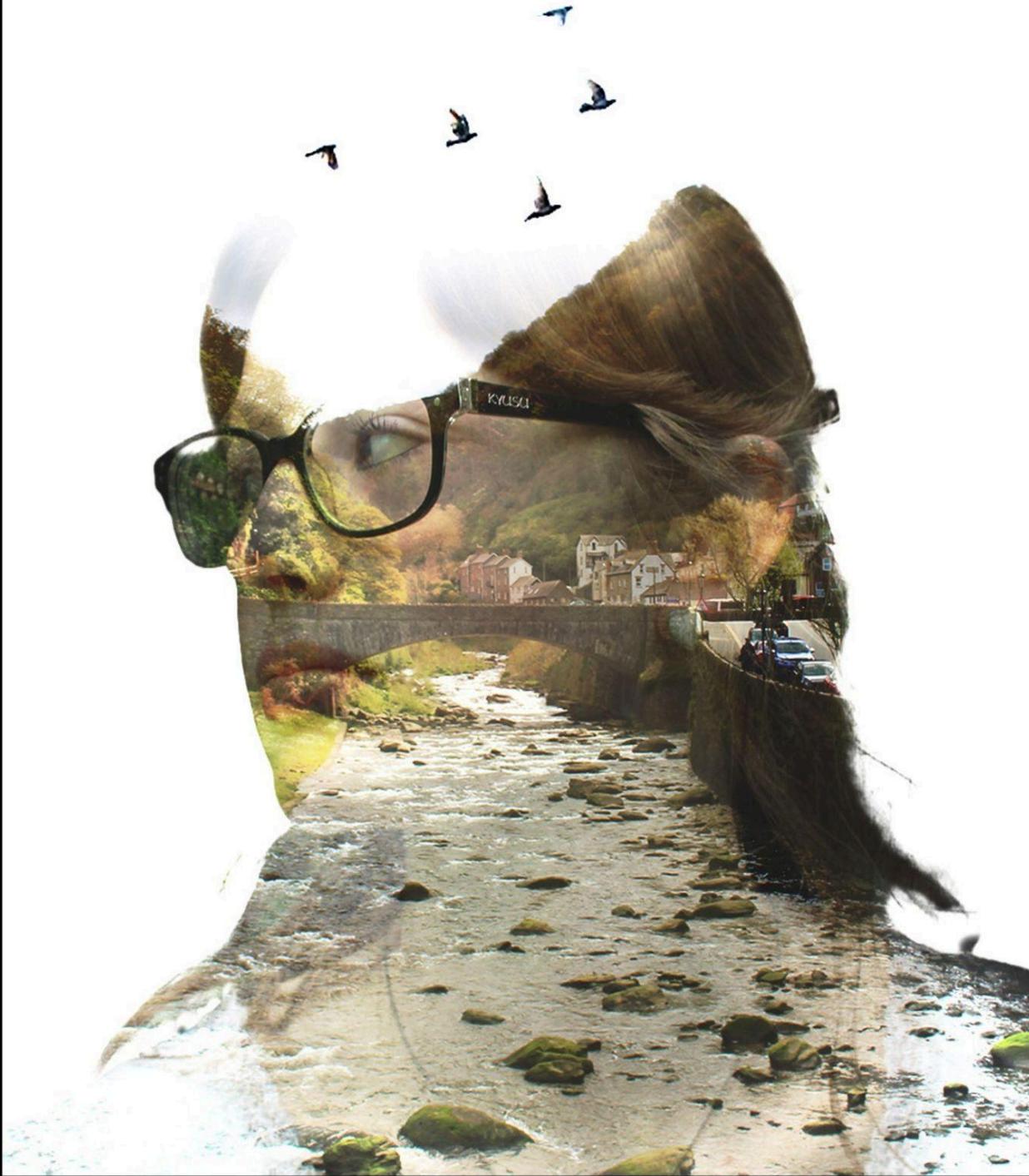


Pyrland School
GCSE Options Handbook
2026 - 2028



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Foreword



Dear Pyrland Student

During the next few weeks, you will be choosing the courses that you will be following in Years 10 and 11. For the first time since starting school, you will have a real say in what you learn. At Pyrland there are a wide range of courses to choose from and making your choices will not be easy! There are subjects that you already know, such as History and French, as well as new courses that you have not studied yet, such as Health and Social Care and Psychology.

It is important that you, your teachers and your parents/carers work together to make sure that you choose the most appropriate options for your future.

At Pyrland School our aims are:

- for you to study courses that suit your abilities, skills and aspirations
- for you to study courses that are ambitious and challenging so you can show your very best.
- for you to follow a curriculum that is broad and balanced
- for you to be given the opportunity to focus on your strengths and to explore new areas of interest

Over the coming weeks you will receive lots of information, advice and guidance about your options. You are not alone in this process and should ask as many questions as you need, so that you can make the right decision for you. Please note that we may recommend some courses for you personally, based on your strengths and needs. We will speak to you to share our advice.

We offer as many choices as we can, but every year group is different, and it is not always possible to run a subject that very few students have chosen. Whilst we do not foresee any issues, it may be that we find ourselves in a situation where a member of staff who is a subject specialist chooses to move on to another school, thus meaning that this offer may have to be removed. Equally some combinations of subjects may prove to be impossible to timetable. If any of these happen, we will let you know and we will help you explore other possibilities.

Who can help you?

You are not alone! There are many people who can help you to choose the right options for you, including:

- Parents, relatives and family friends
- Your Tutor
- Subject Teachers
- Mr Bernard, Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education)
- Mr Every, Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum Systems)
- Mrs Jones, Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning)

Remember, if you are unsure about anything just ask.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Every', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Martin Every
Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum Systems)

Important Steps in the Options Process



There are a number of important steps students need to follow when choosing their Key Stage 4 Options:

The first stage of the process is our Options Evening. This is a valuable opportunity to understand the Options Process.

The Options Evening starts with a launch presentation, providing guidance on the pathways, timeframes, deadlines and the support and advice available.

Directly after the launch presentation, you have the opportunity to visit the subject areas to find out more about the courses on offer. You can also discover the necessary skills required to be successful in each subject.

Following the Options Evening is our Year 9 Parents' Evening on **Thursday 12th February 2026**.

This will be an important chance to speak directly with every one of your teachers about your current progress and the benefit of taking courses through to the end of Year 11.

What are the next steps?

1. Starting Now

Options Booklet - Read through the information in this GCSE Options Handbook.

2. Thursday 12th February 2026

Y9 Progress' Evening - Meet with the Subject Teachers at our Progress' Evening and discuss suitability for courses with your teachers.

3. Friday 13th March 2026

Options Deadline - By this date you must have discussed your final ideas and completed your Options selection using our Options system. You will be sent information on how to do this.

Important Questions for Students

Will I be able to secure my first choices?

Almost all students are allocated their first choices. However, it is important to ensure two reserve subjects are indicated on the Options Form in the event of this not happening. Make sure you want to do your reserve choices, and that you do not just put something down for the sake of it. It's not very common but some students do have to do their reserve. You need to want to do it.

Occasionally we may not be able to allocate you a particular subject because:

- More students ask for it than the available Not enough students request this subject
- teachers or facilities can accommodate
- Students may have opted for a subject which, in the judgement of staff, is not appropriate
- Staffing availability may change
- Some combinations of subjects may prove impossible to timetable

Can I still study a subject at degree level if I didn't take it at GCSE?

Students can sometimes study a subject at Sixth Form without having studied it in Year 11. If a student has a degree or career in mind, it is best to check, using a Sixth Form prospectus.

Subject Time Allocation



English

Students will have 8 periods of English a fortnight during Years 10 and 11, studying GCSE qualifications in English Language and English Literature. These courses are interleaved throughout Year 10 and 11, developing skills and content in each. Students will receive two qualifications with two separate grades at the end of Year 11.

Mathematics

Students will have 8 periods of Mathematics a fortnight during Years 10 and 11.

Science

Students will have 10 periods of Science a fortnight during Years 10 and 11. There are two pathways through GCSE Science: Combined Science Trilogy (two GCSE grades awarded across Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and Separate Sciences (three GCSE grades – separate grades for Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Students can express an interest in the separate sciences, but will be allocated a pathway based on their progress in Year 9.



Physical Education

Students will have 4 periods of Core PE a fortnight. Physical Education involves a wide range of activities, with an opportunity to learn how to umpire netball and how to develop a fitness programme. PE enables students not only to acquire new skills but to learn more about themselves and their leadership capabilities. We believe in, Healthy body, healthy mind.

Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

Students will have 1 period of PSHE and 1 period of RPE per fortnight. These lessons include health issues, sex and relationships education, drugs education, study skills, strategies for dealing with change, careers guidance and citizenship.

Options Subjects

Students will study their Options subjects for 6 hours per fortnight.

Assessment of Qualifications



When students take their examinations in Summer 2028, Grades will be measured numerically for GCSE Courses.

GCSE Grades

9
8
7
6
5 Strong Pass
4 Standard Pass
3
2
1
U

Grade 4 is called a 'Standard Pass' and Grade 5, a 'Strong Pass'; this is needed for entry to most A-Level courses.

Grade 9 can be seen as the top 25% of A* students and was introduced as the grade to show academic excellence in 2017.

Controlled Assessments / Coursework

Some subjects contain a significant amount of Controlled Assessment or Coursework. These subjects include Fine Art, Photography, Hospitality and Catering, Product Design and Textiles. This type of work is often time consuming and the number of subjects a

student takes should be considered. We will always give specific guidance where students have opted for coursework heavy subjects, so they are clear about the commitment and expectations.

Please look carefully at each subject page to see the examined content and extent of Controlled Assessment / Coursework.

Vocational Courses

Vocational courses are graded by a different system depending on the subject. This information is set out in the Vocational Course section on the following page. In addition, some subjects still assess through aspects of Controlled Assessments or coursework components. It is very important that you read the Assessment section of each of the subjects so you are clear about exactly how each course will be assessed. Vocational courses are GCSE equivalent.

This means although they carry the same qualification weight, they are not graded using the 9-1 criteria.

Level 2 Distinction* (highest)
Level 2 Distinction
Level 2 Merit
Level 2 Pass (Grade 4 GCSE equivalent)
Level 1 Distinction
Level 1 Merit
Level 1 Pass

Curriculum Choices



All Students study GCSEs in English, Maths, Science and a Humanity (Geography or History). All students also study core Physical Education, Religious Education and PSHE Education.

In the Options process students choose additional option subjects for the start of Year 10. Students are strongly encouraged to choose a broad and balanced curriculum and are fully guided and supported to make the most suitable personal choices and pathways. The Department for Education believes that this specific combination of subjects allows students to be competitive both nationally and internationally.

English Baccalaureate Suite

At Pyrland School, we believe that studying a broad, balanced curriculum is important because it opens up further opportunities for future education and employment. Thus, students are encouraged, where appropriate, to study the following subjects as their core set of subjects:

- English
- Humanities (History or Geography)
- Languages (French)
- Mathematics
- Sciences (Incl. Computer Science)

Creative Subjects

Students are advised to take a creative subject alongside academic subjects to ensure their curriculum pathway is not too narrow and limited.

Creative subjects include:

- Drama
- Fine Art
- Physical Education
- Hospitality and Catering
- Music
- Photography
- Product Design
- Textiles

Studying a Language

We believe strongly that choosing a language is the best option for a significant number of students. Students for whom

studying a language is advisable will be contacted at the start of the options process.

Vocational Courses

We are really proud of our curriculum offer, which includes vocationally related qualifications (BTEC Sport, Creative iMedia, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering and Travel and Tourism).

All our vocational qualifications enable students to gain the equivalent of one or more GCSEs at the highest Grades 9-5. These courses have a smaller exam component and there is a greater emphasis on projects and completing assignments that are based on real world industry situations.

Examples of complementary subjects are:

- Geography with Travel and Tourism
- Music with Drama

Combinations not permitted, based on similarity of course include:

- Fine Art, Textile Design or Photography

Pathways to Post 16



Sixth Form, College, University and Employment may seem a long way off when students are making their option choices in Year 9, but they are important to consider at this point as they can directly impact which pathways are open to students later in life.

In England, everyone must engage in one of the following until they are 18:

- stay in full-time education, for example Sixth Form or College
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

Post 16 education and training pathways differ by how academic or vocational they are, based on how much time is spent in a classroom style environment versus career specific learning. Courses that follow on from GCSEs or equivalent Level 2.

Qualifications are called Level 3 Qualifications, such as A Levels, Extended Diplomas, T Levels or Advanced Apprenticeships.

If students complete any Level 3 Qualifications, they are then in a position to apply for Higher Education courses at Universities, Foundation Degrees, Degree Apprenticeships or go straight into employment. See an example below showing different Post 16 pathways.

Quick Comparison of Post 16 Options

Feature	Academic (A-Levels)	Vocational (BTECs/T-Levels)
Learning Style	Theory based, classroom learning	Practical, hands-on experience
Assessment	Mainly final exams	Coursework, projects, portfolios
Duration	2 years (full time)	1-2 years depending on qualification
University	Traditional route to university	Many BTECs accepted for university
Work experience	Limited (unless you arrange it)	Often built into the course
Specialization	Choose separate subjects	Focus on one career area

Your Post 16 pathways



Choosing the right path after GCSEs - Academic or Vocational Routes

Both routes can lead to successful careers! Choose based on how you learn best and what suits your goals. You can even combine them (like an A-Level with a BTEC), and it's possible to switch pathways later. Talk to teachers, careers advisors, and your family to help you decide.

Academic Route



What is it?

- ✓ A-Levels (usually 3 subjects)
- ✓ Theory-focused learning
- ✓ Studied at sixth form or college
- ✓ Assessment mainly through exams

Best for students who:

- ✓ Enjoy academic study and exams
- ✓ Want to go to university
- ✓ Prefer learning from books and theory
- ✓ Like studying subjects in depth

Where it leads:

- ✓ University (degree courses)
- ✓ Higher apprenticeships
- ✓ Professional careers requiring degrees

Typical subjects:

Maths, English Literature, Biology, History, Psychology, Geography, Languages etc.

Vocational Route



What is it?

- ✓ BTECs, T-Levels, NVQs or apprenticeships
- ✓ Practical, hands-on learning
- ✓ Work-related skills and training
- ✓ Assessment through coursework and projects

Best for students who:

- ✓ Prefer practical hands-on work
- ✓ Know their career direction
- ✓ Want to learn workplace skills
- ✓ Learn better by doing rather than exams

Where it leads:

- ✓ Direct employment in chosen field
- ✓ University (with BTEC qualifications)
- ✓ Advanced apprenticeships
- ✓ Technical careers and trades

Typical courses:

Engineering, Health and Social Care, Business, IT, Construction, Hospitality, etc.

Planning Your Option Choices



You will be completing your Options Form online, however, this table will help you to plan your choices. You will need to complete the actual options form online by Friday 13th March 2026.

Note: You need to pick 3 options from Section 1 and 2:

Section 1: Guided Options	Geography		Tick one subject
	History		
	Computer Science - Suitable for Maths sets 1 and 2 only		
	French		

Section 2: Additional Options	Additional Options:			Tick two subjects as your first choices. Then mark "R1" and "R2" for reserves
	Art and Design – Fine Art	Choose One		
	Art and Design - Photography			
	Art and Design - Design and Technology	Choose One		
	Art and Design - Textiles			
	Computer Science - Suitable for Maths sets 1 and 2 only			
	Creative iMedia			
	Drama			
	French			
	Geography			
	Health and Social care			
	History			
	Hospitality and Catering			
	Media Studies			
	Music			
	Psychology			
	Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)			
Sport Studies				
Travel and Tourism				

Section 3: Science Preference This does NOT count as an option choice.	Combined Science : Trilogy (2 GCSEs)		Speak to your Science teacher for their recommendation.
	Triple Science : Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSEs)		

Subject Key



The next section of this booklet provides you with information about each subject available to study. Read them carefully and if you have any questions about them, make sure you speak with your subject teacher or tutor about them.

The icons below are your key to the type of work involved for each subject as detailed in the following subject pages.

	Controlled Assessment / Coursework Component These subjects have a Controlled Assessment/Coursework component
	100% Exam Assessed These subjects are 100% exam assessed at the end of the course



AQA GCSE: 8700

AQA GCSE English Language focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills using both fiction and non-fiction texts. The course is designed to develop how students understand language and communicate effectively in real-life situations.

Course Content

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing.

Students will analyse a previously unseen piece of fiction writing from a well-known British author. They will also complete a piece of narrative or descriptive writing.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Students will analyse and compare two previously unseen pieces of non-fiction writing, one of which will date from before 1900. They will also write about their own viewpoint on a set subject.

Spoken Language Endorsement

Students also complete a spoken language assessment which is internally assessed. This takes the form of an individual presentation in front of an audience. While it does not contribute to the GCSE qualification itself, the grade received is endorsed by the AQA and reported as a separate grade of a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minute examination.

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minute examination.

Spoken Language: a 3 - 5 minute presentation followed by questions which is internally assessed.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to be able to: Identify key ideas in texts and analyse the methods that writers use. You will need to write in a clear and fluent way, structuring your answers thoughtfully and using a variety of vocabulary, sentence structures and methods.

This subject works well with...

GCSE English works well with many other subjects because it builds transferable skills like reading, writing, analysis, and communication.

It works well with History where you are analysing and interpreting sources and evaluating points of view. Similarly, it links with RPE where students are required to develop arguments.

It also supports Science subjects where students are required to write clear explanations and explain processes logically.



Future Pathways

Students can continue to study English at A-Level or take their skills into careers such as journalism, editing, law, teaching, media and marketing - any career that requires clear communication skills.



AQA GCSE: 8702

AQA GCSE English Literature focuses on the study of plays, novels, poetry, and unseen texts. Students explore how writers use language, structure, and form to present ideas, characters and themes across different time periods. The study of literature helps students become thoughtful readers and confident writers, skills that are valuable for further education, careers, and life beyond school.

Course Content

For Paper 1, students will study a Shakespeare text and a 19th Century text: *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens respectively.

For Paper 2, students will study a modern play text: *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley. They will also study an anthology of 15 poems under the theme of Power and Conflict. Finally, they will learn how to approach and write about a poem that they will be given for the first time in the exam.

Assessment

Paper 1: This exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes. Students will write one essay on *Macbeth* and one essay on *A Christmas Carol*. Each question gives the students an extract to analyse and will ask them to apply their ideas to the whole text.

Paper 2: This exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes. In Section A, students will have a choice of two questions for an essay on *An Inspector Calls*. Section B is a comparative essay on two poems from the anthology. For Section C, students have to write about a poem they have not seen before.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to be able to: Look at texts closely, identifying patterns and key details. You will understand the messages that the authors are trying to convey.

Your essays will need to be structured clearly with a thoughtful thesis statement. You will need to be able to identify appropriate evidence from a text.

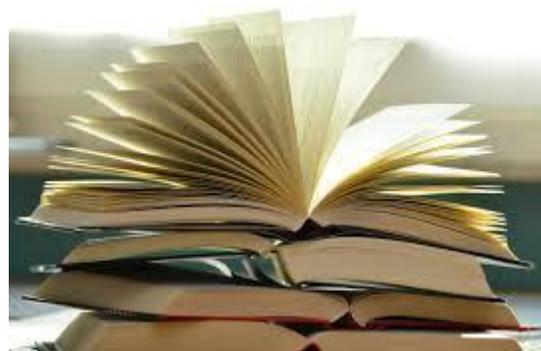
This subject works well with...

This subject works well with any subject that requires students to analyse writers' perspectives and how they present their viewpoints such as History, RPE, Media Studies and Psychology.

The study of literature also supports the study of Drama where students also need to analyse methods writers use to present character, plot and theme.

Future Pathways

An English Literature GCSE is an impressive GCSE to have! It can lead to careers in journalism, copywriting, teaching, law, marketing, editing and many many more. It demonstrates an ability to analyse and think creatively.





Edexcel GCSE: 1/MA1

“Good maths skills are the best protection against unemployment, low wages and poor health.” Andreas Schleicher (Director for Education and Skills)

In order for students to ‘live life in all its fulness’, they need to become numerate citizens. Through the study of Maths, students will become fluent in the fundamentals of Mathematics. Learn to reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry. Learn to solve problems by applying their Mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems.

Course Content

Two year KS4 curriculum.
Covering the following key topic areas of:

- Number,
- Algebra,
- Ratio & Proportion,
- Geometry,
- Probability,
- Statistics.

Assessment

Exam Board: **Edexcel** There are 2 tiers

Foundation, Grades (1 – 5)

Questions test core maths knowledge and application.

Higher, Grades (3 - 9)

Questions test more complex topics with a greater emphasis upon problem solving.

- Paper 1 - Non calculator 1.5hrs 80 marks
- Paper 2 - Calculator 1.5hrs 80 marks
- Paper 3 - Calculator 1.5hrs 80 marks

Grade 4 is the minimum pass grade:

At **Foundation** ~ 60% (150 marks) required
At **Higher** ~ 26% (50 marks) required

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:
Be resilient, we always learn more from our errors than from our successes.

This subject works well with...

Maths is a universal subject which is understood throughout the world and therefore fits with any other subject of study.

Particular subjects where it is useful are:

- Science
- Computer science
- Economics / Statistics
- Geography
- Business Studies

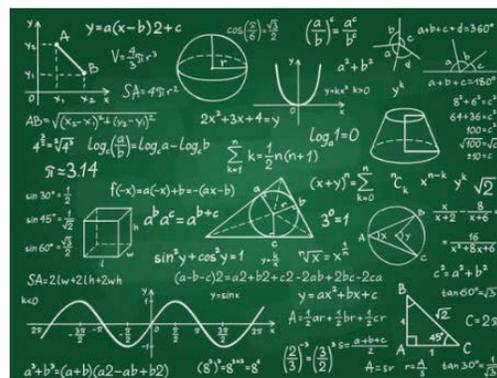
Future Pathways

Any career is accessible with Mathematics.

However, key areas where Mathematics is necessary:

Engineering, Manufacturing, Accountancy, Computing, Banking, Economist, CAD, CAE,

Game Designer, Medicine, Insurance, Officer ranks in the military and many more.





GCSE: 8464

GCSE Combined Science provides opportunities for you to build on your learning about the Big Ideas of science and to discover what it takes to become a scientist. You will learn everything from cell structure to interdependence; atomic structure to Life Cycle Assessments and energy stores to magnetic fields.

Course Content

Biology modules include: Cells, Organisation, Infection and Response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution and Ecology.

Chemistry modules include: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and Properties, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rates of Reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Atmospheric Chemistry and Using Resources.

Physics modules include: Energy, Electricity, Particle Module, Atomic Physics, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism.

Assessment

We follow the AQA Trilogy Combined Science course. This course is double-weighted and therefore worth two GCSEs. The grades given reflect this and students can achieve any grade from a 1-1 to a 9-9. Half grades such as 5-4 are available.

To assess this course there are six 1h15m exams, two in each of biology, chemistry and physics.

Students can be entered into either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier:
Students sitting Foundation Tier can achieve Grades 1-1 to 4-4.
Students sitting higher tier can achieve Grades 5-5 to 9-9.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

Work hard; think analytically; be curious.

This subject works well with...

Maths - we apply mathematics regularly in science

English - we develop skills in writing about science

Geography - there is a key focus on climate and Earth science in GCSE Combined Science



Future Pathways

Science offers you an understanding of the world around you; problems it faces and what you can do to help solve them - this invaluable skill will remain with you for life.

Science can also offer an incredibly varied range of careers and post-16 options. Students can study A-Level Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as science-related courses such as Geology, Computer Science or Earth Science. Students can also opt to study Applied Sciences rather than A-levels.

Beyond A-levels, universities offer a plethora of science courses designed to train students to undertake rewarding and meaningful careers.



GCSE, 8461, 8462, 8463

GCSE Separate Sciences offer the same opportunities as Combined Science but allow a greater depth of study. It's perfect for students who enjoy science and have scientific ambitions in mind.

Course Content

In addition to the content taught in GCSE Combined Science the Separates Pathway also contains:

- DNA transcription and translation
- The Haber Process for making ammonia
- Space
- More Organic Chemistry
- The eye and the kidney

Assessment

We follow the AQA Separate Science courses. Each course is one single-weighted GCSE so students will come away with three independent GCSE qualifications. Each science has two exams at the end of Year 11:

Biology:

Paper 1: 1hr 45 mins

Paper 2: 1hr 45 mins

Chemistry:

Paper 1: 1hr 45 mins

Paper 2: 1hr 45 mins

Physics:

Paper 1: 1hr 45 mins

Paper 2: 1hr 45 mins

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

Work hard; think analytically; be curious.

This subject works well with...

Maths - we apply mathematics regularly in science

English - we develop skills in writing about science

Geography - there is a key focus on climate and Earth science in GCSE Combined Science

Future Pathways

Science offers you an understanding of the world around you; problems it faces and what you can do to help solve them - this invaluable skill will remain with you for life.

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Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Art and Design, 1AD0

Art and Design equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a GCSE subject. GCSE Art and Design provides the opportunity for students to: explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design first hand through, for example: visiting museums, galleries, art shows and fairs, experiencing audio-visual productions, including still and moving imagery, their surroundings and environments.

Course Content

STRUCTURE:

60% coursework

40% exam.

You will develop 3 coursework projects, 1 of which is externally set, plus a final exam project.

Assessment

You will be assessed holistically across four assessment objectives.

AO1 Ideas, theme connections & research.

AO2 Experimentation, development, media, skills & refinement.

AO3 Observations, skills, media & recording.

AO4 Developing a meaningful outcome from AO1, 2 and 3.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

Develop ideas by researching and analysing different sources, Use knowledge of creative and cultural industries in their work, Improve and refine ideas by experimenting with materials, tools, and techniques, Record ideas and thoughts clearly using drawings, notes, and correct subject vocabulary, Use drawing skills for different purposes and situations

Be creative and curious, willing to explore ideas and experiment with materials, techniques, and media Research and analyse artists, designers, and sources to inspire your own work

Communicate ideas clearly through drawings, notes, and visual language

Reflect and refine your work, testing ideas and developing meaningful final outcomes

This subject works well with...

English / Literacy – helps with writing about ideas, analysing artists, and using subject-specific vocabulary
Textiles / Product Design – links to practical making skills, materials, and creative problem-solving

Future Pathways

Art therapy

Animation

Tattoo artist

Film maker

Fashion designer

Makeup artist

Jeweller

App designer

Landscape architect

Urban planner

Interior designer

Advertising director

Marketing

Logo/branding



BTEC level 1/2 Tech award in Sport



Pearson BTEC, 603/7068/3

A vocational qualification for Key Stage 4 (GCSE equivalent) students, focusing on practical, applied skills in sports, activity, and fitness, for a holistic understanding of the sports industry.

Course Content

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in Sport and Physical activity - this includes the different types of physical activity and providers, the needs of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers. Equipment and technology required to take part in sport is also included. Learners will also develop an applied understanding of physiology and anatomy as they learn how to plan and deliver a warmup to prepare participants to take part in sport and physical activity.

Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance - this includes the components of fitness and how they are used in different types of sport; practical participation in sport and the rules and regulations in sport and ways to improve other participants sporting performance through planning and delivery of sports drills and conditioned practices.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity - this covers fitness testing, training, and programming for different types of participants to improve their sport and physical activity performance.

Assessment

Component 1: Internally assessed through coursework. 30%

Component 2: Internally assessed through coursework. 30%

Component 3: Externally assessed via an exam. 40%

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need:

Knowledge in a range of individual and team sports
Leadership and communication
Motivation
Computer literacy (Microsoft Word and Powerpoint)
Practical ability
Applying knowledge

This subject works well with...

- Science - Human biology
- Psychology - Motivation
- English - Extended writing
- Math - Formulae
- Humanities - barriers to participation



Future Pathways

Once you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of the sport industry. If you decide to go on to further study of sport you could progress to a Level 2 Technical Certificate or to a Level 3 programme, such as A Levels, a T Level or a BTEC National, either on its own or in combination with A levels.



OCR GCSE, J277

GCSE Computer Science is the perfect complement to Mathematics and Science options, helping you develop a range of creative problem solving skills and an in-depth knowledge of how computers work. This is a hands-on course - programming, researching and discovering the fascinating world of computers, and cyber security. You will find that working with computers is exciting, challenging and where you will learn valuable skills for your future.

Course Content

Computer Systems

You will learn about computer systems, memory, storage, networks, security and ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

You will learn about problem solving, pattern recognition, sorting and searching algorithms, programming, computational logic, translators and data representation.

Programming Project

You will develop your programming skills to design, develop, test and evaluate your own computer programs to demonstrate your understanding of the key programming concepts of sequence, selection, iteration, arrays and file handling.

Assessment

100% Examination:

Paper 1 (50%)

Computer Systems - 90 mins

Paper 2 (50%)

Computation thinking and programming - 90 mins

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will have to :

- Enjoy switching between hands-on practical skills and computing theory.
- Enjoy subjects such as Maths, Science and Design & Technology.
- You will learn to analyse and evaluate, making reasoned judgements and present conclusions.
- You will be able to think logically to solve interesting problems using computer programs.

This subject works well with...

All subjects work well with our Computing course.

No matter what route you take in life you will increasingly need to have an understanding of computers and programming.

Courses that complement this one particularly well are: Mathematics, Science and Product Design.

Future Pathways

This course provides students with many opportunities.

The subject is also ideal in preparing you for jobs that directly involve IT, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, App or Games Developer, Data Scientist, Software Engineer or IT System Management. Also the fields of finance, medicine and engineering are being driven by the power of computing.





Cambridge Nationals OCR, J834

If you're considering careers in gaming, film, advertising, web design, or social media, this qualification gives you a brilliant foundation. It's also great if you prefer coursework to exams, as most of your grade comes from the projects you create rather than written tests. You'll dive into areas like graphic design, animation, video production, web development, and digital marketing. You'll plan projects from scratch, use industry-standard software, and create professional-quality work you can be proud to show off.

Course Content

R093 - Creative iMedia in the media industry

- o The media industry
- o Factors influencing product design
- o Pre-production planning
- o Distribution considerations

R094 - Visual identity and digital graphics

- o Develop visual identity
- o Plan digital graphics for products
- o Create visual identity and digital graphics

R097 - Interactive digital media

- o Plan interactive digital media
- o Create interactive digital media
- o Review interactive digital media

Assessment

R093 (40% of total grade)

This is assessed by taking an exam.

R094 (30% of total grade)

This is assessed by completing a set assignment.

R097 (30% of total grade)

This is assessed by completing a set assignment.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need:
Creative Skills:

- Imagination and originality
- Visual awareness
- Storytelling

Technical Skills:

- Basic computer literacy
- Willingness to learn new software Problem-solving

This subject works well with...

Art & Design – strengthens your creative eye, drawing skills, and understanding of composition and colour theory.

Photography – essential for creating original content and understanding lighting, framing, and editing

Textiles/3D Design – develops spatial awareness and design thinking useful for 3D modelling and game design

English Language – improves writing for scripts, web content, marketing copy, and project documentation

Future Pathways

- A Level - Media Studies (Level 3)
- Apprenticeship - Media and Broadcast Assistant Pathway - (Level 3)
- Cambridge Technicals – Information Technology and Digital Media (Level 3)
- T Level - Digital Production Design and Development or Media, Broadcast and Production (Level 3)





Eduqas GCSE, (8420)

GCSE Drama allows you to create, perform and study a range of drama styles. You will be able to create devised drama that puts into practice your Year 8 and 9 learning about Brecht, Shakespeare, comedy and physical theatre. You will also get the chance to take part in a scripted performance piece as well as study a play text and go to see a live Theatre Performance.

Course Content

You will take part in two live performances: one of a devised piece and one using a script.

You will study one set text “**I Love You Mum – I Promise I Won’t Die**” by Mark Wheeler. It tells the powerful true story of a teenager, Dan, who died taking drugs on a night out. The script includes transcripts from Dan’s friends and family covering his life, experiences, and the fateful night on which he died.

We will take you on at least two trips to see live theatre performances and you will learn to review them as part of your final examination.

Assessment

Component 1: Devising Theatre (40%) - Devising is familiar to all students in Year 9. This component requires pupils to make their own pieces of drama, leading to a final group performance to a small audience. Students will also create a portfolio and write an evaluation.

Component 2: Performing from a text (20%) - Learners study and perform a short extract from play of their choice.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (40%) – One written exam (1 hour 30 minutes) asking a series of questions on the set text and an evaluation of a live theatre performance seen during the course.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject, you will need to have: Strong performance skills (vocal projection, clear diction, physical control, facial expression, posture, timing) and essential transferable skills like teamwork, communication, creativity, problem-solving, adaptability, and self-discipline, all while understanding theatrical concepts and how to analyze and write about drama effectively.

This subject works well with...

GCSE Drama works well with a wide range of subjects, including other humanities and arts subjects that complement its focus on human interaction and creativity, and academic subjects that provide balance.

It links heavily with English through both the analysis of a text and the storytelling aspect.

There are also links with PSHE through the study of the set text.

Future Pathways

This specification provides a strong foundation for the study of drama at A level or any Drama based Level 3 qualification such as BTEC Performing Arts.

In addition, the specification provides an abundance of transferable skills that will support students in all future studies and the world of work.





AQA GCSE, 8652

AQA GCSE French enables students to build on their prior learning from KS3, learning more about the French-speaking world, developing confident communication skills and understanding how language works. Students will develop listening, reading, speaking and writing skills through a range of topics.

Course Content

There are 9 modules, separated into three themes:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Unit 1: Identity and relationships with others
Unit 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
Unit 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

Unit 4: Free time activities
Unit 5: Customs, festivals and celebrations
Unit 6: Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Unit 7: Travel and tourism
Unit 8: Media and technology
Unit 9: The environment and where people live

Assessment

GCSE French is assessed across all four language skills.

Speaking (25%)

1-1 assessment with three sections:
Role play, read aloud task, photocard discussion

Listening (25%)

35/45 minute examination

Reading (25%)

45/60 minute examination

Writing (25%)

70/75 minute examination

A range of written tasks including description of a photo, translation and extended written tasks.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject, you will need to be able to: Communicate effectively in French, understand key ideas from both written and spoken language and be interested in learning about the wider French-speaking world. You will need to understand and use a range of tenses, vocabulary and sentence structures across all four skills.

This subject works well with...

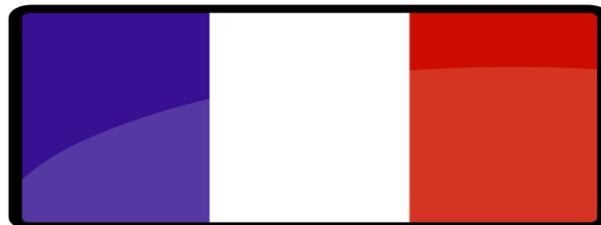
GCSE French works well with English, as the understanding of sentence structures, tenses, vocabulary and overall planning of an effective piece of writing use very similar skills across both languages. The core reading skills developed in English will be beneficial to students studying French.

French also works well with geography to understand the wider world, environmental issues and how others live.

It also supports work in Travel and Tourism to learn about holidays, experiences and cultures.

Future Pathways

Students can continue their French studies at A-Level, use French as a foundation for learning other languages or use their skills in various sectors including international business, tourism, education and endless others. With so many multinational companies, French will always be useful for the business world.





GCSE, AQA 8035

*Geography is highly valued by both universities and employers because it bridges the gap between the sciences and the humanities. It teaches you to **analyze data**, **think critically** about global news, and **communicate** your ideas effectively. Whether you are interested in environmental law, engineering, or international business, geography provides a solid foundation.*

Course Content

The course is broken down into 3 sections

Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Section B: The living world

Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

Challenges in the human environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

Assessment

Students will sit three exams, one for each topic.
Each paper lasting 90 minutes

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

Utilises skills such as

- Data Interpretation and Numeracy
- Analytical Writing
- Cartographic (Map) Skills
- Scientific Enquiry

If you enjoy keeping up with current affairs, like being outdoors for fieldwork, and prefer a subject that connects to the real world rather than just textbooks, you are ideally suited for this course.

This subject works well with...

Because Geography is a "bridge" subject—sitting right between the sciences and the humanities—it complements a huge variety of GCSEs, such as

Science
Maths
History
Computer Science
Religious studies

Future Pathways

A qualification in Geography can lead initially to A-Levels and degree courses. From there here are few occupations available:

Architectural technologist
Cartographer
Environmental consultant
Marketing executive





AQA GCSE: 8145

This GCSE History course offers students a broad and engaging journey through some of the most significant periods in British and modern world history. It combines depth studies and thematic learning to help students understand how societies are shaped by power, conflict, ideas and change over time. Students studying this course will build many skills such as: strong analytical skills, essay-writing and interpretation skills, while helping them understand how past events continue to influence politics, society, health and international relations today.

Course Content

The course is broken down into four topics:

- **Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950-1975**
- **America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality**
- **Britain: Health and the people, c1000 to present day**
- **Elizabethan England, c1568-1603.**

In year 10 we start with Elizabeth which is taught alongside Britain: Health and the people, these topics are taught in a spiral learning pattern to ensure topic retention.

In year 11 we start with Conflict and Tension in Asia, this is taught alongside America in the spiral learning pattern.

Assessment

History is assessed through 2 exams:

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World **50% - May/June - Year 11 - Time: 2 hours**

Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950-1975 & America, 1920 - 1973: Opportunity and Inequality

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

50% - May/June - Year 11 - Time: 2 hours

Britain: Health and the people, c1000 to the present & Elizabethan England, c1568 - 1603

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in in this subject you will need:

- Historical analysis
- Source evaluation,
- Contextual Understanding
- An enjoyment of the subject.

This subject works well with...

History is a versatile subject, but does pair well with:

English Language & English Literature

As both involve analysing texts, understanding context and evidence-based arguments.

Geography

As both involve interpreting data, understanding complex interrelationships between people and their environment.

Religious Studies

As both require students to evaluate different perspectives and build arguments.

Modern Foreign Languages

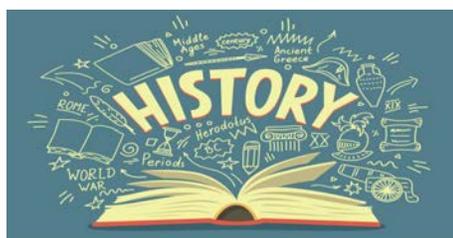
As can build cultural context for studying nations

Future Pathways

Where could this lead in the future?

History is a challenging academic subject that explores the people of the past and seeks to explain the world around us today. We imbibe students with skills of critical analysis and knowledge retention. It is a revered academic qualification that can equip students with the skills for careers in :

- Law
- Politics
- Teaching
- Heritage
- Journalism
- Business





LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD, 5409

Ever wondered what it takes to work in a top hotel or restaurant? Does food and discovering new flavours in the kitchen inspire you? Maybe you're interested in developing the skills you need to work Front of House? If so, it's time to find out more about this exciting qualification today!

Course Content

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

You will learn about the hospitality and catering industry, what different businesses do, and what it is like to work in this sector. You will also learn how to work safely and hygienically with food.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

You will learn about healthy eating and how food is affected by different cooking methods. You will practise preparing, cooking and presenting dishes, and learn how to improve your practical work.

Assessment

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment.

Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification.

In Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours.

Subject Specific Skills

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including: - Communication, Confidence, Learning independently, Organisation, Problem solving, Research, Self-discipline, Stamina, Taking on responsibility, Time management.

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

Be organised and manage your time effectively to complete assignments and practical tasks
Work safely and hygienically in the kitchen and when handling equipment
customers

Be independent, responsible, and resilient, able to plan, cook, and evaluate your work

This subject works well with...

Science (Biology & Chemistry) – helps understand nutrition, food safety, and chemical reactions in cooking

Maths – useful for weighing, measuring, scaling recipes, and costing ingredients

English / Literacy – helps with writing assignments, planning menus, and communicating ideas clearly

Future Pathways

The hospitality industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities which includes -

- Chef de partie
- Commis chef
- Concierge
- Front of house manager
- Head waiter
- Maître d'hôte
- Pastry chef





BTEC Tech Award, 603/7047/6

This practical course uses real-life projects to help students understand how health and social care supports people, while developing key skills such as communication, teamwork and empathy. It provides a strong foundation for further study and a wide range of future careers.

Course Content

Students study how people grow and change throughout their lives, learn about health and social care services and the importance of care values such as respect and dignity, and explore how to assess health and wellbeing and plan ways to improve it.

Assessment

The course is made up of three components:

Two coursework units:

- Human development - 30%
- Health and social care services - 30%,

And one externally assessed unit:

- Health and wellbeing - 40% of the final grade.

Subject Specific Skills

Success in health and social care requires strong communication, problem-solving and decision-making skills, as well as professionalism and good time management. These skills help ensure people's needs are understood, met safely, and supported effectively.

This subject works well with...

Studying Health and Social Care alongside subjects like Biology, Psychology, English, Maths, and PE, gives Year 10 students a strong academic and practical foundation. These subjects reinforce key knowledge, improve essential skills, and help prepare students for further study or careers in health, care, and social services.

Future Pathways

Achieving this qualification can help students move on to further study (like A Levels, BTEC Nationals or vocational courses), apprenticeships, or prepare them for future careers in Health and Social Care such as Nursing or Care Assistants.



“Health and social care is the study of understanding people's needs, supporting their wellbeing, and making a real difference to lives at every stage.”



OCR GCSE, J200

The media is the most powerful entity on earth' - Malcolm X

Our students live in a media rich landscape that shapes their understanding of the world around them. Their experiences of contemporary society and culture are created from and shaped by television, advertising, film, music, and social media. Studying this course equips students to be more discerning in their engagement and interaction meaning they can navigate the world view that is presented to them more effectively. The contemporary nature of this course means students bring their own experiences of the media to the classroom to better understand the impact that it has on their lives.

Course Content

Students explore how the media shapes the way we see the world. They learn how signs, codes and conventions create meaning in everything from films and TV to magazines, music and video games. The course investigates who controls the media, how companies like the BBC and Warner Bros operate, and how technology drives change across advertising, streaming and online platforms. Students also discover how media products are designed, produced and shared, and why different audiences respond in different ways. Using case studies such as *The Lego Movie* campaign, news media and set television episodes, they develop confident analytical and creative skills.

Assessment

There are two exams in Year 11.

Paper 1 Television industry and Promoting Media is 35% of the final GCSE mark.

Paper 2 Music industry and News is 35% of the final GCSE.

In the summer term of Year 10, the exam board release the Non-Examined Assessment brief. This is 30% of the final GCSE.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

- analyse and evaluate a range of media texts from different historical, cultural, political and social contexts.
- demonstrate critical skills in the analysis of media texts using all aspects of the media framework to draw conclusions about media texts and how these are created and shaped by the contexts surrounding them.

This subject works well with...

Media Studies complements creative and analytical subjects.

It works well with English, Art, and Drama, and supports subjects like Sociology and Psychology through its focus on audiences, representation and influence.

It also links with IT/Computing, developing skills in digital design, research, critical thinking and media production.

Future Pathways

Every year, a significant number of students progress to study Media at Level 3, A level or BTEC.

Careers in journalism, media production, marketing, advertising, content creation, writing and publishing are supported by studying this course.





AQA GCSE, 8271

Music is a great course to choose for those who enjoy music and who are competent at performing on an instrument or at singing. The AQA specification will be followed, and the course is designed for all who have an interest in music. GCSE Music is not solely an option for those students who have high instrumental ability, but it is also a valid consideration for all other students with a passion for the subject, although having tuition on an instrument/voice is important.

Course Content

The course is made up of three components: Performing, Composition and Listening.

For component 1 students study a variety of genres and prepare for a listening exam (40%) based on their understanding of musical elements and set works (Beethoven and Queen)

For component 2 students need to produce a Solo Performance (15%) and a Group Performance (15%).

For component 3 students need to compose a piece of music in response to a given brief (15%) and a free composition (15%).

Assessment

There are two NEA components of the course: Performing and Composition. Both of these are worth 30% each and require work to be recorded during Year 11.

The final 40% is completed in the form of a Listening exam at the end of year 11.

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

- Have a passion for Music and enjoy listening to a wide variety of genres.
- Be able to play an instrument or voice to a good standard.
- Be able to use creative skills to compose musical ideas and develop these ideas into a fully formed composition.
- Be able to listen to Music and identify key elements and features.

This subject works well with...

This subject includes a number of transferable skills including building confidence, team work (links to BTEC Sport), creativity (links to other creative subjects including Art, Photography and Product design), analysis and communication (links to English and History).

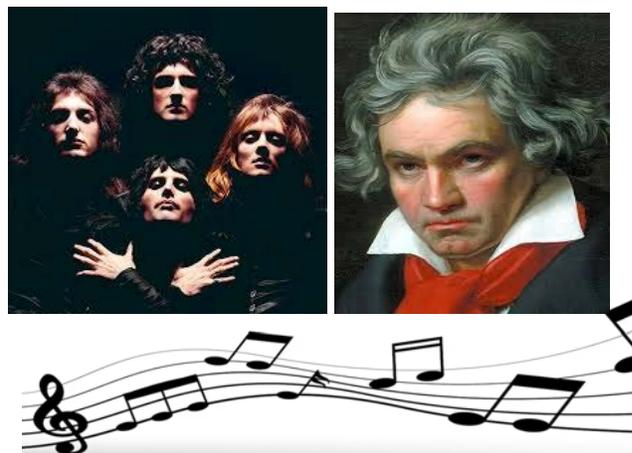
There are also a number of links with subjects that look at the Music industry such as Media Studies.

Understanding music involves noticing patterns in musical structure and being able to understand rhythm both of which have strong links with Mathematics.

Future Pathways

GCSE Music can easily lead on to A Level Music or any Level 3 Music qualification including Music Technology.

A GCSE in Music is highly regarding as it shows skills and character traits beyond the exam itself. These include being a strong communicator, confident performer and good listener.





GCSE Edexcel, 1PY0

GCSE Art & Design (Photography) encourages students to explore the creative and technical aspects of photographic image-making.

Students will develop confidence in using cameras, digital processes and visual communication to record ideas, observations and experiences. The course supports creative thinking, independent learning and personal expression through a practical, coursework-based approach.

Course Content

GCSE Photography is a creative and practical subject where students explore lens-based and light-based media. Students investigate how images are created, manipulated and presented to communicate meaning. Students work through research, experimentation, development and refinement, recording ideas visually through sketchbooks, written annotation and practical outcomes.

Assessment

Assessment is 100% coursework (no written exam):

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (60%)

A sustained project showing research, experimentation, development, refinement and a final realised photographic outcome.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

A practical task set by Pearson Edexcel. Students complete preparatory work before producing a final outcome under supervised conditions.

Subject Specific Skills

Students studying GCSE Photography will need to:

Work creatively with cameras and digital tools,
Understand composition, lighting and framing
Experiment with editing and image manipulation,
Analyse photographers and visual sources,
Record ideas clearly through images and annotation.

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

- enjoy visual and practical work
- be curious and experimental with images
- work independently and manage time well
- refine and improve work over time
- communicate ideas visually and in writing

This subject works well with...

Media Studies

Supports understanding of visual communication, audience, representation and digital imagery.

English

Develops investigative skills, written analysis and evaluation of ideas and influences.

Design & Technology

Links with design thinking, problem-solving and presentation skills.

Future Pathways

Students studying GCSE Photography may progress into careers such as:

Photographer
Photojournalist
Graphic Designer
Media or Content Creator
Advertising or Marketing Assistant
Film and Media Production
Fashion or Product Photography





GCSE, 8552

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Course Content

GCSE Design and Technology is a creative subject combining practical work, theory, maths and science. Students design and make real products using an iterative design process to test, refine and improve solutions to real-world problems.

Students learn about materials, manufacturing processes, tools, equipment, modern technologies, and sustainability. The written exam includes maths and science content such as calculations, forces and material properties, requiring logical thinking and problem-solving.

Assessment

Assessment 1 2-hour written exam at the end of the course. Worth 50% of the GCSE - In addition:
at least 15% of the exam will assess maths
at least 10% of the exam will assess science.
Assessment 2 35-hour non-exam assessment (NEA)
- A substantial design and make coursework. Worth 50% of the GCSE.

Subject Specific Skills

Students choosing GCSE Design & Technology need to be creative problem-solvers who can develop and improve ideas. They must work safely and accurately with tools, machinery and equipment, following workshop rules at all times.

Strong maths and science skills are required to understand materials, forces and structures, particularly for the written exam.

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

- have strong creative and problem-solving skills
- can work safely and accurately with tools,
- use maths and science confidently,
- communicate ideas clearly,
- improve their work throughout a project.

This subject works well with...

Maths

Students use measurement, calculation, scale, ratio and data throughout the course. Maths supports accuracy in practical work and exam questions involving forces, dimensions and material quantities.

Art & Design

Art and Design supports creativity and visual communication. Skills such as sketching and presenting ideas help students design attractive, user-focused products.

Future Pathways

- Product Designer
- Architect
- Engineer
- Fashion designer
- Electrician
- Entrepreneur
- Interior designer





GCSE, OCR J203

'The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.' - Plutarch
Our students live in a complex, unpredictable world where understanding themselves and others has never been more vital. The Psychology curriculum empowers learners to explore the thoughts, feelings and behaviours that shape human experience, allowing them to make sense of a world that can often feel overwhelming. By examining topics such as mental health, social influence, memory and sleep, students gain the tools to critically evaluate their own perceptions and those of others, applying psychological knowledge to their lives and society with insight, resilience and empathy

Course Content

The two-year GCSE Psychology course introduces students to key explanations of human behaviour. They study Development, exploring how thinking and learning change through childhood, and examine Psychological Problems, focusing on the causes and treatments of schizophrenia and depression. The Criminal Behaviour unit investigates why people commit crimes, while Social Influence considers obedience, conformity and factors that lead people to resist pressure. Students also learn how Memory works through different models, and explore the purpose of Sleep and Dreaming. Throughout the course, they develop scientific skills via Research Methods, learning to design studies, collect data and analyse findings effectively.

Assessment

Year 11 there are 2 exams, 1 hour 30 minutes, each worth 50% of GCSE.

Paper 1 covers Criminal Psychology; Development; Psychological Problems; Research Methods

Paper 2 covers Social Influence; Memory; Sleep and Dreaming; Research Methods

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

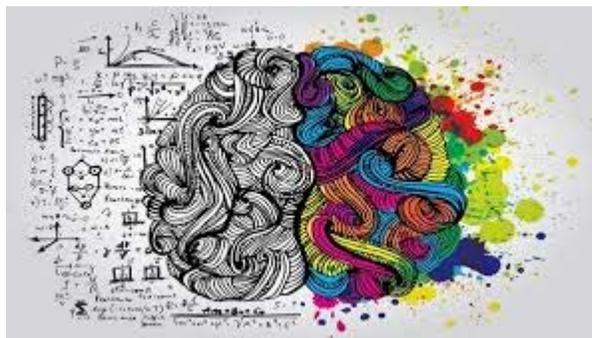
- analyse and apply psychological theories and studies to real-life situations
- think critically about research, judging strengths, limitations and ethical issues
- interpret data and use basic statistics as part of Research Method

This subject works well with...

Psychology pairs well with subjects that build scientific thinking, communication and social understanding. It complements Biology, Sociology, and Health & Social Care, and supports skills in English and Maths. It also links with PE/Sport Science and Media Studies, helping students understand behaviour, research, motivation and decision-making.

Future Pathways

This is an excellent foundation for A-Level Psychology or other social sciences such as Sociology, Politics and Law. Psychology qualifications can support careers including in Police force, NHS careers, Sports coaching, Marketing, Educational/clinical/health psychology, Childcare





AQA GCSE, examination

Students enjoy learning about Buddhist practices, especially deepening their knowledge of the Three Marks of Existence, which can lead to Buddhist Enlightenment. The course broadens their thinking about how other people choose to live and better themselves and the world around them. In particular, they enjoy reading case studies of Buddhist monks and nuns who have protested against war via public demonstrations such as hunger strikes and marches.

Course Content

You will learn about two main religions: Christianity and Buddhism, studying the beliefs and practices of both in detail. You will then apply this knowledge to the four different themes: 'Crime and Punishment', 'Peace and Conflict', 'Relationships and Families' and 'The Existence of God and Revelation'. The course will challenge you to view the world through the lens of others, understanding perspectives from a rich history of human experience and culture. An important aspect of the course is being able to write evaluative responses where you explain multiple opinions, finishing with your personal opinion on a given subject, for example, 'weapons of mass destruction'.

Assessment

Paper 1: The Study of Religions. This is a written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes, equating to 50% of the GCSE.

Section A – Christianity

Section B – Buddhism

(48 marks available for each section with a common structure of two five-part questions of 1,2,4,5 and 12 marks) Paper 2: Thematic Studies. This is a written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes, equating to 50% of the GCSE. Each of the four themes studied is assessed in the same common question structure as Paper 1. (96 marks available with 24 marks available for each theme)

Subject Specific Skills

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

Keen at debating

Able to evaluate and discuss key points

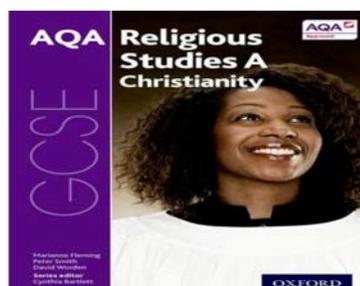
Keen on the subject

This subject works well with...

Religious Studies (RS) at GCSE works well with a wide range of other subjects because it is inherently interdisciplinary, focusing on ethics, philosophy, and sociology rather than just theology. It strengthens skills in critical thinking, evaluation, and written communication—often involving essay-based assessments similar to English and Humanities.

Future Pathways

A greater understanding of religion will lead to a deeper understanding of the wider world, making students more employable in the future. It will also bolster critical thinking and debating skills relevant to most job roles. More specifically, it could lead to careers such as teaching, law or social work.



Textile Design



GCSE, 3552

GCSE Art & Design (Textiles) encourages students to explore creativity, materials and processes through fabric-based design.

Students will gain confidence in developing personal ideas, experimenting with materials and techniques, and producing thoughtful, imaginative textile outcomes. The course nurtures visual communication, independence and creative problem-solving.

Course Content

GCSE Textile Design is a creative and practical subject where students explore fabric, colour, pattern, texture and surface decoration.

Students develop ideas through research, experimentation and practical making, using traditional and contemporary textile techniques. Work is recorded through sketchbooks, samples and final outcomes.

Assessment

Assessment is 100% coursework (no written exam):

Component 1 – Portfolio (60%)

A sustained project showing research, experimentation, development and a final textile outcome.

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment (40%)

A timed practical task set by Eduqas, with preparatory studies followed by supervised making time.

Subject Specific Skills

Students studying GCSE Textile Design will need to:
Develop creative and imaginative ideas

Work confidently with fabrics, threads, dyes and embellishments

Use tools and equipment safely and accurately

Experiment with techniques such as printing, dyeing, embroidery and construction

Analyse artists and designers to inspire their own work

To be successful in this subject you will need to:

Enjoy practical, hands-on creativity

Be willing to experiment and take risks

Record ideas visually in sketchbooks

This subject works well with...

Art & Design

Textiles develop visual literacy, creativity and expression through drawing, colour, composition and design.

Design & Technology

Builds skills in materials knowledge, making processes and understanding how products are designed and manufactured..

Future Pathways

Students who study Textile Design often progress into careers such as:

- Textile Designer
- Fashion Designer
- Interior Designer
- Costume Designer
- Surface Pattern Designer
- Textile Technician



Manage time and work independently
Refine and improve work over time



Travel and Tourism

BTEC TECH Award, 603/7048/8

This practical course uses real-life projects to help students understand how the travel and tourism industry supports visitors and communities, while developing key skills such as communication, teamwork, and customer service. It provides a strong foundation for further study in travel, tourism, and hospitality, as well as a wide range of career opportunities in the industry.

Course Content

In travel and tourism, understanding how people grow and change throughout their lives helps professionals meet the needs of different age groups. Knowledge of health and social care services, along with values like respect and dignity, supports inclusive and safe customer experiences. Being able to assess wellbeing and plan improvements allows tourism staff to provide suitable support, design accessible services, and create enjoyable, customer-focused experiences.

Assessment

The BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism consists of three components: two coursework units, each worth 30%, covering key aspects of the industry, customer service, travel operations, and destinations, and one externally assessed exam unit worth 40%, which tests knowledge of the travel and tourism sector, including destinations, attractions, and industry trends.

Subject Specific Skills

In travel and tourism, key skills include communication, problem-solving and decision-making, professionalism, and time management. Good communication ensures customer needs are understood and met, while strong problem-solving and decision-making skills help staff handle issues such as delays or complaints quickly and effectively. Time management allows tasks to be organised efficiently, keeping services running smoothly.

This subject works well with...

Studying Travel and Tourism alongside subjects like Geography, English, Maths, and ICT gives students a strong academic and practical foundation. These subjects help reinforce key knowledge about destinations, customer service, and industry operations, while improving essential skills such as communication, organisation, and problem-solving. This combination prepares students for further study, vocational courses, or careers in the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors.

Future Pathways

Achieving the BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism can help students progress to further study, such as A Levels, BTEC Nationals, or other vocational courses related to the travel and tourism sector. It can also support students in moving into apprenticeships or entry-level roles in the industry, including positions in customer service, travel agencies, tour operations, hospitality, and airline services.



"Success in travel and tourism comes from understanding people, solving problems quickly, and delivering service with professionalism and care."

My Notes

My Notes

My Notes
