity and Culture (4 units) Local, national, international and global areas of interest (4 units). Current and future study and employment (4 units). 12 Units in total make up the French GCSE Curriculum.
How will I be assessed?	 Paper 1 – Listening. 25% of the GCSE. Paper 2 – (non-exam assessment) Speaking (which includes a role-play, a photo description, and a general conversation). 25% of the GCSE. Teacher assessed and marked by exam board. Paper 3 – Reading. 25% of GCSE. Paper 4 – Writing. 25% of GCSE.
I need to:	 Be able to work effectively with other people and on my own. Be able to speak confidently in French to my peers, teacher and during my speaking assessment. Write at varying lengths in French, using 3 different time frames, providing opinions and justifications across an array of different GCSE topics.
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 A modern foreign language GCSE pass can contribute to the English Baccalaureate qualification. Learning one language gives you a head start when you want to learn another. More and more universities prefer a language qualification for some of their courses. The skills you will learn will be useful in your future career. Languages are useful outside the workplace.



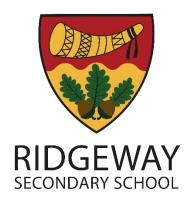
GCSE Geograph	hy
What is involved?	You will tackle some of the most important UK and global issues and be able to make sense of the World around us. As the world shrinks due to the growth of technology, the course will inspire you to be global citizens allowing you to explore your place in the world, your values and your responsibilities.
	You will go on fieldwork and carry out your own research.
What will I study?	 You will study two key elements, split over three exams: Physical Geography: Global ecosystems and environments, extreme weather and climate change, coastal processes and landforms, river features and management, tectonic hazards. Human Geography: Causes and consequences of population change and migration, megacities, food and energy production, the impact of climate change and issues such as waste management or the energy crisis.
How will I be assessed?	 100% exam based (no coursework but fieldwork is required). Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment – 1 hr 30mins, 35% of the final grade. Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment – 1 hr 30mins, 35% of the final grade. Paper 3 – Geographical applications – 1hr 15mins, 30% of the final grade.
I need to:	 Be able to work effectively with other people and on my own, meeting deadlines. Test hypotheses. Collect and analyse data. Research, discuss and present findings and conclusions.
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 Other GCSEs such as History, Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology. A Level Geography followed by University courses. Careers in: Urban planning and design, environmental protection and management, law, planning, architecture, Meteorologist, Coastal/marine scientist, Hydrologist and flood management engineer.



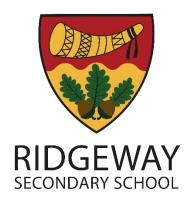
GCSE History	
What is involved?	You will develop a broad and diverse historical knowledge and have a better understanding of the local, national and international World in which you live. The units studied will tell a story about a period that shaped the world we live in today. You will develop skills that will support progression to further study of history and a wide range of other subjects.
What will I study?	 Vou will study four elements, split over two exams: Unit 1: Britain: health and the people, c1000-present Unit 2: Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and dictatorship Unit 3: Elizabethan England, c1568-1603 Unit 4: Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945-1972
How will I be assessed?	 100% exam based (no coursework) Paper 1 (Understanding the Modern World) – 2 hours – 50% of the final grade Paper 2 (Shaping the Nation) – 2 hours – 50% of the final grade
I need to:	 Be able to handle evidence and critically analyse Research and apply knowledge to answer questions Construct a strong argument Problem solve and make decisions
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 Other GCSEs such as Geography, Philosophy and Sociology. A Levels in History, Economics, Politics, Philosophy, Critical Thinking. Degree level History and a wide range of other subjects. Careers such as Academia, Journalism, Drama, Social Work, Law, Archaeology, Museums/Archives and Teaching.



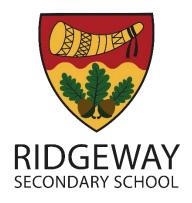
iMedia (Cambridge National)		
What is involved?	Creative iMedia will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the digital media sector and the wider industry. It is a vocational qualification that contains both practical and theoretical elements.	
What will I study?	 You will complete 3 units of work: Creative iMedia in the media industry – The media industry, factors influencing product design, pre-production planning, distribution considerations Visual identity and digital graphics – Develop visual identity, plan digital graphics for products, create visual identity and digital graphics Interactive digital media – Plan interactive digital media, create interactive digital media, review interactive digital media 	
How will I be assessed?	 Creative iMedia in the media industry – Exam Visual identity and digital graphics – Coursework Interactive digital media - Coursework 	
I need to:	 Be able to work independently and meet deadlines. Research and plan Be analytical and present digitally Plan, create and evaluate Solve problems 	
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 Level 3 ICT/iMedia courses and qualifications at degree level. ICT skills also supplement other courses at A level and degree. IT skills are expected in most professions and careers today. Possible careers include, web designer, systems analyst, computer games developer, user experience developer, media, multimedia broadcaster, sound technician, military (armed forces technical officer, intelligence officer, satellite technician). 	



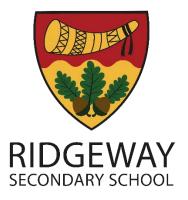
GCSE Media Studies		
What is involved?	Media Studies engages students in the in-depth study of media products in relation to the four areas of the theoretical framework: • Media language • Media representation • Media industries • Media audiences	
What will I study?	Students are required to study media products from all of the following media forms: • Television • Films • Radio • Newspapers • Magazines • Advertising and marketing • Social media • Video games • Music videos	
How will I be assessed?	Students will complete 2 x 1 hour 30-minute exams worth 35% of the GCSE totalling 70%. Students will also complete a controlled assessment worth 30% of the final GCSE.	
I need to:	 Students will need to: Demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision making and analysis. Acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of important media issues. Develop appreciation and critical understanding of the media and their role both historically and currently in society, culture and politics. 	
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 Students studying Media at GCSE will find the transition to media related college courses and A levels easier than those students not studying Media studies. Clear links to careers in industries such as TV, Radio, Marketing, and Game design. 	



GCSE PE	
What is involved?	Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports through the non-exam assessment component, but you will also develop wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of Physical activity and sport. The combination of the physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the academic study learn how to improve your performance though application of the theory.
What will I study?	 Component 01: Physical factors affecting performance 1.1 Applied anatomy and physiology 1.2 Physical training. Component 02: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology 2.1 Socio-cultural influences 2.2 Sports psychology 2.3 Health, fitness and well-being. Component 03: Performance in physical education 3.1 Performance of three activities taken from the two approved lists one from the 'individual' list one from the 'team' list one other from either list. 3.2 Analysing and Evaluating Performance.
How will I be assessed?	 Final practical examination: 30% of final grade: 3 practical activities that must include 1 team and 1 individual sport and another. 10% of final grade: a written analysis of a selected performance. Two final theory examinations 60% final grade.
I need to:	 Take part in sport outside of school and be dedicated to improving your skills in extracurricular clubs provided by the school. Be able to work independently and as part of a team. Analyse and evaluate performance, making effective plans for improvement.
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 Careers in HM Forces, Leisure Industry, Sports Science, Teacher Training, Sports Management, Coaching. Qualify as a referee/umpire in different sports. AS and A2 Level PE, Sport and Leisure. Careers in HM Forces, Leisure Industry, Sports Science, Teacher Training, Sports Management, Coaching. Qualify as a referee/umpire in different sports.



GCSE Religious Studies		
3		
What is involved?	Religions have always asked fundamental questions, such as: • What is the true meaning of life? • What happens to us after death? • How do we explain human suffering and injustices? Pupils learn to respect themselves and understand their own identity, to respect others, and to understand their own and others' rights and responsibilities. Religious Studies provides an excellent opportunity for young people to engage with contemporary contentious issues, developing social, cultural, political, philosophical and historical awareness.	
What will I study?	There are three main areas of study within GCSE Religious Studies: • Christianity -Beliefs, Teachings and Practices. • Judaism - Beliefs, Teachings and Practices. • Thematic studies - Philosophy and Ethics.	
How will I be assessed?	All assessments are exam based, with no coursework or controlled assessments to complete: • Christianity and Judaism - Beliefs, Teachings and Practices (1 x 1hour 45 minute exam = 50%). • Thematic Studies (Philosophy and Ethics): (1 x 1hour 45 minute exam = 50%).	
I need to:	 Be able to work independently and as part of a team. Be able to listen to others' points of view and be understanding of different beliefs and the reasons for them. Show empathy, respect and tolerance. 	
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 Skills you learn during this course can applied in almost any career possible, whether you want to become a teacher, lawyer, police officer, social worker or even work in the armed forces. Religious Studies provides you with the skills to successfully work alongside others in a multi-faith society. 	



GCSE Triple Science		
What is involved?	 These are academic GCSE Science courses which cover both theory and practical elements of each subjects. The course involves each Science being studied independently and therefore resulting in three separate GCSE qualifications rather than the traditional two GCSEs. This is the recommended route for students wishing to pursue further study or a career in Science or a Science related subject. 	
What will I study?	The course involves each Science being studied independently and therefore resulting in three separate GCSE qualifications rather than the traditional two GCSEs. On top of the content studied in Combined Science you will study topics such as: • The structures of DNA, the Brain and the Eye • Transition metals • Big Bang Theory • Lifecycle of stars • Nano chemistry • Transformers and the National Grid • Chemical analysis of positive and negative ions • Static Electricity	
How will I be assessed?	 Examination – 100% 6 x 1 hour 45-minute exams 	
I need to:	 Be curious Be aspirational Be resilient Enjoy challenge Enjoy Science! 	
What is this useful for, after Ridgeway?	 A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Any science related discipline at college. Links to hundreds of careers linked to any aspect of STEM. Developing an understanding of the world in greater detail and depth that can be applied in any context or career path. 	

