



# OPTIONS 2023

Artwork by Evie Belden

# Options 2023

This is an important time in your journey through Pakefield. For the first time in your school life, you have a choice about the subjects you can study.

Your option choices will prepare you for the next steps in your education and employment when you leave us in Year 11— so they need to be carefully chosen!

We want to make sure that you, and your parents and carers, have as much information and guidance as possible to support you in making the right choices.

Our Options Evening on Thursday 9th March will talk you through the options process, and show you where you can get further information about each subject.

After the options process has been completed, the next parents evening will focus on appointments with your options teachers. This will provide an excellent opportunity for you to discuss how you can best prepare for the start of your GCSE choices.

This is the start of a very important journey for you and your parents and carers. Your starting point is this booklet—read the information in it carefully. I wish you well in making the right choices for your future.



Mr D Bagshaw  
Head of School



# Key Dates

**Thursday 9th March**

**Options Information Evening**

**5:30pm to 6:30pm**

Mr Bagshaw will talk through the options process and show you where you can get further information about each subject.

**Friday 24th March**

**DEADLINE** for return of provisional options choices. Students who submit their returns after the final deadline are less likely to have their first choice of option subjects.

**Thursday 27th April**

**Parents Evening** will focus on appointments with your options teachers. This will provide an excellent opportunity for you to discuss how you can best prepare for the start of your GCSE choices.

You will find out which options you have been allocated in the summer term.

We will always do our best to give you your options choices however this is not always possible - this is why you need to make reserve choices that you would be happy to study.

Since we have limited resources, you may be disappointed if some courses prove to be too popular, or not popular enough to run. It is important to remember that we reserve the right to make final decisions, but will discuss alternatives with you if this becomes necessary.



# Advice

## DO

- ✓ Choose subjects you like/enjoy.
- ✓ Think about your progress in each subject so far.
- ✓ Speak to your teachers and get ALL the information you need before deciding.
- ✓ Think about how the courses will help with your future goals.
- ✓ Make an appointment with our Careers Adviser if you are unsure which courses to take for the career you want to pursue.

## DON'T

- ✗ Choose a course just because your friend is doing it.
- ✗ Choose a course because of the teacher.
- ✗ Choose a course because you think it is easy.
- ✗ Choose a course without understanding fully what it involves.

This is the first step towards your Key Stage 4 studies. Think carefully, ask for advice and have an idea of the careers you are interested in and what qualifications you need.

# Option Blocks

All students follow our core curriculum. This includes English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, LiFE (including core RE) and Core PE (not certified).

Listed below are our option blocks for 2023. Students need to choose one subject from each block. Overall, at least one subject must be from those shaded in blue, although you can pick more if you want to.

**Students considering a future application to a Russell Group University should consider following the EBacc pathway. This would mean selected options include a language (French or Spanish) and a humanities subject (History or Geography). More information about the Ebacc is on the next page.**

Triple Science is more demanding than the combined science course, and students will need to pass an assessment before starting the course to ensure they will be able to cope with the demands of it.

BLOCK 1	BLOCK 2	BLOCK 3	BLOCK 4
History	Spanish	History	Computer Science
Geography	Geography	French	Geography
Triple Science	BTEC Performing	Sport Studies	Art
Sport Studies	Creative Media Production	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Creative Media Production
Art	Art	Music	Design & Technology
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Philosophy and Ethics	Design & Technology	Philosophy and Ethics

# English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

## What is the EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

## EBACC future proofs your prospects

While you may not have decided on your future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives you access to a full range of employment options when you leave Pakefield. If you are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

## Languages give you a competitive edge

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden your horizons, helping you to flourish in new environments.

If you find languages difficult, don't forget that you have been studying them for much less time than other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

**Taking the EBacc will fill 2 options choices: one must be either Geography or History, and the other must be either French or Spanish.**

“Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer.”

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland,  
Hilton

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Every career needs English!
- ◆ Lawyer
- ◆ Politician
- ◆ Publisher

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ How to analyse and deduce information from texts
- ◆ How to create engaging pieces of writing
- ◆ How to write for different audiences and purposes

## What will I learn?

English is a core subject. This means you must study GCSE English Language & Literature - you will receive two GCSEs for English!

The courses focus on writing for different audiences and in different contexts, as well as reading both classic and modern novels, plays and poems. You will need to interpret a wide range of texts and be creative in your writing. You will also use your communication skills when performing and presenting during speaking and listening tasks.

You will be provided with a rich and engaging experience, and be supported with access to ICT software, audio and video input and performances by local theatre groups.

English is a vital subject and is taken very seriously by colleges, universities and employers. We will put you on the right track!



## How will I be assessed?

**AQA GCSE English Language and**

**AQA GCSE English Literature**

These courses will be assessed by 100% examination. There are four exams in total for English.

We will assess your child regularly and run mock exams to ensure progress is being made.

### Speaking & Listening

This is now a separate qualification. It is not a GCSE, but it is statutory to enter.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

English forms part of the core curriculum offered to all students. A knowledge of current affairs and enjoyment of reading helps!

## What qualifications will I achieve?

AQA GCSE English Literature

AQA GCSE English Language

Speaking & Listening qualification



**Did you know...** English is a West Germanic language that originated from Anglo-Frisian dialects brought to England in the fifth to seventh centuries by Germanic invaders and settlers.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ University education in any subject
- ◆ Teacher
- ◆ Apprenticeships e.g. car mechanic
- ◆ Accountant
- ◆ Banker
- ◆ Engineering

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ The ability to solve number problems in a variety of contexts
- ◆ To organise your work and to think logically
- ◆ To make sense of data for a variety of audiences
- ◆ To have a working level of numeracy

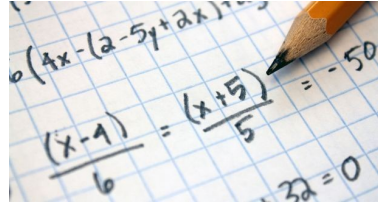
## How will I be assessed?

The assessment will be based on three written examination papers - Paper 1 is non-calculator and Papers 2 and 3 are calculator based.

We will assess your child regularly with topic assessments and past papers. Pupils will also sit mock exams in year 11.

## What will I learn?

All students at Pakefield will begin the two year GCSE course in year 10, building on the key knowledge and skills taught at KS3, in particular in year 9. The course is examined at the end of Year 11. There are five key areas of maths covered: number, algebra, geometry and measure, statistics and probability and ratio and proportion. Our pupils will gain the knowledge and skills to be able to make connections between these areas of maths so they can go on to solve problems, both abstract and in context.



There are two tiers of entry for the AQA GCSE:

Foundation and Higher. You will study a program that covers the areas of Mathematics listed above according to your ability but the final decision on your tier of entry will be made in year 11.

As well as the GCSE Mathematics, gifted and talented mathematicians will have the opportunity to study an additional level 2 qualification in Further Mathematics during Years 10 and 11. This will be an excellent grounding for studying A Level Maths.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Mathematics forms part of the core curriculum offered to all pupils.

## What qualification will I achieve?

AQA GCSE in Mathematics

AQA Level 2 Qualification in Further Mathematics



**Did you know...**A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time. It means 1/100th of a second.



## Progression Pathways:

Science provides students with analytical, mathematical and practical skills; it requires students to evaluate, and ask questions of the world around them.

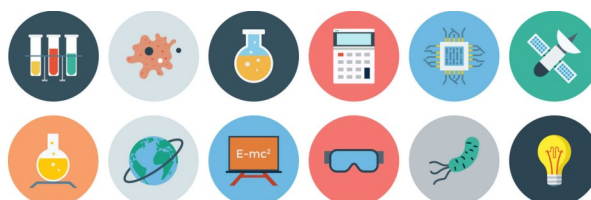
- ◆ Biology, Chemistry or Physics A Levels
- ◆ Sport and Exercise Science
- ◆ Animal Care
- ◆ Electrician and Construction

## Careers:

Studying science can lead to a plethora of careers including: pharmacology, surgeon/GP, dentistry, nursing, midwifery, astronomy engineering, teaching, forensics, healthcare, geneticist and environmental science.

## What will I study?

Through combined science students will study biology, chemistry and physics and will gain two science GCSEs as a result. The course covers aspects from cells and atoms to understanding motors, digestion and how we use Earth's resources. Students will carry out a series of required practical activities to develop the use of scientific apparatus and the ability to evaluate results and techniques.



## To do well you need to:

- Read widely about science in the news, including recent developments.
- Evaluate recent scientific studies based on sample sizes and evidence.
- Have the ability to ask questions of the world around you.
- Understand the importance of practical skills.
- Work independently on aspects of the course that are more challenging.

## How will I be assessed?

Subject	Length of Exam	% of GCSE	Topics
Biology	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7	Cell biology, organisation, infection and response, and bioenergetics.
Biology	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7	Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, and ecology.
Chemistry	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7	Atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, properties of matter, chemical changes and energy changes.
Chemistry	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7	Rates, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, the atmosphere and using resources.
Physics	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7	Energy, electricity, particle model and matter, and atomic structure
Physics	1 hour 15 minutes	16.7	Forces, waves, and magnetism and electromagnetism.

## Which other courses could this course lead to?

Triple science is well suited to students who are passionate about science and are considering further academic study beyond GCSE.

## Which careers could Triple Science lead to?

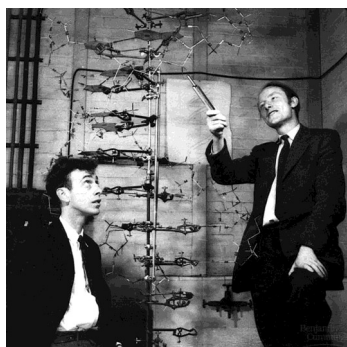
Science can lead to a plethora of careers including:

- pharmacology,
- surgeon/GP,
- dentistry,
- nursing,
- midwifery,
- Astronomy,
- engineering,
- teaching,
- forensics, and
- Healthcare.

## What will I study?

Students will obtain 3 GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. The course covers all areas included in combined science with additional content including: microbiology in biology; analytical techniques in chemistry; and electromagnetism and space in physics. Students will carry out a series of required practical activities, developing use of scientific apparatus and the ability to evaluate results and techniques.

This is a demanding course and students who choose Triple Science will need to sit an assessment in Year 9 to make sure they will be successful at GCSE level. Students will be required to confidently apply mathematical skills across all 3 sciences and be dedicated to independent study. Students are not prevented from accessing science A-Levels if they do not choose or have not been invited to study triple science.



### To do well you need to:

- Read widely about science in the news, including recent developments.
- Evaluate recent scientific studies based on sample sizes and evidence.
- Be able to use mathematical skills in a scientific context.
- Understand the importance of practical skills.
- Work independently on aspects of the course that are more challenging.

## How will I be assessed?

Subject	Length of Exam	% of GCSE	Topics
Biology	1 hour 45 minutes	50	Cell biology, organisation, infection and response, and bioenergetics.
Biology	1 hour 45 minutes	50	Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, and ecology.
Chemistry	1 hour 45 minutes	50	Atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, properties of matter, chemical changes and energy changes.
Chemistry	1 hour 45 minutes	50	Rates, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, the atmosphere and using resources.
Physics	1 hour 45 minutes	50	Energy, electricity, particle model and matter, and atomic structure
Physics	1 hour 45 minutes	50	Forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism and space

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Armed forces
- ◆ Public services
- ◆ Health & Fitness
- ◆ Sports & Leisure Industry
- ◆ Coaching in Sport

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Physical and mental wellbeing
- ◆ Personal Development
- ◆ Social & Transferrable Skills
- ◆ Sport specific skills
- ◆ The importance of exercise and keeping active

## Did you know...

Pakefield High School were runner-up Suffolk school of the year in 2019 for Sport. A proud achievement to be nominated and shortlisted throughout all the schools in Suffolk.

## What will I learn?

PE forms part of the National Curriculum and is taught to all students through to Year 11. Core PE is designed to give you the experience of a wide range of sports, activities and events. PE at Pakefield will play a key part in physical and mental wellbeing, as well as opportunities to learn about the importance of exercise and new skills. You will also focus on developing your leadership, organisation and team work skills through leadership and sports education units. Core PE will keep you active and engaged in a healthy lifestyle, introduce new activities to prolong an active life beyond school and hopefully discover a new love for sport and exercise.



We offer a wide range of sports and activities for Core PE:

Football	Netball	Rugby
Basketball	Badminton	Hockey
Health & Fitness	Sport Leadership	Trampolining
Team-Building	Gymnastics	Handball
Table Tennis	OAA	Tennis
Athletics	Rounders	Cricket

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

- 100% Effort
- Positive Attitude
- Organisation of PE kit

## How will I be assessed?

Alongside practical ability and understanding, students will be assessed with a concept driven approach with effort levels.

The assessment will show if a student is working at Bronze, Silver or Gold across a range of sporting disciplines.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ PE Teacher
- ◆ Sports Coach or manager
- ◆ Sport Scientist
- ◆ Sports Analyst
- ◆ Personal Trainer
- ◆ Leisure Centre Manager
- ◆ Sports Official
- ◆ Sports Media

## What skills will I learn?

- Understanding contemporary issues in sport.
- Applying skills as a performer
- Developing skills in sports leadership
- Relationship between sport and the media

## How will I be assessed?

**Contemporary issues in sport**—This unit will be an assessed through an external exam.

**Performance and leadership in sports activities**— This is assessed by a set assignment

**Sports and the media** - This is assessed by a set assignment

## What will I learn?

The OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport Studies is aimed at students aged 14-16 years and will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that can be used in the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector.

Understand topical and contemporary issues in sport, including; why people do and do not participate in sport, the promotion of ethics and values, the roles of National Governing Bodies and high profile events have in sport, as well as how technology is used within sport

Develop skills as a performer in two different sporting activities and learn how to lead sporting activity sessions

Explore the relationship that media has with sport and understand how linked they are.

We have an optional course specific kit to give a sense of pride and recognition. The kit gives the students a sense of belonging when on sporting fixtures, hosting events or leading primary competitions.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

- Interest & passion for Sport
- Motivation for Practical lessons
- Ambition to follow a Sports career
- Organisation
- Meeting deadlines 100% effort

## What qualifications will I achieve?

OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport Studies

Level 2 – Distinction\* (\*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)

Level 1 – Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1) and Fail/

Unclassified



**Did you know...** We have a 100% Pass rate at Pakefield High School in Sport **vocational** courses for the last 4 years!

## What careers could this course lead to?

This qualification provides a route either directly to employment or on to more advanced courses such as A Level Music.

It is the academic basis for a variety of careers in the public and private sector such as:

- Composer
- DJ
- Radio Presenter
- Performer
- Producer
- Music Teacher

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ How to improve your performance skills
- ◆ How to compose music in a variety of styles
- ◆ How to develop your ideas into finished compositions
- ◆ Understand a wide variety of jobs within the music industry

## What will I learn?

GCSE Music is an exciting and rewarding course which explores Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music. There are two assessed works, one short classical piece and one popular song. For performance, the standard level of difficulty is grade 3.

Composition is assessed through two pieces: one written in response to a chosen brief and one free piece which can be in any style, allowing students to demonstrate and develop their personal specialism.

In selecting GCSE Music it is essential that you: can play an instrument or sing, committed to the subject, to improving your performing skills and it would be highly beneficial to have an interest in music or performing arts outside of school.

## How will I be assessed?

- There are three components, two are teacher assessed and one is examination.
- The performing component is teacher assessed, and must be a minimum of two pieces lasting a total of 4 minutes.
- The composing component is also teacher assessed, and includes one composition to a set brief and one free composition.
- The appraising component is assessed via examination. This includes a listening examination based on the areas of study.



## What skills/knowledge do I need?

- Must be able to play an instrument or sing.
- Must be able to perform live. (Solo or ensemble)
- Must have a keen interest in the music industry.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Anything!

But you could work in the following areas:

- ◆ Actor
- ◆ Director/producer
- ◆ Designer
- ◆ Entertainer
- ◆ Events/tour manager
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Retail management
- ◆ Customer service
- ◆ Care industry

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Team work
- ◆ Creativity
- ◆ Confidence
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Working under pressure
- ◆ Interpretation

## How will I be assessed?

**Three units, two internally assessed, one externally:**

Unit 1: Exploring the Performing Arts 30%

Unit 2: Developing Skills & Techniques in the Arts 30%

Unit 3: Performing to a Brief 40%

## What will I learn?

Are you a creative and imaginative person with the ability to work in a team? Do you enjoy performing in role in front of others? Can you act with spontaneity and confidence?

In this BTEC you will develop your acting skills, knowledge & understanding of different theatre styles, and how to devise your own piece of drama. You will study plays and their context, along with characterisation, motivation and symbolism.

Units include exploring theatre practitioners and exploring their style of theatre. You will experiment with a variety of theatre conventions and watch live performances and have the opportunity to create your own piece of theatre. Your assessment will consist of portfolios & practical evidence which is filmed in lessons & rehearsals. There is no written exam, instead, you will complete a controlled assessment consisting of a portfolio and performances.

You will be expected to work with others, perform, and apply theoretical knowledge throughout the course.



## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Confidence in communication and performance are essential, as well as qualities in English and the creative arts. You will be good at working with a range of people and contributing ideas to group work.

## What qualification will I achieve?

Pearson BTEC Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Performing Arts



**Did you know...** Drama is one of the most valuable qualifications to employers as they will know you can work with others, problem solve and commit to tasks.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Art Historian
- ◆ Artist
- ◆ Architect
- ◆ Interior Designer

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ To express yourself creatively
- ◆ To work with a variety of art media
- ◆ An understanding of the techniques used by artists
- ◆ An appreciation of the works of modern and historic artists
- ◆ An understanding of how art influences our lives

## How will I be assessed?

**Unit 1—Portfolio (worth 60% of overall mark)** - You will create a portfolio of artwork based around a topic and artist/s of your choice. You will experiment with a variety of art materials and techniques. There will be a controlled assessment at the end of the unit.

**Unit 2 - Set Task (worth 40% overall mark)** - you will complete an externally set project using your preferred art materials and techniques. There will be a controlled assessment at the end of the unit.

## What will I learn?

This GCSE covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment and express yourself through different media in order to explore your artistic strengths and preferences.

There are a wide range of options for your projects — the choice is yours. Whatever you choose, the main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a comprehensive portfolio of work to progress to further courses or into employment.



This course will be ideal for you if you enjoy expressing your ideas and thoughts through your artwork projects and assignments and want to expand on your creative knowledge and experience.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Enthusiasm and commitment.

A passion for art.

You should enjoy visually expressing your ideas and have a willingness to experiment and take risks with your work.

## What qualification will I achieve?

OCR GCSE in Art & Design



**Did you know...** despite being best remembered as the artist who painted the Mona Lisa, Leonardo da Vinci also produced sketches of helicopters, submarines and parachutes centuries before they were invented?

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Journalist/Reporter
- ◆ Broadcaster
- ◆ Film-maker
- ◆ Marketing Manager
- ◆ Copy Editor
- ◆ Sound technician
- ◆ Light technician

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Research
- ◆ Practical skills (using cameras, sound equipment and editing software)
- ◆ Planning and organisational skills
- ◆ Team work
- ◆ Producing your own media product

## How will I be assessed?

You will complete three units of assessment which will comprise of two internally assessed and one externally assessed unit.

**Component 1:** Exploring Media Products

**Component 2:** Developing Media Production Skills

**Component 3:** Creating a Media Product in Response to a Brief

## What will I learn?

Taught in Pakefield's state-of-the art Media Suite, this qualification gives you the opportunity to become media savvy! From television to cinema, radio to podcasts, social media to blogs, vlogs, and everything in between – **Media studies plays a big part of our every day lives.**



This course is attractive to students who have a keen interest in media products and processes. It would suit students with an interest in the deconstruction of popular media texts, as well as those with a creative and artistic flair who enjoy making creative products. In fact, anyone who wants to study the way in which the media influences our daily lives should choose this course.

This course is predominantly coursework based, so if you prefer coursework as opposed to exams, this may be best suited for you.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Skills in design, research and independent study are beneficial, however these will be developed during the course. A strong interest in using new technology, ICT and English will also help.

## What qualification will I achieve?

Pearson BTEC Level 1 or Level 2 Technical Award in Creative Media Production.



This could lead to a BTEC Level 3 or an A Level in Media or Film Studies at your chosen college.

## Did you know...

There are 4.2 billion internet users, equalling 50% of the world's population. It is an ever-growing industry and is a part of our everyday lives in the UK - come and be a part of it!



## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Website Developer
- ◆ Software Architect
- ◆ Network Engineer
- ◆ IT Consultant
- ◆ Games Designer
- ◆ Data analyst

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Computational thinking
- ◆ Thinking / problem solving skills
- ◆ Programming skills
- ◆ How computers work under the bonnet

## Can I work at home?

Of course! A lot of Computing software is available for free.

Visual Studio can be downloaded for free and tutorials can be found on YouTube and many other websites.

## How will I be assessed?

### OCR GCSE

100% of this course is assessed in the final year with two written examinations

## What will I learn?

### You will learn how to:

- ◆ Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- ◆ Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs, using C#, Python, pseudo code and OCR language.
- ◆ How to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- ◆ Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- ◆ Understand the impacts of digital technology on the individual and on wider society.



## What skills/knowledge do I need?

It is recommended that students looking to undertake Computer Science have strong Maths skills. When creating computer programs it is vital that students are able to understand both the syntax and logic behind them.

Strong Maths skills will be beneficial when working out decimal, binary and hexadecimal conversions, as well as logic gates.

## What qualification will I achieve?

OCR GCSE in Computer Science



**Did you know...** Skills shortages in the UK digital economy means there are lots of opportunities for talented graduates from this area. Starting salaries typically exceed £30,000.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Teacher
- ◆ Translator
- ◆ Diplomat
- ◆ Tourism & Media

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ How to communicate with others through language and to understand spoken and written Spanish.
- ◆ How to improve literacy and upgrade communication skills
- ◆ How to develop a cultural understanding of the Spanish speaking world
- ◆ How to translate

## What will I learn?

Learning a modern foreign language enables you to develop many essential and enriching life skills. You will learn to express yourself in Spanish and explore Hispanic countries' culture, history and lifestyle, so that you see the world and yourself from a different perspective.

Universities and colleges place a very high value on students who have a rounded educational background which includes a qualification in a foreign language. There is also the added necessity for employers to recruit globally minded and linguistically competent employees, as every year

British businesses lose millions of pounds because their employees cannot speak a foreign language.



## How will I be assessed?

25% written examination (listening)

25% spoken examination (speaking)

25% written examination (reading)

25% written examination (writing)

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Continuation of the skills used in Key Stage 3 MFL — reading, writing, speaking and listening.

A desire to develop international awareness and cultural understanding would be of benefit!

## What qualification will I achieve?

AQA GCSE Spanish



**Did you know...** Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world with 400 million native speakers.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Teacher
- ◆ Translator
- ◆ Diplomat
- ◆ Tourism & Media

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ How to communicate with others through language and to understand spoken and written French.
- ◆ How to improve literacy and upgrade communication skills
- ◆ How to develop a cultural understanding of the French speaking world
- ◆ How to translate

## How will I be assessed?

25% written examination (listening)

25% spoken examination (speaking)

25% written examination (reading)

25% written examination (writing)

## What will I learn?

Learning a modern foreign language enables you to develop many essential and enriching life skills. You will learn to express yourself in French and explore different French speaking countries' culture, history and lifestyle, so that you see the world and yourself from a different perspective.



Universities and colleges place a very high value on students who have a rounded

educational background which includes a qualification in a foreign language. There is also an added necessity for employers to recruit globally minded and linguistically competent employees, as every year British businesses lose millions of pounds because their employees cannot speak a foreign language.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Continuation of the skills used in Key Stage 3 French — reading, writing, speaking and listening.

A desire to develop international awareness and cultural understanding would be of benefit!

## What qualification will I achieve?

AQA GCSE French



**Did you know...** There are around 220 million French speakers worldwide. French is the 6th most spoken language in the world.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Weather forecaster
- ◆ Emergency response planner
- ◆ Journalist
- ◆ Environmental researcher
- ◆ Civil service

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Communication skills
- ◆ Problem solving and investigative skills
- ◆ Developing case studies
- ◆ Decision making
- ◆ Working with others
- ◆ Working to deadlines

## How will I be assessed?

### Unit 1: Physical Geography 35%

1 hour 30 minute  
examination

### Unit 2: Human Geography 35%

1 hour 30 minute  
examination

### Unit 3: Geographical Applications 30%

1 hour 15 minutes exam  
based on fieldwork trip and  
research

## What will I learn?

GCSE Geography challenges pupils of all levels. You will study a combination of physical and human geography and investigate contemporary issues.

You will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. You are encouraged to understand your role in society by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.



Fieldwork outside of school plays an important role, and you will be conducting your own research and collecting your primary data needed to successfully complete allocated tasks.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

A keen interest in the world around us, together with the knowledge and understanding from KS3 Geography lessons.

## What qualification will I achieve?

AQA GCSE in Geography



**Did you know...** if you went on to study Geography at university or college it would be an excellent choice! A recent poll of over 200,000 graduates from UK universities found that those with Geography degrees had the lowest rate of unemployment six months after graduation of any university subject.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Politics
- ◆ Journalism
- ◆ Criminology
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Teaching

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Using information effectively
- ◆ Weighing up important factors before making critical decisions
- ◆ Learning the arts of oral debate and expressing a clear personal point of view
- ◆ Working to deadlines

## How will I be assessed?

There are 2 papers;

**Paper 1:** Understanding the Modern World

**Paper 2:** Shaping the Nation

Each paper lasts for 2 hours and is worth 50% of the GCSE.

## What will I learn?

This course enables you to study different aspects of the past, so you can engage with key issues such as conflict, understanding what drives change and how the past influences the present.



### Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

- Germany 1890—1945: Democracy and Dictatorship
- Conflict and Tension 1918—1939

### Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

- Britain: Health and the people C1000 to the present day
- Norman England

### What is History?

- ◆ Hard work but rewarding!
- ◆ Interesting!
- ◆ Study of real people living in the past!
- ◆ Topical!
- ◆ Of real value in employment!
- ◆ Relevant!
- ◆ **Y** finally it makes you ask, why, why, why! If you are inquisitive and like to find out why something happened then History is the subject for you.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

A secure knowledge and understanding of the skills needed in History from KS3, along with a passion for the past, as well as good analytical and writing skills.

## What qualification will I achieve?

AQA GCSE in History



**Did you know...** Sacha Baron Cohen (Borat/Bruno), Al Murray (Comedian), Anita Roddick (Founder of the Body Shop), Jonathan Ross (Broadcaster) and Shakira (Musician) all studied History at University!

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Advice Worker
- ◆ Archivist
- ◆ Charity Officer
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Civil Service Administrator
- ◆ Community Development Worker
- ◆ Newspaper Editor
- ◆ Youth Worker

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Critical analysis skills
- ◆ Reasoning skills
- ◆ Tolerance and understanding of other viewpoints

## How will I be assessed?

**Religious Component (Buddhism and Christianity)**  
- 50% of the total marks

Examination (1 hour 45 minutes)

**Thematic Studies (a choice of 4 topics) - 50% of the total marks**

Examination (1 hour 45 minutes)

## What will I learn?

Our Philosophy and Ethics course provides an opportunity for students to engage with a variety of topical questions around belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth.

Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt. There will be a range of relevant and contemporary themes to study that will promote awareness of modern-world issues and engagement within the classroom.



Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

Students of all abilities will be challenged and inspired, whilst developing valuable skills sought after by higher education providers and employers.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Basic knowledge of two religions: Buddhism and Christianity. Also, knowledge of current news.

## What qualification will I achieve?

AQA GCSE in Religious Studies



**Did you know...** philosophy comes from the Greek word “philos”, meaning love/affinity/friendship, and the Greek word “sophia”, meaning wisdom. So a philosopher is literally a lover of wisdom.

## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Product Designer
- ◆ Textiles Machinist
- ◆ Upholsterer
- ◆ Interior Designer
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Carpentry
- ◆ Architecture
- ◆ Engineering

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Project management
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Creative design
- ◆ Technical design

## How will I be assessed?

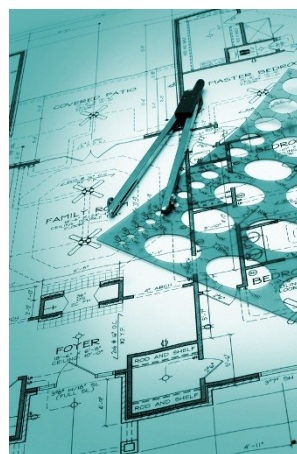
50% Non-Exam Assessment made up of a 20-30 A3 page portfolio and prototype.

50% written exam including calculations, short-open and open-response questions as well as extended-writing questions.

## What will I learn?

Design and Technology is a valuable subject and it enables young people to develop an awareness and actively contribute to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of themselves and their community. It teaches how to take risks and to become more resourceful, innovative and enterprising.

The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems.



It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art, computing and humanities.

## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Strong, wider perceptions, observations, problem solving and people skills.

**On this combined Design Technology course students will learn about each of the 6 following material areas but specialise in Textiles or Timbers.**

## What qualification will I achieve?

Edexcel GCSE Design and Technology



## What careers could this course lead to?

- ◆ Any career related to food
- ◆ Chef
- ◆ Catering Manager
- ◆ Healthcare
- ◆ All work in the food manufacturing industry
- ◆ Childcare
- ◆ Sports

## What skills will I learn?

- ◆ Project management
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Working independently
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ The ability to interpret data

## How will I be assessed?

### 50% Non-Exam Assessment:

15% Food investigation task:  
Science experiment & 2000 word written report

35% Controlled assessment:  
3 hour practical exam and supporting portfolio

### 50% written theory exam

## What will I learn?

Food Preparation and Nutrition focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure you develop a full understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food.

As well as learning where food comes from, you will master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking. Health and safety are essential for all students working in the food room. This is an exciting course which will allow you to demonstrate your practical skills and make connections between theory and practice.



## What skills/knowledge do I need?

Project management and problem solving are at the heart of the course. Being organised and having the ability to work in a team are essential as well as an interest in nutrition and making food helps!

## What qualification will I achieve?

OCR GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition



**Did you know...** In the UK we spend over £52 billion on eating out each year? This is made up of around 11.5 billion visits to restaurants, cafes and pubs.



# Jargon Buster

## **GCSE**

General Certificate in Secondary Education: a system of examinations where subjects are graded 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest.

## **CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS**

This work is produced in lessons and for homework and counts towards final grades. This is usually completed in controlled conditions.

## **EXAMINATION BOARDS**

These bodies run GCSE and other examinations. The main bodies we use AQA, Edexcel and OCR.

## **FURTHER EDUCATION (FE)**

6th Form College, College of Further Education or other post-16 educational establishments.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

University or other post-18 educational establishment.

## **CORE SUBJECT**

Core subjects form part of the National Curriculum and are taught to all pupils through to Year 11. Students cannot opt out of the core subjects.

## **BTEC**

BTECs are designed so that students can apply the knowledge they learn to a work related context. These qualifications are equivalent to a GCSE but are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\*.

# Notes

# Notes

# Contact Us

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