

Year 9 Options booklet



Key
Stage 4

Rokeby School
2025 to 2027

Contents:

Page 3	Introduction from Ms. Doyle
Page 4	Introduction from Key Stage Coordinators
Page 6	An introduction to Key Stage 4
Page 8	Frequently asked questions

<u>Core Subjects</u>	
Page 9	GCSE English
Page 11	GCSE Mathematics
Page 14	GCSE Science
Page 16	GCSE Religious Education
Page 17	Physical Education
<u>Modern Foreign Languages</u>	
Page 20	GCSE French
Page 22	GCSE Spanish
<u>Options Subjects</u>	
<u>Humanities</u>	
Page 24	GCSE Geography
Page 26	GCSE History
Page 28	GCSE Sociology
<u>Computing</u>	
Page 30	GCSE Computer Science
<u>Business Studies</u>	
Page 33	GCSE Business Studies
<u>Arts</u>	
Page 34	GCSE Art and Design
Page 36	GCSE Drama
<u>Technology</u>	
Page 38	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Page 39	GCSE Design and Technology
Page 40	Subjects and exam boards

Introduction Ms. Doyle

January 2025

Dear Student, Choosing your options carefully is crucial. Options are the subjects that you study throughout Years 10 and 11 in addition to the core curriculum (English, Maths, Science, a language, RE and PE).

If you study hard and achieve your potential, the subjects you choose can help you go onto further education, employment or training. Of course, excellent attendance, punctuality and hard work are all vital if you are to be successful.

DO:

- Think carefully
- Talk to older students and your parents/carers
- Listen to advice offered by teachers
- Choose subjects you enjoy

DON'T:

- Choose a subject because your friend is doing it
- Choose a subject because you do or don't like the teacher

Ms J. Doyle

Headteacher

Messages from your Key Stage Co-ordinators

“Make good choices today, so you don’t have regrets tomorrow”

The decisions that you are about to make are probably the most important that you have had to make so far in your life. This booklet is a great resource, which will help you to make well-informed and confident choices about your future education. Remember these choices are yours, not those of your friends. It is important that you talk to as many people as possible and that you make your subject choice using all of the available information. Although these decisions are difficult, they may well shape your future and should not be left to the last minute. You are choosing your preferred subjects for the next two years, this could determine which career path you take later in life.

If you need help with your choices, or if you are simply unsure of the option process, then talk to someone. Your form-tutor, Year Co-ordinator, myself as Key stage coordinator, or your subject teachers will all be able to advise you on your future. Your school friends however, are likely to have their own ambitions in mind and their judgement may well differ from your own.

Whatever your approach, make sure that you hand in your form on time, so that you are clear about the possibilities and understand the need to be confident in your decisions.



Ms T.Ward

Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” Mary Oliver

You are now entering a very exciting phase in your academic career, a key milestone which will require clear focus and where you will discover what your own personal aspirations are. Do not be afraid of this process, it is a time to show your maturity and to dare to be the best.

As you start to make your option choices, always remember that these choices will have an impact on your future, whether you are preparing to go to University, doing an apprenticeship or preparing for the world of work. You need to place yourself in a position where you are working towards your strengths and your interests and not making choices based on friendships or because you like an inspirational teacher. Remember your friends and teachers can change all the time.

This process will require you to display determination, flexibility, resilience and will challenge you to be ambitious in the infancy stages of your future career. If you are unsure about your option choices, seek advice from your careers advisor, teachers or your Year Co-ordinator. Utilise the advice available from this booklet and those specialists who work at the school, collect as much information as possible and be sure about your next step, your step into your future.

N. Bailey

Ms N. Bailey

Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator

An Introduction to Key Stage 4

Here are the subjects that you will be studying at Key Stage 4:

1 - Compulsory (Core) subjects

Subject	Qualifications
English	2 GCSEs
Maths	1 or 2 GCSEs
Science	2 or 3 GCSEs
Languages	1 GCSE
RE	1 GCSE
PE	1 Award*

*Students will be able to opt for one of 3 different pathways which lead to different accreditations.

Please read this booklet carefully and make sure you understand it. Anything you are unsure of please ask Ms Hussain or Mr Uddin.

2 - Options subjects

You need to select FOUR options for GCSE. You will be given **two** of them depending on availability.

GCSE Options
Art and Design
Computer Science
Drama
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography
History
Business Studies
Design and Technology
Sociology

Selecting your Options

You will need to complete a Google Form.

See example below:

GCSE Option Choices *

You can only select a subject once. Please scroll across to see all options.

*This course has limited availability and may not run depending on student numbers

	Art	Business Studies*	Drama	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Design Technology	Sociology	Geography	History
Choice A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Choice B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Choice C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Choice D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In the above example the Student has chosen:

Choice A: Drama

Choice B: Art

Choice C: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Choice D: Sociology

Please note: We will try our best to give you your choices in order of priority. Select your options very carefully as you will be given two subjects from your selection.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What if I'm the only one who wants to do Art or PE or Drama or any other subject?

A. If there aren't enough students choosing a particular subject then it may not go ahead and we will need to look at your second choice.

Q. What if too many people want to do Art or PE or Drama or any other subject? Could I end up in a class of 40 people?

A. The answer is similar to the last one. If there are too many people who want to do the same subject then it may not be possible to give everyone their first choice. No class will have more than 30 students.

Q. I really like History. Can I select it in Choice A and choice D?

A. No! You can only choose a subject once.

Q. I have no idea what to choose. What should I do?

A. Think about what you want to do when you leave school. Think about the subjects you are good at and the ones you like. Talk to your parents and other family members, read this booklet, email teachers, your form tutor, Ms Ward, Ms Bailey, Mr Sarumi and then decide.

Q. What if I make a mistake on my GoogleForm?

A. A link will be emailed to you and give you the opportunity to amend what you're filled out.

Q. What if I do not complete the form on time?

A. You might not get the GCSE Options you want. So make sure you stick to the deadline.

Q. Am I guaranteed to get my 1st and 2nd choice?

A. No. We will try our best to give you your first and second choice, but you can get any two from your selection.

GCSE English Language (8700) and Literature (8702) (AQA)

This is a linear course which culminates with both English Language and English Literature examinations at the end of year 11.

What will I learn?

English Language

Paper 1: Fiction and Imaginative Reading and Writing = 50%

You will study selections from a range of prose fiction and develop skills to analyse and evaluate 20th or 21st century fiction extracts. You will also develop imaginative writing skills to engage the reader. Your use of spelling, punctuation and grammar will have to be accurate.

Paper 1 will last 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Paper 2: Non-Fiction and Transactional Reading and Writing = 50%

You will study a range of 20th and 21st century non-fiction texts and develop skills to analyse, evaluate and compare non-fiction extracts. Again your use of spelling, punctuation and grammar will have to be accurate.

Paper 2 will last 1 hour and 45 minutes

English Literature

Component 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel = 40%

You will study a Shakespeare play and a post-1914 play or novel. You will develop skills to analyse how the language form, structure and context of the texts create meaning and effect.

Paper 1 will last 1 hour and 45 minutes

Component 2: 20th Century Text and Poetry since 1789 = 60%

You will study a collection of poems from the anthology. You will develop skills to analyse how the language, form, structure and context of the poems can create meanings and effects. You will also learn how to compare the poems.

Paper 2 will last 2 hours and 15 minutes.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit four exams at the end of Year 11.

Where could English lead me?

English will equip you with the communication and analysis skills which you will require not only at college but in the wider world of work. It is essential that you secure a good English Language grade in order to continue into further studies, apprenticeships and/or employment post-16.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Bailey** in **F17**

GCSE Mathematics 1MA1 (Edexcel)

This qualification encourages students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society.

What will I learn?

Mathematics GCSE

The examination course for the mathematics GCSE is the new Edexcel linear GCSE in Mathematics (Higher/Foundation). No Controlled Assessment is required.

You will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Number, algebra, geometry and measures, ratio, proportion and rates of change, statistics and probability

Furthermore, you will use your knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and apply the functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations.

How will I be assessed?

Three examinations (Paper 1 non-calculator, Paper 2 calculator, paper 3 calculator). Each paper is **1 hour 30 minutes** and worth **33.3%** of your final grade.

Where could maths lead me?

A mathematics qualification will open up a wide range of careers. Some examples are banking and finance, the police force and different vocations such as carpentry and bricklaying. In your adult life you need to be able to understand income tax, your salary, investments, mortgages, VAT and other types of finance. Mathematics affects all areas of life.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr Uddin** in **F10**

GCSE Statistics 1ST0 (Edexcel)

This is an extra GCSE, it will take a lot of commitment and effort from you. Statistics GCSE students have to be extremely well organised. Your teacher will give you help and guidance but most of the work is done through independent learning.

What will I learn?

Statistics GCSE

The examination course for the mathematics GCSE is the new Edexcel linear GCSE in Statistics (Higher/Foundation).

You will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Planning and data collection, processing, representing and analysing data, reasoning, interpreting and discussing results, probability
- Reading, analysing and drawing conclusions from charts and graphs

How will I be assessed?

There will be two 1hr 30min exam papers. Calculators will be allowed for both papers. Each paper will be out of 80 marks.

Where could Statistics lead me?

Statistics provides the reasoning and methods for producing and understanding data. Statisticians are specialists, but statistics demands they be generalists too. One advantage of working in statistics is that you can combine your interest with almost any other field in science, technology, or business. Examples of where statistics is applied: actuaries, agriculture, chemistry, computer science, economics, engineering and marketing.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr Uddin** in **F10**

Further Maths 8365 (AQA) [This course is delivered after school]

Students who demonstrate a keen passion for GCSE Maths will have the opportunity to study and sit an examination for Further Maths which allows students to stretch their maths skills beyond GCSE. This course covers A Level topics and gives students a chance to gain an additional qualification.

What will I learn?

Additional Maths

Students will be exposed to 8/9 topics from GCSE Maths such as: advanced trigonometry, line geometry and algebraic proof. Students will also examine topics typically taught at A Level such as differentiation, factor theorem and matrices.

How will I be assessed?

This course consists of two exams, calculator paper (**50%**) and a non-calculator paper (**50%**). Both exams are 1 hour 45 minutes long. There is no coursework or controlled assessment for this course.

Where could Further Maths lead me?

Further maths primarily prepares students for A Level Maths. This course can lead to careers in finance, business, marketing, accounting and research.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Patel** in **F9**

Triple Science – (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and Combined Science (Exam Board - Pearson Edexcel)

Science GCSEs have changed from the traditional Core Science, Additional Science and Triple Science, to Combined Science and Separate Sciences (commonly known as Triple Science). The content of the Science courses are relevant and will encourage students to engage with and challenge the science they meet in their everyday life.

What will I learn?

The range of courses and qualifications on offer are:

Edexcel Combined Science – This is a double award qualification with content that is relevant to students in their everyday life. It's equivalent to two GCSEs. A good pass in Combined Science will allow progression to many post-16 Science courses. All students apart from those during triple science will follow this course.

Edexcel GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Triple Science): These are single GCSEs which include subject matter from Combined Science, along with specialist extension units. It's equivalent to 3 GCSEs. These GCSEs offer the best preparation for A Level Science courses.

Both courses will give a sound foundation in Science, making you scientifically literate so that you are able to understand and talk about the science you meet in your everyday life such as on the news.

Edexcel Entry level certificate in Science: Designed specifically to align with GCSE Combined Science and provide a progression route for lower-attainers. This course will help to build confidence and engagement in Science.

How will I be assessed?

The whole course will be assessed by exams. The number of exams to be taken at the end of year 11 depends on the course you are doing. There is no longer a Controlled Assessment element to GCSE Science.

Combined Science: There will be 6 **1 hour 10 minute** exams. There will be 2 biology papers, 2 chemistry papers and 2 physics papers. (Higher or

foundation tier exams. It is expected that majority of students will sit the higher tier paper)

Triple science: There will be 6 **1 hour 45 minute** exams. The content of the exams will be the same as Combined Science papers, with extra questions on separate science topics.

In place of Controlled Assessment there will be a number of core practical activities to develop students' practical skills throughout the course. The practical knowledge and skills students gain from their practical work will be assessed as part of the terminal exams. Students will be assessed by their class teacher throughout the course to track their progress.

Entry level Science: The Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Further Science consists of six externally-set tests. These tests will be 25 marks each. The tests will be marked by the Science teachers and will be moderated by Pearson.

Where could Science lead me?

You can also do further Science-based courses at college after you leave Rokeby which can lead to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Industry and vocational courses leading to careers in trades such as Carpentry and Masonry. Science can also lead to careers in Business, Journalism, Politics, Law, etc.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr Aziz** in **F20** or **your science teacher**.

GCSE Religious Studies A (8062) (AQA)

Students will be expected to follow a course which leads to a full GCSE.

What will I learn?

Students will study two main Religions: Christianity and Islam.

There are two main components to the course: Component 1: the study of Religions-Beliefs, Teachings and Practices, and Component 2: Thematic Studies.

Students will examine beliefs, teachings and practices of the chosen religions, and also follow a thematic study of philosophical and ethical issues, and explore ultimate questions such as:

- Does God exist?
- Why does God allow suffering?
- Is there life after death?

Students will also study religious views on moral and ethical issues such as:

Abortion; Crime and Punishment; Drugs; Prejudice; War and Wealth and Poverty.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through 2 exam papers of equal weighting: Paper 1 (Component 1) – The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices (**1 hour 45 minutes**) and Paper 2 (Component 2) - Thematic Study (**1 hour 45 minutes**)

Where could RE lead me?

RE gives students a greater understanding of the community and broader society that we live in and a better appreciation of different values and cultures. Students develop and practise a wide range of skills including analysis, evaluation, and articulating viewpoints, which puts them in a good position to achieve in any job.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Nketia** in **G11**.

Physical Education

Through Physical Education, we aim to instil fortitude and resilience in students, challenging them regardless of their attainment. We will give students the opportunity to enjoy and value physical activity, show enthusiasm to our subject and raise aspirations through our curriculum, rewards systems and extra-curricular provision. Students will make connections between Physical Education and the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

What will I learn?

All students will have the opportunity to learn within one of three pathways as part of core Physical Education. This will enable all students to achieve an additional accreditation in PE/Sport and will be a great advantage when applying for college or work. The pathways available to students will be GCSE Physical Education, Cambridge National Sports Studies or the Leadership pathway, which will allow students to collect a number of certificates including those for leadership, participation and coaching.

GCSE (9-1) Physical Education Pathway

GCSE (9-1) Physical Education. Our students will follow the OCR specification, which allows the students to be assessed in the following ways:

60% Written Assessment – students are assessed through two externally-examined written exams; this includes a **1 hour** written exam on ‘Physical Factors Affecting Performance’ which focuses on applied anatomy and physiology, suiting students who excel in Sciences i.e. top set Science. The second exam is a **1 hour** paper on ‘Socio-cultural Issues and Sports Psychology’, which includes new elements, such as mental preparation techniques to improve performance.

40% Performance – students are assessed and moderated in three sports, including in one team and one individual activity, which accounts for **30%** of their grade. The final **10%** is assessed through written coursework, which involves Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP) in their chosen sport.

Students on the GCSE pathway should be actively involved in sports both during extra curricular activities and outside of school.

Cambridge National Sports Studies Pathway

Cambridge National Sports Studies. Our students will follow the OCR specification, which allows the students to be assessed in the following ways:

40% Written Exam Assessment – students are assessed through one externally-examined written exam; this includes a **1 hour and 15 minute** written exam on ‘Contemporary Issues in Sport’ which focuses on, Issues which affect Participation in Sport, The role of Sport in Promoting Values, The Impact of Hosting a Major Sporting Event for a City of Country, The Role National Governing Bodies Play in the Development of their Sport and The Use of Technology in Sport.

60% Coursework Assessment – The first coursework assessment worth **20%** of students overall grade is submitted in year 10. This coursework is a written research report on ‘The Different Sources of Media that Cover Sport, Positive effects of Media in Sport and Negative Effects of the Media in Sport.

The Second coursework assessment worth **40%** of students overall grade is submitted in year 11. This coursework is a written action research report reviewing their performance in sporting activities. The Performance and Leadership coursework focuses on ‘Key Components of Performance in 2 different sports, Applying Practice Methods to Support Improvement in Sporting Activities, Organising and Planning a Sports Activity Session, Leading a Sports Activity Session and Reviewing your Own Performance in Planning and Leading of a Sports Activity Session.

Students on the Cambridge National pathway should be very organised, interested in the sports, sports journalism or sports coaching industries and have a strong grasp of the use of written language.

Sports Leadership Pathway

Sports Leadership Pathway. Our students will follow a bespoke pathway of learning, which allows the students to be assessed in the following ways:

Planning Primary Sporting events – students will take part in planning primary sports events where they will undertake leadership roles such as officiating, coaching or table officiating. In this pathway students will learn aspects of sports beyond performance to broaden the opportunities of young students within their communities.

Leading Primary Sporting events – students will take part in leading primary sports events where they will take up leadership roles such as officiating, coaching or table officiating. In this pathway students will demonstrate aspects of sports beyond performance to ensure the safety of young students within their community.

Students on the Leadership pathway should enjoy being involved in sport both as a participant and coach or official as well as have a passion for helping others succeed in physical activity.

Where could Physical Education lead me?

It could help to inspire you to consider a career in the sports and leisure sector, rather than just to participate in sport as recreation. You could progress to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic Sport or Physical Education course e.g. A-level Physical Education.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Morse**

GCSE French (1FR0) (Pearson Edexcel)

What will I learn?

The course aims to:

- Develop understanding of the spoken and written forms of French
- Develop knowledge and understanding of countries, cultures and communities where French is spoken
- Provide suitable foundation for further study

How will I be assessed?

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 3–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Paper 1 Listening - understand and respond to spoken language (25%)

- Written exam: **35 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **45 minutes** (Higher Tier)

Paper 2 Speaking - communicate and interact in speech (25%)

- Non-exam assessment, consisting of role play, photo card and general conversations.

Paper 3 Reading - understand and respond to written language (25%)

- Written exam: **45 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **1 hour** (Higher Tier)

Paper 4 Writing - communicate in writing (25%)

- Written exam: **1 hour 15 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **1 hour 20 minutes** (Higher Tier)

The papers will include questions in French and English, students will also have to complete translation from French into English and vice versa.

Where could French lead me?

Choose French if you intend to pursue studies in any of the following fields: medicine, law, engineering, banking, journalism and media, import and export, hotel management, travel agencies / airlines, ICT or catering.

During French lessons, work hard, have fun and you will be given the opportunity to achieve a good GCSE grade. Bonne Chance!

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms Jenkins** in **G5**.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/fr ench-2016.html>

Key information

If you have studied French in KS3, it is compulsory to continue studying French for GCSE.

GCSE Spanish (1SP0) (Pearson Edexcel)

What will I learn?

The course aims to:

- Develop understanding of the spoken and written forms of Spanish
- Develop knowledge and understanding of countries, cultures and communities where Spanish is spoken
- Provide suitable foundation for further study

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 3–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Paper 1 Listening - understand and respond to spoken language (25%)

- Written exam: **35 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **45 minutes** (Higher Tier)

Paper 2 Speaking - communicate and interact in speech (25%)

- Non-exam assessment, consisting of role play, photo card and general conversations.

Paper 3 Reading - understand and respond to written language (25%)

- Written exam: **45 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **1 hour** (Higher Tier)

Paper 4 Writing - communicate in writing (25%)

- Written exam: **1 hour 15 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **1 hour 20 minutes** (Higher Tier)

The papers will include questions in Spanish and English, students will also have to complete translation from Spanish into English and vice versa.

Where could Spanish lead me?

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and very important for today's business and industry. So, choose Spanish, work hard, have fun and you will be given the opportunity to gain a good grade at GCSE. ¡Buena Suerte!

Students are encouraged to opt for this subject especially if you would like to further your studies in any of the following fields: medicine, law, engineering, banking, journalism/ media, import/ export, hotel management or travel agencies/ airlines, ICT or catering.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms Jenkins** in **G5**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/spanish-2016.html>

Key information

If you have studied Spanish in KS3 it is compulsory to continue studying Spanish for GCSE.

GCSE Geography (2GB01) (Pearson Edexcel)

GCSE Geography teaches us about the fascinating and fast changing world in which we live. Geography is a varied and exciting subject that offers the chance to learn in a range of different ways including conducting fieldwork both in urban and natural environments. Geography also helps you better understand topics in other subjects like science and history!

What will I learn?

The GCSE specification for the discipline of geography gives students the opportunity to understand more about the world, the challenges it faces and their place in it. This course will deepen understanding of geographical processes, illuminate the impact of change and of complex people, environmental interactions and develop student's competence in using a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches. Geography enables young people to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.

The geography course is designed to cover topics, which are current, exciting, and relevant to the world today. You will study global geographical issues such as tropical cyclones and tectonic hazards, global development and inequalities and challenges of rapid urban change. In UK geographical issues, you will study about the UK's evolving landscapes and the physical processes that create these distinct landscapes. You will conduct fieldwork and research in an urban as well either a coastal or a river environment. In People and environment issues, you will investigate issues through a variety of scales –from consuming resources to forests under threat.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit 3 papers:

Paper 1: The Physical Environment – topics include the changing landscape of the UK, Weather hazards and climate change and ecosystems, biodiversity and management – (37.5%) 90 marks and 1 hour and 30 min exam.

Paper 2: The Human Environment – topics include changing cities, global development and resource management– (37.5%) 90 marks and 1 hour and 30 min exam.

Paper 3: Geographical investigations – a study drawing across knowledge of The Physical and The Human Environment. (25%) 60 marks and 1 hour and 30 min exam.

The exam includes multiple choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and extended responses.

Where could Geography lead me?

Geography is a respected and academically rigorous GCSE subject, which is highly favoured by top colleges and universities. Geographers acquire a vast range of valuable skills such as: map reading, spatial awareness, problem solving, data analysis, the ability to consider other viewpoints, decision making, team work, environmental awareness and essay writing. It is for these reasons that geographers are some of the most employable students in the country.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information, see **Ms. Padayachee** in **G13**.

GCSE History (1HI0) (Pearson Edexcel)

GCSE History is fun and helps develop intellectual and transferable skills that help with other subjects. History allows you to be able to analyse everything you see, and teaches you not to always believe what you see in the media. It requires a good level of literacy. Employers and universities value History highly and it is now regularly asked for by Russell Group Universities as it is seen as a good indicator of all round ability. The skills that are taught within the subject are valuable to work, study and life in general. In this rapidly changing world employers want people who are independent thinkers, open minded, disciplined, adept at problem solving and confident in expressing themselves. Choosing History will equip you with all of these skills.

What will I learn?

Students will explore and develop an understanding of a real breadth of history in line with the national curriculum changes. Key topics covered are *Crime and Punishment in Britain C1000-present and Whitechapel 1870-1900: Crime, Policing and the inner city*; *Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588*; *Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91*; *The USA 1954-1975: Conflict at Home and Abroad*.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit three examinations:

Paper 1: Thematic Study - *Crime and Punishment in Britain C1000-present and Whitechapel 1870-1900: Crime, Policing and the inner city* **30%** of the overall qualification (Whitechapel – the ‘historical environment’ study accounts for **10%**)

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study - *Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91* AND *Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588* **40% (20% for each section)**

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study - *The USA 1954-1975: Conflict at Home and Abroad* **30%**

Where could History lead me?

History is particularly useful to those considering a career in journalism, business, education, politics, law or research. It is highly revered by universities who value the knowledge and skills learned and developed. These skills include: critical thinking, source evaluation, analysis and research skills.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information, see **Mr Gbadeyan** in **G14**.

GCSE Sociology (8192) (AQA)

What will I learn?

Sociology is the study of human society. It is about learning to understand how we organise our own lives and why we behave the way we do. It is the study of groups and institutions within society and the interactions within and between them.

This course is in two parts. Both parts combined together will be equivalent to one GCSE grade.

Unit 1 (everything we learn in year 10):

Approach to Sociology, Sociological Research Methods, Family and Education.

Unit 2 (everything we learn in year 11):

Sociological Research Methods, Crime & Deviance and Social Stratification.

What makes a good Sociology student?

- An ability to write effectively
- An interest in social and political issues
- Effort and initiative
- Willingness to participate
- Respecting and listening to other people's views
- Commitment
- Personal organisation
- Meeting deadlines
- Reading a quality newspaper
- Listening to current affairs
- Watching documentaries

How will I be assessed?

Students will complete two exams (100 marks each) at the end of year 11; both worth 50% each. Your final GCSE grade will be the average from both papers.

Where could Sociology lead me?

Sociology is particularly useful to those considering a career in teaching, law, media, and social research. It is increasingly sought after by employers and universities who value the skills learned and used within sociology. These skills include: critical thinking, evaluation, debating, analysing and research skills.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information, see **Mr. B Galaria** or **Ms N Bailey** in **G8**.

GCSE Computer Science (J277) (OCR)

What will I learn?

This linear course offers a new challenge for students to have the opportunity to learn how computers work (Computer Science), as opposed to how computer systems are used (IT). It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Computing is a growing industry and of enormous importance to the economy. Students studying this specification will learn about what is 'computational thinking'. Computational thinking involves applying a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that are used to write programs.

How will I be assessed?

Course outline: This specification has one tier of assessment that covers all of the Grades 9-1

Paper 1: Computer systems 1 hour 30 minutes, 50%

What's assessed

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming 1 hour 30 minutes, 50%

What's assessed

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming

Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study, which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level

programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02.

Where could Computer Science lead me?

Computer Science can open doors to a world of opportunities, from revolutionising industries with cutting-edge AI, to designing life-changing software, advancing cybersecurity, or creating innovative solutions to global challenges. It equips you with the skills to lead in an ever-evolving digital landscape and make a meaningful impact on the future.

Eight compelling reason to study Computer Science

1. Computer Science related careers have a positive job outlook and salary potential
2. Computer Science can lead to versatile career opportunities
3. Computer Science takes you behind the scenes of everyday tech
4. Computer Science taps into your curiosity
5. Computer Science skills can be empowering
6. Computer Science values continuous learning
7. Computer Science benefits society
8. Computer Science in the era of AI equips you with the foundational knowledge to innovate, understand, and ethically shape the technologies driving the future.

Work Based Training Notes

Most opportunities are currently in finance, retail, and e-commerce. However, the field is expanding into many other industries including AI, sports, energy, telecoms, transport, medicine and politics. Opportunities are likely to increase over time. The digital age needs computer scientists. *'To make money, study maths, economics, physics or computing'* – The economist.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information, see **Mr. Milki** in **G7** or **Mr. Hussain** in **G6**

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

“The best time to learn computer programming was 30 years ago. The second best time is now.”

GCSE Business Studies (Edexcel)

This course is designed to give students an understanding of what a business is and the reasons for starting a business (including producing goods, supplying services, distributing products, fulfilling a business opportunity and providing a good or service to benefit others)

The course will also expect students to analyse the factors behind a constantly changing business environment due to changes in technology, economic situation, legislation and environmental expectations.

What will I learn?

The main concepts covered in the course are:

- **Business in the real world**
- **Influences on business**
- **Business operations**
- **Human resources**
- **Business in the real world**
- **Influences on business**
- **Marketing**
- **Finance**

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is comprised of two exam papers:

- Two Written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- 90 marks for each paper
- Each paper is 50% of GCSE

Where could GCSE Business Studies lead me?

A GCSE in Business Studies can lead to a range of post-16 study options and careers in many sectors, including:

Human resources, Manufacturing, Finance, Accounting, Investment banking, Project management, Marketing, and Production design

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see Mr Hussain in **G6**

NOTE: This is a new course and it may not run depending on student numbers

GCSE Art and Design (AQA)

This course is designed to give students a thorough understanding of Art and Design through informative investigations and responses to artists, issues and environments. This is achieved through refining practical skills; in particular, drawing, painting, sculpture and photography while making links to artists' work and the world around them to challenge and extend their creativity.

What will I learn?

Throughout the GCSE students will be provided opportunities to study the work of historical and contemporary artists. Students will also be encouraged to research themes and issues to provide context to their practical outcomes. In year 10 students will study two projects, each providing opportunities to work in a wide range of mediums including painting, drawing, photography, print work and 3D techniques. Each student builds a body of work in portfolios and large scale / 3D work to develop imaginative and intuitive ways of working. Knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures is the building blocks to the course.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is split into two components.

Component 1 is worth 60% of the GCSE grade. This component is taught during year 10 and term one of year 11.

Component 2 is set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade. This unit culminates in a 10-hour practical exam.

Where could GCSE Art and Design lead me?

A GCSE in Art could take you to Art College/ University, after studying A Level Art for 2 years.

There are many careers that follow on from studying a one year Foundation Art Course at University such as: architect, accessory

designer, advertising designer, animation director, animator, art director, artist, cartoonist, colorist, comic book creator, fashion designer, food stylist, furniture designer, game artist, graphic designer, interior designer, jewellery designer, landscape architect, make-up artist, photographer, potter, printmaker, sculptor, set decorator and stage director, plus many more!

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms Mishra** in **F19**

GCSE Drama (AQA)

Drama fosters your creativity, personal growth, self-confidence, communication and analytical skills through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding. You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both academic and creative.

What will I learn?

Through the study of this GCSE, you will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret your own and others' work which also includes the creation of original work as well as looking at plays written by other people. You will investigate the forms, styles, and contexts of drama and will learn to work collaboratively to develop ideas and experiment with technical elements.

Would it suit me? Yes if:

1. You want to and can **work well with others**
 - You are confident or **are prepared to build your confidence performing in front of an audience**
 - You have strong **written analytical and evaluative skills**
 - You are prepared to **rehearse outside of class**

How will I be assessed?

The course is in three parts:

- The first assessment involves you **creating a piece of devised Drama** from a stimulus and keeping a portfolio of your artistic choices and intentions (either in written or in filmed form). Your devised piece will be filmed, marked by your teacher and sent off to be moderated.
- The second assessment is when an examiner comes to school to watch you **perform a scripted piece** you have been working on.
- The final written exam asks you to respond to questions about a set text you have explored and write a theatre review based on a live or digital performance you have seen

Where could Drama lead me?

Drama helps you with:

- Creative and presentational skills

- Interpersonal and group skills
- Analytical and evaluative skills. It prepares you for workplaces like:
 - Law and education
 - Retail and Marketing
 - Film, television and theatre industries.

Can I study Drama beyond GCSE?

You can take:

- AS/A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies
- Vocational A Level in Performing Arts
- BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in Performing Arts

For more information see **Ms Noelise** in **G20/G10**

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (8585) (AQA)

What will I learn?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a full GCSE course. Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills. Students develop understanding of Nutrition and Health, Food Provenance, Food Science, Food Choice and Food Safety.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in two parts:

1. Food Preparation and Nutrition Exam - Written Paper (1 hour 45 minutes) which forms **50%** of the final GCSE grade
2. Non - Exam Assessment (NEA) (Controlled assessment)
The NEA consists of:
 - (A) Food Investigation Task (15%)
 - (B) Food Preparation Task (35%)

Food Investigation: A report of (1,500 to 2,000 words) including evidence of practical investigation.

Food Preparation: A written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence of dishes that demonstrates application of technical skills and practical outcomes.

Where could Food Technology lead me?

This course helps to develop students' culinary skills and prepare them for different careers in the food industry: catering and hospitality industry e.g. chef, sensory analyst, dietician, nutritionist, health and safety officer, food and nutrition teacher, marketing officer of different food products and many more.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms. Koomson** in **G15**

GCSE Design and Technology (8552) (AQA)

What will I learn?

Design and Technology is a full GCSE course. It is an exciting, challenging and rewarding subject that prepares students for careers in the design field, such as; furniture design, product design, architecture and engineering as well as building trades and many more.

In year 10 students complete a prototype project, designed to hone in on making skills and prepare them for their NEA, which involves following a brief to create their own unique design and prototype model. Students will also develop skills with hand tools and machines; creating an LED Frame and metal G-Clamp ornament. Students will learn about material applications, manufacturing processes, prototyping, computer aided design which will enable them to show this in a design portfolio from design to point of sale of the product.

In year 11, students are tasked with a design and make project from AQA which changes each year. This year, students are required to either make a product to secure personal belongings, playing games and climate change. We feel these real-life briefs help prepare students to become competent designers.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in two parts:

1. A **2 hour** written paper which forms **50%** of the final GCSE grade.
2. A Controlled Assessment project which is **50%** of the final GCSE grade. The Controlled Assessment requires students to work on a given context set by the exam board.

Photographic and physical evidence will form part of the final assessment.

Where could The GCSE in Design and Technology lead me?

Design and Technology develop students' manufacturing skills and prepares them for the building industry, such as carpentry. Design fields, such as architecture and product design or engineering. It is an exciting, challenging and rewarding subject that prepares students for careers as designers, apprenticeships, engineering and many more.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms Price** in **G19**

Subjects and Exam boards

Subject	Qualification	Exam Board	Spec code
Mathematics	GCSE	Edexcel	1MA1
English Language	GCSE	AQA	8700
English Literature	GCSE	AQA	8702
Biology	GCSE	Edexcel	1BIO
Chemistry	GCSE	Edexcel	1CHO
Physics	GCSE	Edexcel	1PH0
Combined Science	GCSE	Edexcel	1SCO
Statistics	GCSE	Edexcel	1ST0
French	GCSE	Edexcel	1FR0
Spanish	GCSE	Edexcel	1SP0
Geography	GCSE	Edexcel	1GA0
History	GCSE	Edexcel	1H10
Religious Education	GCSE	AQA	8062
Sociology	GCSE	AQA	8192
Computer Science	GCSE	OCR	J276
Business Studies	GCSE	Edexcel	1BSO
Art	GCSE	AQA	8201
Physical Education	GCSE	OCR	J587
Food & Nutrition	GCSE	AQA	8585
Design & Technology	GCSE	AQA	8552
Further Maths	Level 2/GCSE	AQA	8360
Drama	GCSE	AQA	8261
BTEC Sport	BTEC Award	Edexcel	BNHR5