



Year 9 Options Booklet

This is a hugely important time for the inaugural Year of Laurus Cheadle Hulme. Students are about to begin their transition to Key Stage 4 and GCSE study and we want them to approach this new phase with **curiosity**, **optimism** and **vitality**. It will not be long at all before Year 9 students are taking their final GCSE examinations and preparing to take the next step of their individual journey, be that going onto university or an apprenticeship or career of their choice.

In order to be successful in Key Stage 4, students need to display the qualities and habits we continually promote at LCH. They will be required to develop a high level of commitment and **perseverance**. Alongside developing subject knowledge students need to possess good written and spoken communication skills, independent study and revision habits and the **self-control** to make sure they are preparing for assessments, meeting deadlines and striving to be the best version of themselves that they can be.

It is only right then that students use **courage** to make the choices of which subjects will make up their curriculum. In the same way we guide and foster the development of subject knowledge and **social intelligence**, we will use compassion and **integrity** to guide the students in the subject choices they make, supported always by parents and carers.

This booklet alongside other resources will help you gain a better understanding of the course of study for Key Stage 4 at LCH, the key requirements for each subject as well as some broad indication of possible future opportunities that could be opened up to students who do 'whatever it takes' to achieve the required grades.

All the staff at LCH are looking forward to working with students, parents and carers on the pathway to Key Stage 4 and onwards to GCSE success at the end of Year 11.

How many option subjects will be studied?

In Years 10 and 11, students will study three option subjects alongside their compulsory curriculum of English, Maths and Science.

By the end of the Options process, you need to have selected four options subjects you would like to study next year. These should be ranked in order of preference.

All students should pick **ONE** option from Pool A:

- BTEC Sport
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography

All students should pick a further **THREE** options from Pool B:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • GCSE Art and Design (Three Dimensional Design) | • GCSE Food and Nutrition | • GCSE Physical Education |
| • GCSE Art | • GCSE French | • GCSE Photography |
| • BTEC Sport | • GCSE Geography | • GCSE Philosophy and Religion |
| • GCSE Computer Science | • GCSE History | • GCSE Separate Sciences |
| • GCSE Drama | • BTEC Health and Social Care | |
| • GCSE Design and Technology | • GCSE Media Studies | |
| | • GCSE Music | |

Students will eventually study THREE of their FOUR chosen Option subjects. We will try to ensure that everyone gets their top three choices but this is not always possible. For that reason, everyone needs to be happy with the prospect of studying all of the subjects they choose.

Options choices can be made through either the SIMS Parent app or by following the links from the LCH Options website <https://laurustrust.sharepoint.com/sites/LCH-Year9-Options>. You will be able to add these choices from Friday 23rd April 2021.

The deadline for choosing your Option subjects is **Friday 30th April 2021**.

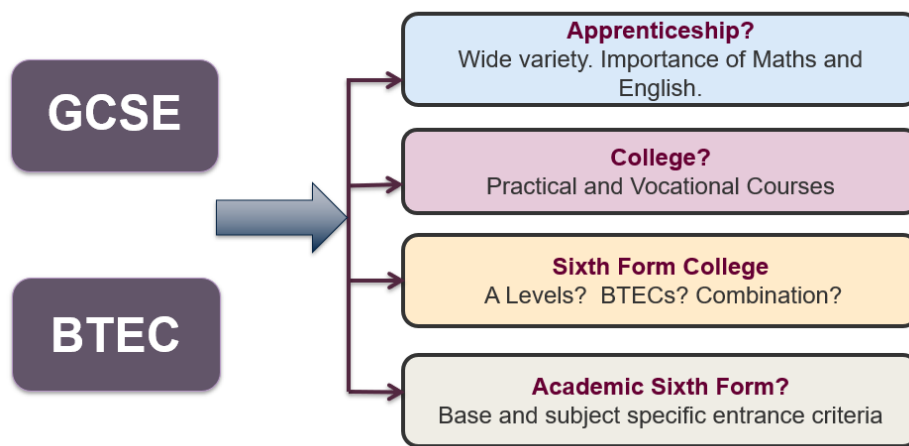
What are the guiding principles for choosing your Options?

1. Progression

The most important thing you need to consider before you make your choices is 'progression'. All students need to consider the choices available to them and the destinations they have in mind after their time at Laurus Cheadle Hulme. These decisions are not just for the here and now, they also have to prepare you for the future.

No matter what route you eventually decide to take, it's important that Key Stage 4 leaves as many future doors open to you as possible.

All of the qualifications offered at LCH can lead to a variety of progression opportunities:



2. Breadth and rigour

Our aim is ultimately to provide everyone with a curriculum that helps them come to the end of Year 11 with the best set of qualifications they can. As well as grades, this means considering breadth and rigour.

By breadth, we mean that you need to ensure that the choices you make are not unnecessarily narrow, as a result of picking subjects that are too similar. Remember, you need to keep as many options available for as long as you can.

By rigour, we mean that you should seek to choose qualifications that, as well as providing breadth, are also rigorous. Your choices should challenge and push you. For that reason, the great majority of students at LCH will be expected to complete the English Baccalaureate of English, Maths, Science, a Language and a Humanities subject.

3. What not to consider

Don't consider what your friends are doing; what's right for them may not be right for you and it's your future you need to be thinking about.

Don't choose subjects because you think they will be easier than others. All the subjects offered at Key Stage 4 have equivalence; there are no easy options at Key Stage 4.

What different types of qualification are available?



Students at LCH are able to choose from two types of qualification, GCSEs and BTECs. Below is a summary of each, as well as some of the key differences.

GCSEs:

These qualifications take a more 'traditional' approach to assessment, with all assessment taking the form of exams at the end Year 11. All these exams are set externally by exam boards.

GCSEs are more content driven than BTECs with success relying upon a student's growing ability to recall and apply factual information and skills.

Colleges and Sixth Forms do not always require GCSEs for further study, but more selective providers may.

BTECs:

Both BTECs at LCH are Level 2 qualifications. This means that they are the equivalent to GCSEs and are fully recognised by post-16 education providers and employers.

The main differences between BTECs and GCSEs relate to the course content and assessment procedures. Instead of exams, BTEC courses are assessed throughout the two-year course by way of a portfolio of work. Much of that work is practically based and linked to real world scenarios.

Importantly, there are no end of Year 11 exams, so BTECs can often work well for students who may struggle with all assessment coming at the end of Year 11.

BTECs provide progression onto Level 3 courses offered by post-16 education providers in the area. These Level 3 qualifications (post-16) attract UCAS points in the same way that their A Level equivalents do, enabling progression to university and further study.

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate, or EBacc, is a set of subjects that seeks to maximise young people's options for further study and future careers. In order to complete the EBacc, students need to study English, Maths, Science, a Language and a Humanities subject.

The subjects that count towards this include:

- English (Literature and Language)
- Maths
- Science (Core science, Separate sciences, Computer Science)
- Humanities (History, Geography)
- Languages (Spanish, French)



In the majority of cases, students will be well-placed to complete the EBacc, having already studied GCSE Spanish in Year 9 and studying a compulsory curriculum of English, Maths and Science at Key Stage 4. By choosing either History or Geography for GCSE, students will complete their EBacc suite of subjects.

The EBacc is seen to have tangible benefits. A study by the UCL Institute of Education showed that studying subjects included in the EBacc provided students with greater opportunities in further education and increased the likelihood that a pupil would stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research also revealed that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

The EBacc also has implications for further study. If your ambition is to go to a top university, these universities have made it clear that they will be looking for high grade A-Level passes in some of what they consider to be the most challenging subjects:

- Maths and Further Maths
- English Literature
- Physics, Chemistry, Biology
- History
- Geography
- Languages (Classical and Modern)
- Economics
- Computing

Therefore, if you think you might want to go on to do A-Levels in any of these subjects, then you should think very carefully about taking some of them at GCSE. Maths, English and Science are compulsory and will be well supported by other EBacc subjects.

Making your choices

The deadline for choosing your Option subjects is **Friday 30th April**.

You can choose your subjects through either the SIMS Parent app or by following the links from the LCH Options website <https://laurustrust.sharepoint.com/sites/LCH-Year9-Options>

1. Students are required to select four options, they will study three of these four.
2. When making your choices, all students will need to select one subject from Pool A below:
 - History
 - Geography
 - BTEC Health and Social Care
 - BTEC Sport

3. Students will then study three subjects from Pool B.

The screenshot displays the LCH Options website interface. It is divided into several sections:

- Pool A:** A purple header section with a progress indicator 'You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list'. It contains three subject cards: 'BTEC Sport BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2', 'Geography GCSE 9-1 Full Course', and 'History GCSE 9-1 Full Course'. Each card has a blue bar at the bottom with a note: 'This course is also available in Pool B'. A red arrow points from the 'History' bullet point in the text above to the 'History' card.
- Pool B:** A purple header section with a progress indicator 'You have chosen 3 of 3 courses from this list'. It contains a grid of subject cards. Three cards are highlighted with blue bars: 'Computer Science GCSE 9-1 Full Course', 'Drama GCSE 9-1 Full Course', and 'French GCSE 9-1 Full Course'. A red arrow points from the text 'Students will then study three subjects from Pool B' to the 'Computer Science' card.
- Priority Choices:** A purple header section with '(Total Choices: 1)'. It contains one choice: '1 History GCSE 9-1 Full Course Pool A'. A note below says 'Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.'
- My Choices:** A purple header section with '(Total Choices: 3)'. It contains three choices: '1 Drama GCSE 9-1 Full Course Pool B', '2 French GCSE 9-1 Full Course Pool B', and '3 Philosophy & Religion GCSE 9-1 Full Course Pool B'. A red arrow points from the text 'When selecting these options it is important that these are ranked in order of preference.' to the 'Philosophy & Religion' choice.

When selecting these options it is important that these are ranked in order of preference.

We will try to ensure that students study the options they have prioritised but, due to a range of reasons, this is not always possible. However, **we do guarantee that everyone will be able to study three of the subjects from their four choices.**

FAQs

Who do I speak to if I have any questions?

Mr Retberg has overall responsibility for the Options process. Please direct any questions to him.

What happens if there are insufficient numbers to make a course viable?

At times we have to make difficult choices around the economic viability of a course. We will contact you about this as soon as this becomes a possibility so that you can review the alternatives. We will withdraw a course when we are satisfied that we have exhausted what we see as the alternative curriculum options.

What happens if I pick subjects too similar in content?

Some combinations of subjects are not allowed. This is usually where the content and assessment procedure are too similar. This information is shown in the Options booklet.

If this happens we will guide you towards alternatives by meeting with you one-to-one.

What happens if I change my mind?

Simply, come and talk to us. Your first point of contact is Mr Retberg, whose office is on the second floor. We will always listen to you and try to find a solution.

When insufficient students select a subject, the course may be withdrawn. We will contact you about this as soon as this becomes a possibility so that you can review the alternatives. We will withdraw a course when we are satisfied that we have exhausted what we see as the alternative curriculum options.

Choices that were available at the outset may not be available later in the process.

What happens if the school can't make your options fit?

We will talk to you as soon as an issue crops up. We will always talk to you about what is possible. It helps if you can be prepared to be a little flexible at times.

We will endeavour to create a timetable that allows students to study their preferred subjects. You will need to meet the entrance criteria for those subjects. This will not be possible in all cases.

You must select four preferences and rank them 1 to 4 (1 = 1st choice). We will endeavour to create a time table that allows you to study three of your choices as long as you have met the entrance criteria.

Core Subjects

GCSE English

Examination Board

AQA English Language

AQA English Literature

Examination Codes

- English Language 8700
- English Literature 8702

Form of Assessment – GCSE English Language

Module	Method of Assessment	Content
English Language Paper 1	Examination 1 hr 45 min	Unseen fiction text and creative writing.
English Language Paper 2	Examination 1 hr 45 min	Comparison of unseen non-fiction texts and transactional writing.

Form of Assessment – GCSE English Literature

Module	Method of Assessment	Content
English Literature Paper 1	Examination 1 hr 45 min	Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
English Literature Paper 2	Examination 2 hr 15 min	Modern prose/ drama and poetry.

GCSE Maths

Examination Board and Syllabus

AQA Specification GCSE Mathematics (8300) is used. The class teacher will decide on the most appropriate tier of entry for your child.

Form of Assessment

No coursework requirement

Foundation Level: Grades 1 - 5

Higher Level: Grades 4 - 9

Students will sit three examinations to achieve a GCSE in Mathematics, one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. Each paper is equally weighted and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and will have a range of questions.

All examinations must be taken at the same tier and will take place at the end of Year 11.

Course Content

Students will be assessed on 3 key areas of Mathematics:

- AO1 Using and applying standard techniques
- AO2 Reasoning, interpreting and communicating mathematically
- AO3 Solving non-routine problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts

Skills and qualities required for success

- Rational thinking
- Appreciation of different methods and approaches
- Ability to solve problems in familiar and unfamiliar contexts
- Ability to make links, find connections and generalise

Futures

Computer Games developer, Furniture designer, Actuary, Aerodynamicist, Avalanche researcher are just some of the exciting and rewarding careers you could have if you go on to study Mathematics at college and university,

See www.mathscareers.org.uk for further information about opportunities Mathematics can offer.

Typically, a grade 7 at GCSE is required if students wish to study Mathematics at A Level at an alternative institution. A grade 8 is usually required if students wish to study Further Mathematics at A Level.

Most jobs and Sixth Form Colleges now require a minimum of a grade 5 GCSE for entry. However, increasingly places are asking for a grade 6. Universities also require a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

GCSE Science

Examination Board and Syllabus

AQA Trilogy GCSE – Combined Science

Form of Assessment

2 x 1hr 15 minutes exams for Biology, Chemistry and Physics

100% exams-Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response

Course Content

The specification is divided into topics which each cover different key areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Practical skills are developed throughout the course and assessed in the written papers.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics	1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes	1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure
5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology	6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources	5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism and electromagnetism

Skills and Qualities required for success

Since it is a requirement of the National Curriculum that all students study Science, this course encourages students to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.

It encourages learners to develop their curiosity about the living, material and physical worlds and provides insight into and experience of how Science works.

It enables learners to engage with Science and to make informed decisions about further study in Science and related disciplines, and career choices.

Futures

This course provides a good route to AS and A2 Levels in a broad range of subjects.

(Non-examined) P.E.

Every child will continue with their PE lessons throughout KS4 where we expect students to further develop their knowledge and skills from Key Stage 3. Students will cover a variety of physical activities, including football, rugby, netball, badminton, table tennis, basketball, trampolining, rounders/softball, cricket, athletics and fitness.

During Year 10, students who choose to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award will spend one term completing relevant training in preparation for the day walks and expeditions.

We also aim at KS4 to encourage our students to adopt an active and healthy lifestyle. This is promoted in lessons and then through our elective provision.

Options Subjects

GCSE Art and Design

(cannot be combined with Art and Design - 3D Design or Photography)

Examination Board

AQA (Art, Craft and Design)

Form of Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio (coursework)	60%
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment:	40%

Course Content

The course is divided into two main parts: **Portfolio** and **Externally Set Assignment**. Both aspects must satisfy the following assessment objectives:

1. Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
2. Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
3. Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
Written annotation is an integral aspect of the creative process.
4. Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Students are expected to show evidence of written annotation and drawing in both Component 1 and Component 2.

Portfolio (60%)

Throughout Year 10 and 11, students work on a series of projects. Near the end of the course students are required to select and submit from this a **Portfolio**. This must consist of a sustained project (including preparatory work, development of ideas and processes, and final pieces) and a selection of further work. Students will have the opportunity to produce work from a variety of starting points. They will investigate the work of Artists and Designers as well as art from different times and cultures. As the course is a general Art, Craft and Design course, candidates must show evidence of working in at least two of the following areas:

- Fine Art (drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, mixed media, photography)
- Graphic Communication (ICT, illustration, typography, package design)
- Textile Design (art textiles, embroidery, paper-making, printmaking)
- Three Dimensional Design (ceramics, sculpture, jewellery architectural design).
- Photography (experimental imagery, location)

Externally Set Assignment (40%)

Towards the end of the course students are given an **Externally Set Assignment**. Here they receive an AQA paper containing a range of starting points from which they must select one and independently produce a unit of work. During this time they are given

general guidance on how to work through this task. They have approximately seven weeks to develop supporting preparation work before they sit a ten hour practical session, which is split over two days, to create a final piece(s).

The preparatory work is marked alongside the final piece(s) and together with the externally set assignment, contributes 40% towards the final GCSE grade.

Skills and attitudes required for success

This course offers students the opportunity to produce work in a wide range of materials, to build up technical skills and to express their feelings and creative ideas in both two and three dimensions.

This course is aimed at enthusiastic students with an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design, who wish to learn new skills as well as develop those acquired at Key Stage 3. It is best suited for those who have a particular interest or ability in art and design and wish to improve their creative thinking and problem solving skills further. Students will need to take the initiative in decision making and be able to research projects in their own time, so a firm sense of commitment to the subject is essential, whilst also being highly self-motivated.

Students must also be prepared to attend lunch and twilight sessions.

Futures

The career opportunities available in the Art World are vast and diverse as are the routes which students who wish to pursue their art and design education can take; from AS/A2 Levels, to BTEC National courses specialising in specific areas such as 3D Design, Fashion and Clothing and Photography.

Courses such as these can then lead on to Higher Education courses and careers in Architecture, Fine Art, Animation and Illustration, Media, Jewellery Design, Fashion, Education, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Set/Stage Design, Furniture Design and Film to name but a few.

Alternatively, if a student would rather enter the work place post 16, then there are many careers in the creative industries that would welcome a GCSE in Art and Design, some of which provide further learning opportunities within them, for example a Modern Apprenticeship.

Additional Requirements

- It is essential that those students who wish to opt for this course have a proven competency and work ethic in KS3 Art and Design, rendering a teacher recommendation.
- Pristine attendance, homework and behaviour record.

Students will also be required to purchase the following materials to support their studies;

- Hard bound sketchbooks, which are supplied by the school for a very reasonable cost

- Two art folders, which are supplied by the school for a very reasonable cost
- A set of quality paint brushes, which are supplied by the school at a very reasonable cost
- A range of soft 'B; pencils for sketching and drawing
- A good quality eraser, pencil sharpener, biros and fineliners
- Coloured pencils, which can be supplied by the school for a very reasonable cost (optional)
- A set of quality water colour paints, which can be supplied by the school for a very reasonable cost (optional)
- A camera is also a great asset but not essential

GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board and Code

OCR – J277

Form of Assessment*

Unit 01: Computer systems – External Exam (50%)

Unit 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - External Exam (50%)

Course Content

The subject content for this qualification consists of the following areas of study:

- Understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to interpret, amend and create algorithms.
- Understanding of binary representation, data representation, data storage and compression, encryption and databases; ability to use SQL to insert, amend and extract data stored in a structured database.
- Understanding of components of computer systems; ability to construct truth tables, produce logic statements and read and interpret fragments of assembly code.
- Understanding of how computer networks, the internet and the World Wide Web work.
- Awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.
- Understand the need to decompose problems into sub-problems
- Ability to create original algorithms or work with algorithms produced by others.
- Ability to design, write, test and evaluate programs.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE allows students, not only the opportunity of developing their knowledge and understanding of programming, but also the underlying principles of logic, decomposition, algorithms, data representation and communication.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success:

- Keen interest in Computer Science
- Keen to develop computational thinking skills and be able to apply these skills to solve real problems and produce robust programs
- Enjoying working independently, finding out your own answers – not just being taught
- Ability to complete work by the deadlines set

Futures

The skills and knowledge covered during this Level 2 qualification will prepare students for A Level Computing, and apprentices as well as supporting students who wish to seek employment at entry or trainee level, within a wide range of different working environments.

Additional Requirements

Throughout the GCSE Computer Science course, you will need to show a keen interest in keeping up-to-date with emerging technologies and to meet career challenges in the future, it is important that you are self-reliant as well as good communicators and problem solvers.

Given the content of this course a further consultation with the Head of Department may be appropriate before a student is accepted onto the course.

GCSE Design and Technology

Examination Board and Code: AQA / 8552

Form of Assessment:

1. **External Assessment:** A 2 hour written exam, 100 marks (50% of final grade). Students must also demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding, in relation to design and technology, maths and science knowledge contributes 15%.
2. **NEA (non-exam assessment):** Portfolio of work. Undertaking a single 'design and make' activity, which will arise from investigating a contextual challenge set by AQA. (50% of final grade).

Course content

External assessment – Theory lessons will be taught in parallel to the non-exam assessment in preparation for the 2-hour exam that they will sit in the summer of year 11. The exam consists of three sections;

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks) A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding of;

- new and emerging technologies
- energy generation and storage
- developments in new materials
- systems approach to designing
- mechanical devices
- materials and their working properties.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks) Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles in a range of the following areas;

- selection of materials or components
- forces and stresses
- ecological and social footprint
- sources and origins
- using and working with materials
- stock forms, types and sizes
- scales of production
- specialist techniques and processes
- surface treatments and finishes.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks) A mixture of short answer and extended response questions on;

- investigation, primary and secondary data
- environmental, social and economic challenge
- the work of others
- design strategies
- communication of design ideas
- prototype development
- selection of materials and components
- tolerances
- material management
- specialist tools and equipment
- specialist techniques and processes.

NEA (non-exam assessment)– The portfolio element to the course will run over years 10 and 11. It will be a single 'design and make' activity, which will arise from investigating a contextual challenge set by AQA. The Criteria for the portfolio of work includes; investigating the design possibilities, producing a design brief and specification, generating design ideas, developing design ideas, realising design ideas and analysing and evaluating.

Recommended Reading/Websites/Revision Guides

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm>

<https://www.technologystudent.com/>

CGP – GCSE AQA Design &Technology. For the Grade 9-1 course (revision guide).

CGP – GCSE AQA Design &Technology. For the Grade 9-1 course (revision question cards).

Additional Help

Guidance sheets for all key areas can be accessed through the home learning hub under their year group – AQA Design Technology.

Lunch time sessions and after school sessions during elective time will run throughout the controlled assessment period to allow learners to keep up to date with deadlines.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success:

- A natural ability and or a keen interest in design.
- Inquisitive, enjoys investigating and solving problems.
- Able to work independently and direct their own time to ensure deadlines for project completion are met.
- Enjoys experimenting with a variety of materials and practical skills.
- Can work confidently in a busy environment in groups and independently and forward plan.

Futures

Successful completion of this qualification will allow access to the following career pathways:

- Employment in any specialist field of Design (Engineering, carpenter, product designer, graphic designer, CAD design, CNC manufacture, Architecture)
- **Further study at college for;** NCFE level 3 in Product Design, A level product design or any other design related subject i.e. Resistant Materials, Architecture, Graphics and Engineering to name but a few.

Additional Requirements:

Students need to have had a recommendation from their Design Technology teacher.

GCSE Drama

Examination Board and Syllabus

Edexcel 1 DRO

Form of Assessment

Component 1: Devising (40% of the qualification). Coursework: a portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process (45 marks). Practical assessment: a devised performance (15 marks) Teacher assessed, externally moderated.

Component 2: Performance from Text (20% of the qualification). Students perform in two key extracts from a performance text (48 marks). Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of the qualification). 1 hour 45-minute written examination. Practical exploration and study of one complete text (45 marks) and one live theatre production (15 marks). Externally assessed and moderated.

Course Content

Term 1: Revising dramatic conventions / techniques and collaborating as an ensemble. Component 1 mock devising assessment and practical exploration of the set text.

Term 2: Observation of a live theatre production to feed into Component 3 preparation and further exploration of the set text incorporating written responses. Preparation for Component 1 and exploration of stimuli alongside portfolio compilation.

Term 3: Rehearsal for Component 1 practical assessment and preparation of portfolio. Completion of Component 1 assessment and coursework portfolio. Component 3 preparation continues throughout the term.

Term 4: Preparation for the Component 2 examination. Practical exploration of Component 3 text. Component 3 written exam practice continues throughout the term.

Term 5: Component 2 examination takes place. Component 3 preparation (NB preparation for this exam will be taught throughout the whole course, alongside the other components).

Term 6: Component 3 examination.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

- Ability to analyse, justify and evaluate in extensive written responses
- Effective social skills and a willingness to mix with groups of people
- Commitment to rehearse outside of lesson time when working on a group task
- Bravery to try out new drama exercises in groups
- Ability to articulate ideas in voice and movement skills
- Desire to direct and encourage others to problem solve using drama strategies and conventions
- Confidence to perform work to others and in front of a live audience.
- The ability to give and receive positive and constructive feedback
- Imagination to record drama work in written/diagrammatic form
- Sensitivity to listen and focus attention on others
- Ability to create imaginative drama without a given script.

Futures

Caring Professions; teaching, law, medicine, the emergency services, social services, therapy, welfare, youth and community work.

Creative Industries; acting, presenting, design technicians (lighting, sound, costume and set), art administration, advertising, marketing and branding, creative media, architecture, computer games designer, tourism, events management, creative management, media and journalism, personnel, retail management.

Additional Requirements

Students should have demonstrated a clear interest in the subject to manage this demanding course. Students must also be prepared to engage with the demanding theory and written side to the course. This will include analysing and evaluating live performance, as well as writing at length in the perspective of a performer, designer and a director. Additionally, students must be willing to write in detail about their drama work on a regular basis in preparation for their controlled assessments.

As part of this course students are expected to attend the arranged theatre visits which form part of their coursework. Therefore, there will be a small cost involved to cover the payment of tickets and transport.

There is an expectation that all GCSE Drama students are part of/support extra-curricular events within the Performing Arts faculty.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Examination Board and Syllabus

WJEC (Eduqas) C560

Form of Assessment:

Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of final GCSE qualification.

This component will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content as listed in the specified GCSE content.

Section A: Question based on stimulus material.

Section B: Structured, short and extended response questions to assess content related to Food Preparation and Nutrition.

Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action

Non-examination assessment (NEA): internally assessed, externally moderated. Both completed in Year 11. Component 2 is 50% of the GCSE qualification.

NEA 1 Food Investigation Assessment: A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. A report of 1500- 2000 words will be produced. 15% of GCSE mark.

NEA 2 Food Preparation Assessment: Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food. A report will be produced of 15 sides of A4 to include all text, photos, charts and graphs. 35% of GCSE mark.

Course Content

This exciting course will equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Through this qualification learners are encouraged to cook and practice making informed decisions about food and nutrition in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life. It will allow the students to understand the huge challenges that we face globally to supply the world with nutritious and safe food.

Areas of study:

1. Food commodities - cereals, fruit and vegetables, sugars, dairy, eggs, fats, meat, fish and vegetarian alternatives. The course will explore the value of different foods in the diet, in reference to current recommended daily intakes.
2. Principles of nutrition - the role of the main nutrients in the diet, their sources, function and deficiency diseases.
3. Diet and good health – understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
4. The science of food- The chemical characteristics and functional properties of foods will be investigated through experiments to understand changes occurring during cooking. This course will explore the sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
5. Where food comes from - understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices.
6. Cooking and food preparation- be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

- Well-developed practical skills and a propensity for food preparation.
- Clear understanding of fundamental nutrition from Key Stage 3 Food and Nutrition lessons.
- Independence and capability of writing up assignments.
- Drive and self-motivation needed during independent research.
- Ability to work as part of a kitchen team.

Futures

Successful completion of this qualification will allow access to the following further education and career pathways:

- Post 16 study of the following courses: Biology A-Level, Chemistry A-Level, Business A-Level, Level 2 NVQ Culinary Skills, Level 2 NVQ Food Production and Cookery, Level 2 NVQ Professional Cookery.
- Further education courses: Sports Science BSc, Nutritional Science BSc, Biochemistry BSc, Culinary Industry Management BBa, Medicine MBChB, Dietetics MSc.
- Nutritionist, Nutritional Therapist, Dietitian, Nurse, Doctor, Teacher, Product Developer and Food Scientist, Animal Nutritionist, Sport Scientist, Chef, Home Economist, Recipe Developer, Food Writer.

Additional Requirements

- Dedication, self-motivation and a genuine interest in nutrition, health and food science.
- Enjoyment of food preparation and experimenting with food ingredients
- A proven competency and work ethic in KS3 Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Excellent organisation and record of bringing required equipment into school throughout KS3.

GCSE Geography

Examination Board and Syllabus.

AQA GCSE Geography (8035)

Assessment.

Paper 1 (35%) Living with the physical environment	Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 2 (35%) Challenges in the human environment	Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 3 (30%) Geographical applications	Written paper, 1 hour 15 minutes

All examinations will be sat during the Summer 2023 exam period.

Course Content

Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment:

Section A

- Natural Hazards
- Tectonic hazards
- Weather hazards
- Climate change

Section B

- Ecosystems
- Tropical rainforests
- One from - *Hot deserts or Cold environments*

Section C

- UK Physical landscapes
- Two from - *Coastal landscapes in the UK or River landscapes in the UK or Glacial landscapes in the UK*

Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment:

Section A

- Urban issues and challenges

Section B

- The changing economic world

Section C

- Resource management
- One from – *Food or Water or Energy*

Paper 3 - Geographical applications:

This paper is designed to be synoptic in that students will be required to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from Papers 1 and 2.

- Section A - Issue evaluation
- Section B - Fieldwork

Skills and Qualities Required for Success:

Geographers can:

- Make a concise report
- Handle data
- Ask questions and find the answers
- Make decisions about an issue
- Analyse material
- Manage themselves
- Solve problems
- Think independently

Geographers are:

- Good communicators
- Spatially aware
- Socially and environmentally aware
- Problem solvers
- Good team players
- Computer literate
- Well rounded, flexible thinkers

Futures:

Post 16 AS/A2 Level

Geography, Geology, Sociology and Environmental Science.

Career Pathways

Urban/Rural Planning; Environmental Consultancy; Hazard/Emergency Management; Community Development; Climatologist; Oceanography; Teaching; Architecture; Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Additional Requirements

An enthusiasm for Geography; an inquisitive approach to the world around you; and a desire to find out how the world is going to change in the future.

There is a Mathematical aspect to the course as students are expected to develop and demonstrate a number of geographical skills, including numerical and graphical skills. Students also need to use and analyse different types of data.

GCSE History

Examination Board and Syllabus

AQA

Form of Assessment

The course has two assessments completed at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1

'Understanding the modern world', 50%, 2 hours.

Paper 2

'Shaping the nation', 50%, 2 hours.

GCSE History does not offer a tier entry.

Course Content

Paper 1

Section A: PERIOD STUDY Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and Dictatorship

- Germany and the growth of democracy
- Germany and the Depression
- The experiences of Germans under the Nazis

Section B: WIDER WORLD DEPTH STUDY Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918-1939

- Peacemaking
- The League of Nations and international peace
- The origins and outbreak of the Second World War

Paper 2

Section A: THEMATIC STUDY Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day

- Conquered and conquerors
- Looking west
- Expansion and empire
- Britain in the 20th century

Section B: British depth studies and historic environment

Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

- Elizabeth's court and Parliament
- Life in Elizabethan times
- Troubles at home and abroad
- The historic environment of Elizabethan England

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

There is no escaping the fact that GCSE History is a demanding course. A sound level of literacy is a must given the dependence upon written communication in the assessment of the course. The course requires a continued commitment to developing as a historian, therefore students need to respond positively to feedback and advice.

Futures

History is a universal qualification which increases the prospects of any students. The course is highly respected throughout colleges and higher education establishments. The study of History develops the ability to balance arguments, analyse evidence and add weight to any argument. GCSE History is valued for any post-16 course. Furthermore, the skills are transferable to careers that require analysis of situations and handling of information.

Additional Requirements

Students would need to have demonstrated a commitment to their studies throughout the course of Year 9 History.

GCSE Media Studies

Examination Board and Syllabus:

Eduqas

Form of Assessment:

The course is assessed with two exams (70%) and a non-exam assessment (30%).

Course Content

Component 1: Exploring the Media (40%)

Critical exploration into a range of media forms and products (newspapers, advertising and marketing, film and video games, radio) covering all aspects of the theoretical framework: media language, contexts, industries, audiences and representation.

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products (30%)

In-depth study of particular media forms through two set study areas (television and music). The theoretical framework is applied in further depth through detailed study of a specific television genre, two contemporary music videos (including the online, social and participatory media surrounding the artists), and one music video from the past.

Component 3: Creating Media Products (30%)

You will create an individual media production for an intended audience, applying your knowledge and understanding of media language and representation. Although the genre/style and audience for the set production briefs change every year, the briefs take the following form:

TV: Create a sequence from a new TV programme **or** a website to promote a new TV programme.

Advertising and Marketing – Music: Create a music video **or** a website to promote a new artist / band.

Advertising and Marketing – Film: – Print-based marketing material for a new film.

Magazines: Create a new print **or** online magazine.

In this subject, you will study a wide range of media forms and products, some of which you may already have some knowledge of. You will look at industries such as television,

film and music, and acquire the relevant media language associated with these areas. You will learn how to analyse and interpret various media texts, products and forms, with consideration of the contexts of media and their influences.

You will also have the exciting opportunity to develop your practical skills using a range of contemporary equipment and software to produce your own media production. As part of your study, you will have access to Digital SLR cameras for both photography and filming and the iMac suite to develop your media editing and processing skills. You will be taught to manipulate and edit film footage digitally using *Premiere Pro* and *After Effects*; to manipulate and edit photographs using *Photoshop* and *InDesign*; to record and edit pod casts and music using *Garage Band*; and, much more.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

Most importantly, you need to have a keen interest in the media, be that film, music, the internet or photography to name but a few. You need to be keen to develop your interest and enjoyment of media communication in local and global contexts.

You need to be willing to form your own opinions and become a critical reader of the media by investigating and researching topics independently.

Independent effort is of the utmost importance, especially when producing your own media product. The ability to manage your own time and work to deadlines in this subject is a must, just as it is in the media industry. Good teamwork skills are also essential as you will work with others when creating your own media productions.

Futures

GCSE Media Studies provides the foundations for study of the subject and so can lead onto A-Level Media Studies and BTEC Level 3 Media courses. The ability to analyse critically, understand the contextual influences upon Media and create your own media productions will benefit you in many subjects. Media Studies complements other creative subjects as well as subjects in the humanities and the social sciences, such as sociology.

Possible routes into employment may involve roles in the creative media industry such as filming, radio broadcasting, production roles, advertising, photography, game design, or one of the many other roles that involve interacting with others and using new media technologies.

Art and Design (3D Design)

(cannot be combined with Art and Design or Photography)

Examination Board and code: AQA / 8205

Form of Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio (coursework)	60%
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment:	40%

Course Content

The course is divided into two main parts: **Portfolio** and **Externally Set Assignment**. Both aspects must satisfy the following assessment objectives:

1. Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
2. Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
3. Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. **Written annotation is an integral aspect of the creative process.**
4. Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Students are expected to show evidence of written annotation and drawing in both Component 1 and Component 2.

Portfolio (60%)

Throughout Year 10 and 11 students will work on one or more 'design and make' activities. Near the end of the course students are required to select and submit from this a **Portfolio**. This must consist of a sustained project (including preparatory work, development of ideas and processes, and final pieces) and a selection of further work. Students will have the opportunity to produce work from a variety of starting points such as; architectural design, product design, environmental/landscape/ garden design, and 3D digital design. They will investigate the work of Artists and Designers as well as art from different times and cultures.

Externally Set Assignment (40%)

Towards the end of the course students are given an **Externally Set Assignment**. Here they receive an AQA paper containing a range of starting points from which they must select one and independently produce a unit of work. During this time they are given general guidance on how to work through this task. They have approximately seven weeks to develop supporting preparation work before they sit a ten hour practical session, which is split over two days, to create a final piece(s).

The preparatory work is marked alongside the final piece(s) and together with the externally set assignment, contributes 40% towards the final GCSE grade.

Skills and attitudes required for success

This course offers students the opportunity to produce work in a wide range of materials, to build up technical skills and to express their feelings and creative ideas in both two and three dimensions.

This course is aimed at enthusiastic students with an adventurous and enquiring approach to Design Technology, who wish to learn new skills as well as develop those acquired at Key Stage 3. It is best suited for those who have a particular interest or ability in Design Technology and wish to improve their creative thinking and problem solving skills further. Students will need to take the initiative in decision making and be able to research projects in their own time, so a firm sense of commitment to the subject is essential, whilst also being highly self-motivated.

Students must also be prepared to attend lunch and additional coursework sessions during elective time.

Futures

The career opportunities available in the Design world are vast and diverse as are the routes which students who wish to pursue their Design education can take; from AS/A2 Levels, to BTEC National courses specialising in specific areas such as 3D Design, Fashion and Clothing, Design Technology, Engineering and Graphic Design.

Courses such as these can then lead on to Higher Education courses and careers in Architecture, Engineering, Animation, Jewellery Design, Fashion, Education, Graphic Design, Furniture Design and Product Design to name but a few.

Alternatively, if a student would rather enter the work place post 16, then there are many careers in the creative industries that would welcome a GCSE in Design, some of which provide further learning opportunities within them, for example a Modern Apprenticeship.

Additional Requirements

There are no entry requirements for this course.

GCSE French

Examination Board and Syllabus AQA / 8658

Forms of Assessment

All GCSE language courses are now linear, which means that you will be assessed on all four skills at the end of the course. There is a higher and foundation option for:

- Listening (25%) – you will need to demonstrate that you can understand and respond to different types of spoken language.
- Reading (25%) – you will need to demonstrate that you can understand and respond to different types of written language.
- Speaking (25%) – you will need to communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.
- Writing (25%) – you will need to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

Course Content

Of course, the main content of the GCSE French course is the French language! You will learn how to use the language, with lots of speaking and games to practise it all.

You have a huge amount of existing knowledge which you can bring to French. It is a closely related language to Spanish, so it has a lot of the same vocabulary, tenses and structures. You understand the imperfect tense in Spanish? Great – French also has the imperfect tense, and you already know how to use it! You are also already an expert in how to translate, how to write and how to speak to get a good grade, so you will not need to re-learn all of that. That's why, **in the Laurus Trust, the majority of students who take a second GCSE language get an *even better* grade than they do in their first one.**

You will be familiar with the topics that we'll be speaking about in GCSE French, as they're similar to the ones we've spoken about in Spanish. They are:

- identity and culture, including social media, relationships and festivals;
- local, national, international and global areas of interest, including your house, your neighbourhood, volunteering, the environment, and travelling abroad; and
- current and future study and employment, including school and career choices.

Futures

Whatever you want to do in life, knowing more languages will grant you more opportunities. As a scientist, you may want to collaborate with Universities around the world; as a journalist, you might want to interview people in different countries; or as an engineer, you might get the chance to work on a major international

project. Whatever job you are applying for, speaking multiple languages could put you ahead of all the other candidates.

Students who are hoping to go to University will benefit particularly from GCSE French. Universities know that languages are demanding, academic subjects; that they improve your ability to speak and write in English; and that they help you recognise patterns and crack codes more quickly than others do. Having extra GCSE languages can therefore mark you out as particularly talented, whatever course you may be applying for.

If you are thinking of studying Spanish at University, it is essential that you take a second GCSE language. It will improve your abilities in languages generally, and it will therefore improve your ability in Spanish. It will also help you to apply for top University places.

However, of course, it is not all about jobs and courses. Some of the biggest social problems we face today come from a lack of understanding and respect between people from different parts of the world. Learning languages helps you to understand people from other cultures, and to make yourself understood to them too – so, by learning more of them, you could become part of the force that solves these problems for good.

GCSE Music

Exam Board & Code: AQA 8271

Form of Assessment - Exams and coursework

Component 1: Understanding Music - 40%

- Listening to, commenting upon and answering questions about musical extracts (both unfamiliar music & study pieces)

Component 2: Performing Music - 30%

- Performance 1: Solo Performance
- Performance 2: Ensemble (group) Performance

Component 3: Composing Music - 30%

- Composition 1: Composition to a brief
- Composition 2: Free composition (students choose their own style and instrumentation)

Course content

This is a discrete AQA GCSE Music course that provides flexibility by offering greater musical choices. In doing so students are able to enjoy and appreciate the benefits of being involved in performing, composing and understanding music.

There are four areas of study:

- The Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910
- Popular Music
- Traditional Music
- The Western Classical Tradition since 1910

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

Students should play a musical instrument (this includes the voice) that can be used for performances in both solo and ensemble performances.

A genuine passion for this subject is essential. This course is an opportunity to take creative risks, experience on-stage performances and explore independent thinking and group work in a close knit setting.

Futures

This GCSE Music course provides a solid foundation for AS and A Level as well as preparation for a music related career. Even if music is not a career path, universities prefer students who are well rounded and have skills outside of the chosen subject – GCSE Music demonstrates this well. Aside from this, GCSE Music equips students with the skills that are preferable to employers such as teamwork, communication, presenting skills, confidence, perseverance and problem solving.

Further relevant information

Attendance at one extra-curricular activity during the course (per week) is compulsory as this supports performance and musical growth.

GCSE Physical Education

Examination Board and Syllabus

Edexcel GCSE in Physical Education

Form of Assessment & Course Content

Theory 60%

This is externally assessed through two written examination papers these include multiple-choice questions, short-answer, and longer-answer questions.

Component 1 - Fitness and Body Systems - 36%

Exam 1 hour 45 minutes

Topics include:

Applied anatomy and physiology - bodies systems

Movement analysis

Physical training

Use of data

Component 2 – Health and Performance - 24%

Exam 1 hour 15 minutes

Topics include:

Health, fitness and well-being

Sport psychology

Socio-cultural influences

Use of data

Practical 40%

Component 3 - Practical Performance – 30%

All students must complete three practical activities one of which must be a team activity and one must be a game activity.

Component 4 – Personal Exercise Programme – 10%

Students will be required to plan, carry out and evaluate their own personal exercise programme. This must be done on one of the three activities from component 3.

Examinations and Coursework dates

Final Practical Examination – Date to be set between March – May 2023

Final Theory Exams x 2 - May 2023 (60% of Final Mark)

NEA – Personal Exercise Programme – Due to be completed in the summer term 2022.

Students can offer off site activities if participating to a high standard. A full list of activities is available on the Edexcel website.

Entry Requirements to GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Physical Education is a very challenging GCSE course requiring very specific skills and abilities. For this reason, we insist on a separate process for access to the qualification. Entry to this course is restricted to those students who have performed at the highest level in Physical Education throughout Key Stage 3 as a performer.

In order to be accepted on to the course you must have:

- An exemplary record of attendance and kit in PE lessons
- Evidence of extra-curricular activity both in and outside of school – must already be undertaking elective clubs in at least one activity and regularly participating in an activity outside of school from the examination boards recognised list of activities.
- Genuine ability in **THREE** different practical areas

Some students may need a further consultation with the subject leader for PE and a member of SLT before being accepted on to the course.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

Students taking GCSE Physical Education will be required to work independently, in pairs and also in teams in the practical elements of the course. **They will also be expected to attend elective clubs.** In theory lessons students will be required to make notes, complete presentations and research projects and produce and perform a six-week personal exercise programme.

Post 16 opportunities and possible career pathways/opportunities

As well as ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course, PE allows for progression to related vocational qualifications, such as BTEC, Firsts and Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences.

This course can lead on to other opportunities in: physiotherapy, nutrition, analysis of sporting performance, recreational management, leisure activities, the fitness industry, coaching and officiating.

BTEC First Award in Sport

Examination Board and Syllabus

Edexcel – level 2

Form of Assessment

The course will be assessed through the following methods:

Students will complete 4 units.

Unit 1 is Fitness for Sport and Exercise which is externally assessed. The assessment is worth 60 marks and is a 1 hour exam.

The students then work on 3 further units over the 2 year course. The units are based around Practical Performance, Leadership and Personal Fitness. These units are all coursework based and are marked pass, merit or distinction to provide your final grade. There is no end of year exam for these units.

Course Content

During practical sessions students will reinforce the work covered in class and computer rooms. Students will require ICT skills to access information required for independent study, ensuring work is presented to a high standard.

Students will study a wide range of practical activities – Health and fitness; including fitness testing and methods of training, Badminton, Basketball, Netball, Football and Athletics, Leading Sports Activities and Training for Personal Fitness.

These areas of study have been chosen to provide the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to prepare learners for employment and/or to provide career development opportunities for those already in work.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

- A keen interest in all areas of sport, not just practical lessons
- Competence in the use of computers
- A keen interest in how the body copes with sporting activities
- Ability to lead others
- Ability to work independently on a task over several lessons
- The ability to produce presentations and perform them in front of others
- Bringing your PE kit to every practical lesson.

Please note that there will only be ONE practical sports lesson a week which will vary from fitness testing to analysing practical performance – you will not be playing a sport every lesson.

Additional Requirements

Good knowledge of a variety of computer programmes.

Ability to keep to deadlines.

GCSE Photography

(cannot be combined with Art and Design or Art and Design - 3D Design)

Examination Board and Code

AQA 8206

Form of Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio (coursework): 60%

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment: 40%

Course Content

The course is divided into two main parts: **Portfolio** and **Externally Set Assignment**. Both aspects must satisfy the following assessment objectives:

- Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources: this is the work of artists, photographers and other sources.
- Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. Written annotation is an integral aspect of the creative process.
- Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Students are expected show evidence of written annotation and drawing in both Component 1 and Component 2.

Portfolio (60%): Throughout Year 10 and 11, students work on two projects which are both submitted as Component 1, the Portfolio. This must consist of a sustained project (including preparatory work, development of ideas and processes and final pieces) which will be started in the second half of Year 10 and the first project which starts in September of Year 10.

Students will have the opportunity to produce work from a variety of starting points for the second main project. They will investigate the work of photographers and fine artists as well as art and photography from different times and cultures. Students will explore a range of techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies. The course will predominately focus on digital lens-based media where students will explore ICT when manipulating and developing their photographs with the use of Adobe Photoshop. As well as working digitally, students are required to evidence drawing skills, this may include light drawing, composition designs and physically or digitally manipulating images.

Externally Set Assignment (40%): In January of Year 11 students are given an **Externally Set Assignment**. Here they receive an AQA paper containing a range of starting points from which they must select one and independently produce a unit of work. During this time, they are given general guidance on how to work through this task. They have approximately nine weeks to develop supporting preparation work before they sit a ten-hour practical session (split over two days) to create a final piece(s). Students

may take all photographs prior to the practical session to allow time during the session to manipulate their photographs and produce a final piece(s).

The preparatory work is marked alongside the final piece(s) and contributes 40% towards the final GCSE grade.

Skills and qualities required for success

This course offers students the opportunity to explore the technical and creative aspects of Photography. They will explore the digital camera and develop skills in a range of techniques and processes. Creativity will be encouraged throughout the course and students will be encouraged to work collaboratively as well as alone to create a range of innovative pieces.

This course is aimed at enthusiastic students with an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design, who wish to learn new skills as well as develop those acquired at Key Stage 3. It is best suited for those who have a particular interest or ability in art and design and/or photography and wish to improve their creative thinking and problem solving skills further. Students will need to take the initiative in decision making and be able to research projects in their own time, so a firm sense of commitment to the subject is essential, whilst also being highly self-motivated.

Students must also be prepared to attend lunch and twilight sessions.

Futures

The career opportunities available in the art/ photography world are vast and diverse as are the routes which students who wish to pursue their art and design/ photography education can take; from AS/A2 Levels, to BTEC National courses specialising in specific areas such as, Fashion and Clothing and Photography.

Courses such as these can then lead onto Higher Education courses and careers in architecture, fine art, animation and illustration, media, jewellery design, fashion, education, graphic design, furniture design, photography and film to name but a few.

Alternatively, if a student would rather enter the work place post 16, then there are many careers in the creative industries that would welcome a GCSE in Photography, some of which provide further learning opportunities within them, for example a Modern Apprenticeship.

Additional Requirements

A proven competency and work ethic in KS3 Art and Design Technology, rendering a teacher recommendation.

Students will also be required to purchase the following materials:

Although digital SLR cameras are provided by the school for use in the Art Department, it is advisable but not essential to have a digital camera to use at home for extended practice. It is also advisable that students purchase an SD card for use in either their own or the school cameras, which should be no smaller than 16GB so can fit multiple shoots onto it.

GCSE Separate Sciences

Examination Board and Syllabus

AQA - GCSE Biology (Triple)

AQA - GCSE Chemistry (Triple)

AQA - GCSE Physics (Triple)

Form of Assessment

This course provides three separate GCSE qualifications (it is NOT possible to take them individually).

2 x 1hr 45minute exams for Biology, Chemistry and Physics (6 exams in total at the end of year 11)

100% exams-Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Course Content

The specifications are divided into topics which each cover different key areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Practical skills are developed throughout the courses and assessed in the written papers.

GCSE Biology	GCSE Chemistry	GCSE Physics
1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics	1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes	1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure
5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology	6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources	5. Force 6. Waves 7. Magnetism and electromagnetism 8. Space physics

Skills and Qualities required for success

The GCSEs in Separate Sciences encourage students to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages learners to develop their curiosity about the living, material and physical worlds and provides insight into and experience of how Science works.

Futures

Although not essential, the Separate Sciences course is highly recommended for those students considering choosing Sciences at A Level. The course provides an excellent grounding for A Levels in a broad range of subjects (especially in the Sciences) as well as other Further Education courses.

Additional requirements

There will be an entrance exam for GCSE Separate Science. As well as the exam, teacher assessment will be used to determine the suitability of the course for each student.

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

(Religion, Philosophy & Ethics)

Examination Board and Syllabus:

AQA (8062)

Form of assessment:

Paper 1: The study of beliefs, teachings and practices in two religions - Christianity and Islam (Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 50% of the GCSE, marked out of 96 with 6 marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar).

Paper 2: The study of Ethical and Philosophical Themes (Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 50% of the GCSE, marked out of 96 with 3 marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Course content:

Students on this course will study two components over the two years, each assessed by a written examination at the end of Year 11. Component one (Paper 1) involves the study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of two major world religions: Christianity and Islam. Component two (Paper 2) is a study of four Philosophical and Ethical themes, which involves looking at the issues raised by those themes from the perspective of the two religions studied in Paper 1.

This exciting and thought-provoking course offers a GCSE in Religious Studies, but more importantly offers the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of the diversity of beliefs and practices within two major world religions and to reflect upon many of the philosophical and ethical matters relating to what it means to be a human being living in today's complex world. Themes on offer include relationships, sexuality and families, views on the value of human life and how those may be challenged by modern medical and scientific developments (abortion, euthanasia, genetic experimentation), arguments relating to the nature and existence of God, questions of whether violence and war can be justified, arguments relating to the aims and methods of punishment for crime, and matters of rights, social justice and equality in today's society.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

- A curiosity about the religious, philosophical and ethical beliefs of others and how such beliefs influence people's lives and choices
- Extended writing and English skills
- Respect for other people and their views
- A willingness to listen to others and respect their opinions
- The ability to work independently and exercise research skills
- A willingness to listen to different ideas and to justify your own point of view

Futures

A GCSE in RS is a highly valued qualification. colleges, universities and employers recognise the study of religions, philosophy and ethics as an academically challenging and rigorous subject that provides students with vital transferable skills and an appreciation for issues of relevance to individuals, communities and professions across the whole of our society. Possible pathways include:

- Progression onto further study – obvious progression routes include A Level Religious Studies or A-Level Philosophy, although the content and skill development in this course has relevance for a wider range of subjects at the next academic level, including: History, Geography, English, Law, Psychology, Ethics, Theology, Sociology and Politics.
- Careers which favour an RS and Philosophy qualification. These include: academia, the police service, teaching, medicine, law, journalism, sport, hospitality, social work, the armed forces and many more.

Additional Requirements

Students wishing to choose this course should be dedicated and self-motivated to independent research. They should enjoy participating in class discussion and respectful debate and have a good record of being organised and prepared for lessons

BTEC Health and Social Care

Examination Board and Syllabus

Pearsons BTEC Level 2 – Health and Social Care 603/0395/5

Form of Assessment

60% - Internal assessment (coursework)

40% - External examinations

Course Content

Through this course learners will explore the Health and Social care sectors, looking at how people progress through their milestones and the factors that affect this. This will include; human development, social issues, human rights and self-concept. Learners will also look at the different stakeholders within the sectors and how they contribute to the overall well being of those under their care.

Course outline:

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

- **Assessment 1:** 15% of final grade. Human growth and development.
- **Assessment 2:** 15% of final grade. Investigate how individuals deal with life events.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

- **Assessment 1:** 15% of final grade. Understand the different types of health and social care services and barriers to accessing them.
- **Assessment 2: 15% of final grade** Demonstrate care values and review own practice.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

- **Assessment:** 2-hour exam paper set and marked by Pearson worth 40% of final grade. The exam paper is based around a case study where learners are required to identify factors that affect their health and wellbeing, interpret health indicators and then use this information to design a person-centred health and wellbeing improvement plan.

Skills and Qualities Required for Success

You will need to be organised as the coursework projects have strict deadlines. You will need to work independently as well as part of a group. You will develop debating skills as we discuss key issues and current affairs in class.

You will develop compassion and empathy as you learn about different people and wider society.

You will probably learn a lot about yourself too!

Futures

About 3 million people work in health and social care. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and administrators. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK. Demand for both health and social care is likely to rise, so they will continue to play a key role in UK society and the demand for people to carry out these vital roles will increase.

Additional Requirements

Health and Social care students require good literacy skills to make progress in the subject. Assessment success is influenced by the ability to satisfy the assessment criteria.

