



**Stoke High School -
Ormiston Academy**

Year 9 Options 2025

Respect Inspire Achieve

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Welcome to Our 2025 Year 9 Options Booklet

Over the next few weeks, you will be making important decisions in your education and begin to plan for your future career. A lot of help, guidance and support will be available to you from your Head of Year, our Careers Advisor, your subject teachers and form tutors. The choices you make now are very important as they will form the basis of your future career options, so take time to ask questions and use the resources available to you.

Stoke High School's core values of 'Respect, Inspire, Achieve' underpin our curriculum and therefore inform the options that we offer. Our KS4 provision builds on the content in KS3, allowing you to specialise and study your chosen subjects in greater depth, preparing for a series of examinations in May/June 2027.

We want to **inspire** you to aim high so you have a huge variety of careers and options available in the future. Each subject page, details potential careers so why not research some of these when preparing to choose your options?

We want to support you to **achieve** the best possible outcomes so please take advantage of the support that is being offered to you.

We have already begun to provide guidance, and over the next few weeks we will be supporting you in understanding your own strengths and weaknesses to help you to select courses in which you have a real aptitude as well as interest and enthusiasm.

- Autumn Term PSHE Topic 'What does my future look like?' You have already explored this and visited various careers websites.
- Subject Introductions - During the week beginning **10th March**, all options subjects will explain what their GCSEs involve as part of their curriculum time.
- This booklet gives a detailed summary of all options subjects.
- Options Information Evening /Parents Evening **Thursday 20th March**. An opportunity to speak to your child's class teachers/learn more about the GCSE course requirements/listen to a presentation about the options process and speak to and further education providers.

Remember that you have a great many strengths and skills, play to these and you will achieve a good set of results and enjoy the process too! We look forward to you progressing to year 10 and enjoying the new range of opportunities here at Stoke High School.

Do feel free to contact me personally if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Claire Welsby

Assistant Principal

After Stoke High School

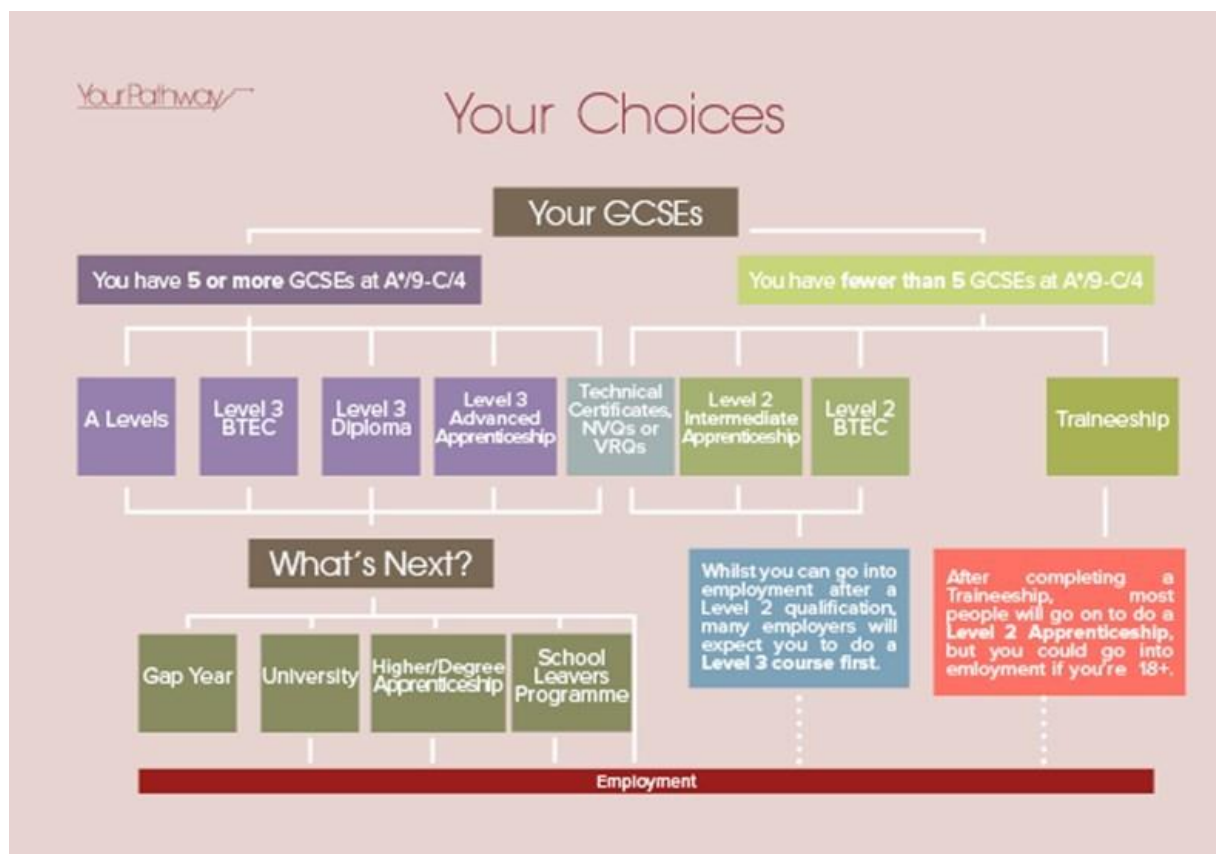
Young people are required by law to stay in education or education with training until the age of 18, which offers the following options to year 11 leavers:

1. Full time education such as sixth form or further education college
2. Work-based learning such as apprenticeship or traineeship

During years 10 and 11, you will have the opportunity to meet representatives from Suffolk One, Suffolk New College and the Apprenticeship Scheme to learn about the provisions available at 16+.

During year 11, you will have the chance to take part in mock interviews, visit Suffolk One and Suffolk New College or sign up for an apprenticeship if this is your aim.

Our school Careers Leader will be available to answer any queries about your options.



What Happens in Year 10 and 11?

The Core Curriculum:

All students in years 10 and 11 will follow a basic “core” of subjects. This consists of English, mathematics and science all taught to GCSE level, along with physical education.

Option Choices:

In addition to the core curriculum, students will choose **four “options”** to study during years 10 and 11, leading to GCSE, BTEC or an equivalent qualification. It is important that the choices made will not restrict the student in years to come in terms of sixth form, college or university entry, or employment and training possibilities.

What is the GCSE?

This stands for General Certificate of Education and is open to all. GCSE subjects are graded 1 - 9, with 9 being the highest grade. All GCSE subjects are assessed at the end of the course and students are encouraged to select as wide a variety as possible.

What are BTECs?

These are qualifications undertaken in vocational (work related) subjects. They are level 2 qualifications, equivalent to GCSEs, and tend to emphasise coursework to a greater extent than the examination component.

What are WJEC Vocational Awards?

These Vocational Awards are designed to be taken alongside, or as an alternative to, GCSEs. They Emphasise more on coursework, whilst still having an examination component.



Careers Information

There's no "right" way to choose your GCSE options, but it does help if you think about your future when making your decisions. For example, if you know wholeheartedly that you want to be a doctor, then choosing subjects related to that job (like physics, chemistry and biology) will certainly be useful.

What career do I want to have?

You should also consider whether your chosen career will require you to get more qualifications in the future. For example, in order to become a doctor, you'll also need to have A-levels and then go on to study medicine at university. Although it may seem like a long way away, you might want to consider what qualifications you'll need to get into university, because the subjects you take at GCSE level could have an impact.

Should I keep my GCSE options open?

On the other hand, if you are unsure what career you want in the future (like most students in years 10 and 11), then you should probably aim to keep your options open.

Should I take the same GCSE subjects as my friends?

A lot of students make the mistake of choosing the same subjects as their friends. Although being in the same classes as your friends has its advantages, you should bear in mind that everybody is different, and everyone has subjects that they're better at than others. Just because your friends are taking a certain subject, that doesn't mean that you should take it too.

Should I choose my GCSEs based on my teachers?

Although it can be tempting to choose your subjects based on what teacher you might get, we suggest that you resist. Everyone has their favourite teachers but there's no guarantee of who you'll get for your GCSEs. You should base your decisions on the subject itself rather than the teacher who will be teaching you.

Further Information:

- Careers noticeboard in main corridor next to the Learning Support room
- School website (stokehighoa.co.uk)
- BBC Bitesize GCSE Options: Everything you need to know about choosing your GCSE subjects - BBC Bitesize

School contact: Mr Krasonis

Unifrog and Options

Unifrog is a one-stop-shop where you can easily explore your interests, then find and successfully apply for your next best step after school.

Unifrog will help you to explore your key interests and what career paths you can take to reach your goals!

All students will have a **log in to the platform** and this can guide which option subjects to take, which college course, apprenticeships, university, or careers options are out there to be explored.

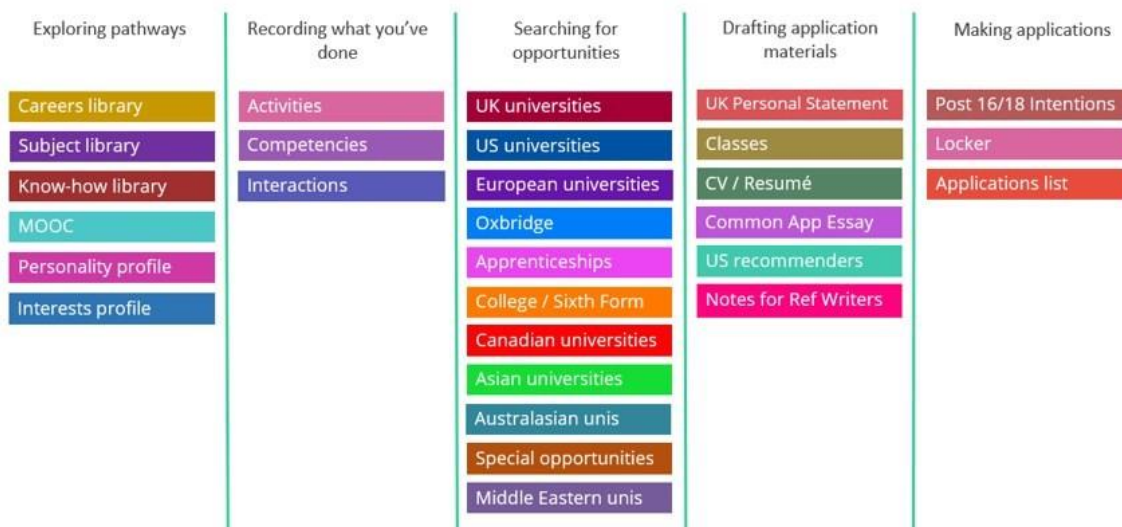
How do I get logged in?

Open the welcome email in your school inbox and follow the instructions to create your account.

I can't find a welcome email?

Check your spam/junk folder

If you still can't find it, head to <https://www.unifrog.org/sign-in> and click 'Reset password / Resend welcome email'



unifrog

How do I get started using Unifrog?

Here are some quick tasks you can complete in Unifrog! Once you're logged in, these will help you to see what options are available to you and understand what your next steps might be. There are videos that give you support to access and use Unifrog effectively.

The English Baccalaureate

This is not a separate qualification, but a way to recognise where students have gained a grade 5 or better across a core of academic subjects – English, mathematics, science, history or geography, and a language.

It was introduced in 2012 as a way of grouping together several academic qualifications into a single measure.

If you are considering degree-type courses in the future, then it is important that you consider options that would enable you to gain the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). We are obviously unable to predict what universities may require in the future, but some are already requesting that students have a GCSE in a language.

To gain the EBacc, students must gain GCSE grade 5 or better in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Two Sciences – either Combined Science or two from Biology, Chemistry or Physics
- History or Geography
- Language or Computer Science

Subjects which contribute towards the EBacc are identified in this booklet by the following symbol:



If you would like further information about the EBacc, please talk to Mrs Welsby

The Core Subjects

All students must study the following in years 10 and 11:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science – Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Personal and Social Development

The information in this handbook gives greater detail about each course. Core subjects are identified in this booklet by the following symbol:



English Language

Students will be following the AQA English Language course, learning how to analyse and produce their own fiction and non-fiction texts. The programme of study is designed to consolidate and build on analytical and creative skills taught in Key Stage 3.

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: AQA

This GCSE is assessed by two examinations in the summer of year 11. All texts are unseen.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Paper 1: | Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes – 50% weighting |
| Paper 2: | Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes – 50% weighting |

Students will receive a GCSE graded 1-9, with 9 being the highest.

Further Study/Careers:

Anyone wanting to study English Post 16 will need to have studied and gained at least a grade 4 at English Language; it is also a pre-requisite for university entrance.

Notable Careers:

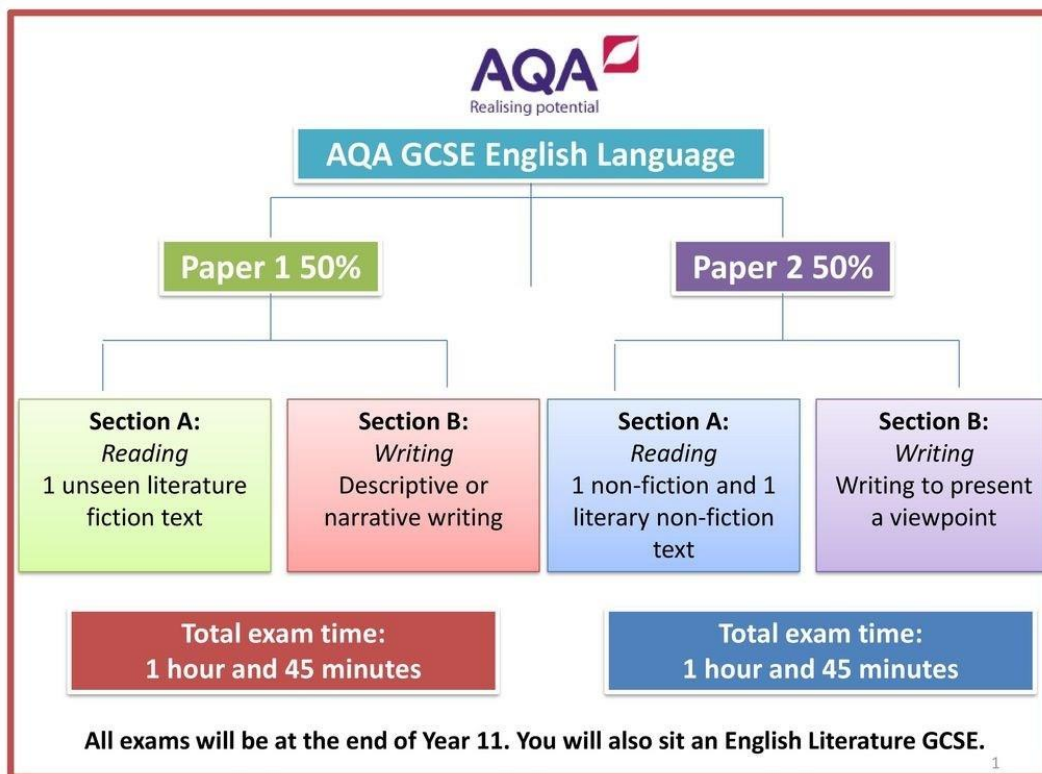
- ⇒ Public Relations Specialist
- ⇒ Librarian
- ⇒ Journalist
- ⇒ Social Media Manager
- ⇒ Lawyer
- ⇒ English as Foreign Language Teacher
- ⇒ Human Resources Specialist
- ⇒ Public Service
- ⇒ Fundraiser

Which Famous People Have Studied English Language?

Emma Watson, famous as Hermione in the Harry Potter films, studied English at Brown University in the U.S.

Presenter of University Challenge, **Jeremy Paxman**, studied English at Cambridge University.

American film-makers **Steven Spielberg** and **Martin Scorsese** both hold Bachelor's degrees in English.



**School contact:
Mr O'Callaghan**

English Literature

Students will be following the AQA English Literature course which focuses on literary analysis skills. It requires students to study texts from the English Literary Heritage, as well as more modern prose, drama, and poetry.

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: AQA

This GCSE is assessed by two written examinations, all assessments are closed book assessments: meaning that students are not allowed copies of the texts studied during the examination.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes – 40% weighting

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry, including unseen poetry
Examination: 2 hours 15 minutes – 60% weighting

Students will receive a GCSE graded 1-9, with 9 being the higher grade.

Further Study/Careers:

Anyone wanting to study English Post 16 will need to have studied and gained at least a grade 4 at English Literature; it is also a pre-requisite for university entrance.

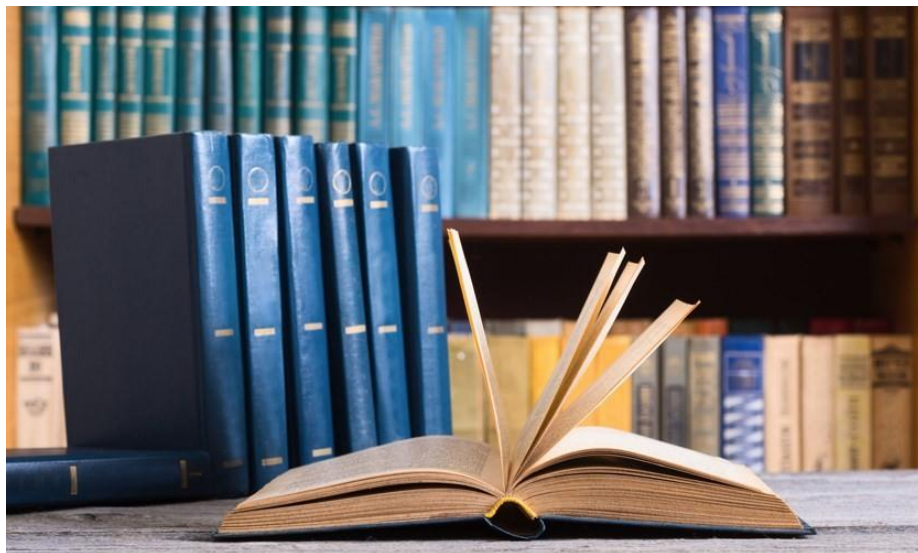
Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Teacher
- ⇒ Professor and Lecturer
- ⇒ Paralegal
- ⇒ Web Editor
- ⇒ Copy Editor
- ⇒ Digital Copy Writer
- ⇒ Lexicographer
- ⇒ Freelance Writer
- ⇒ Publisher

Which Famous People Have Studied English Literature?

Singer/Songwriter **John Legend** studied English Literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

Actor **Hugh Grant** attended New College at Oxford University and gained a 2.1 bachelor's degree in English Literature in 1982.



**School contact:
Mr O'Callaghan**

Mathematics

At Stoke High School, we want to develop learners who can not only function mathematically and numerically in the real world but who have no fear of mathematics. We want to develop learners who can appreciate the relevance of mathematics beyond the classroom, so that they are prepared for their life's prospects beyond their GCSEs. In our classrooms we want to create a culture whereby students see themselves as mathematicians - who are engaged, enthused and proud of the rich and varied diet that they receive.

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: Edexcel

Students will either embark on the higher tier which means the student can achieve a grade 9 or the foundation tier, which means the highest grade they can achieve is a grade 5.

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE papers are split into three papers:

Paper 1: Non-calculator (90 minutes)

Paper 2: Calculator (90minutes)

Paper 3: Calculator (90 minutes)



Each paper is marked out of 80 and, together, they cover a considerable depth of the curriculum content, including number, geometry, probability, algebra, statistics, ratio and proportion.

In year 10, students complete a GCSE end of year examination in the sport hall. Year 11 complete their first mock examinations usually in November/December and the second one at the end of January/early February.

Students maths careers are enriched with the option to do The UK maths challenge and there is the opportunity for students to take part in external and extra maths opportunities in and outside of school.

We actively encourage students to use any online learning portals that they have access to including Sparx Maths, maths genie and corbettmaths.

Future Study/Careers:

Anyone wanting to study Mathematics Post 16 will need to have studied and gained at least a grade 4 at Mathematics GCSE; it is also a pre-requisite for university entrance.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Accountant
- ⇒ Actuary
- ⇒ Commodity Broker
- ⇒ Data Analyst
- ⇒ Investment Banker
- ⇒ Statistician

Which Famous People Have Studied Mathematics?

Robert Turing studied Maths at King's College, Cambridge University and went on to play a crucial role in the Allied victory in WW2 by cracking the Enigma Code.

Dara O'Briain, host of Mock the Week, has a degree in Maths and Theoretical Physics from University College Dublin.

Rachel Riley, presenter of Countdown, has a Maths degree from University of Oxford.

School contact:
Mr Abbott



Science

All students will either study:

Combined Science – worth two GCSEs

Or

GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics

Further Study/Careers:

Anyone wanting to study Science Post 16 will need to have studied and gained at least grade 4 in Science.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Clinical Biochemist
- ⇒ Environmental Scientist
- ⇒ Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology
- ⇒ Research Scientist
- ⇒ Nanoscientist
- ⇒ Ergonomist
- ⇒ Forensic Scientist
- ⇒ Pharmacist



Which Famous People Have Studied Science?

Sir David Attenborough graduated with a Natural Sciences degree and went on to become famous for presenting wildlife documentaries.

Lisa Kudrow earned a degree in Psychobiology before she rose to fame as Phoebe in Friends.

Brian Cox achieved a First Class Honours degree in Physics at Manchester University.

Brian May, lead guitarist with Queen has a PhD in Astrophysics from Imperial College London.

Former Prime Minister, **Margaret Thatcher**, graduated with a degree in Chemistry from Oxford University and then worked as a Research Scientist before going into politics .

Combined Science

This course identifies the activities and experiences learners will come across in everyday life, and links these to scientific ideas and their implications for society. It provides the opportunity to acquire the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding for life as a citizen.

The Combined Science GCSE is broken down into four main themes:

Working Scientifically:

- Development of scientific thinking
- Experimental skills and strategies
- Analysis and evaluation
- Scientific vocabulary, quantities, units, symbols, and nomenclature

Biology:

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Health, disease, and the development of medicine
- Photosynthesis and respiration
- Coordination and control
- Inheritance, variation, and evolution
- Ecosystems

Chemistry:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Structure, bonding, and the properties of matter
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes in chemistry
- The rate and extent of chemical changes
- Chemical analysis
- Organic chemistry
- Earth and atmospheric science

Physics:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces and motion
- Waves in matter
- Light and electromagnetic waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: AQA

Students will be assessed in examinations at the end of year 11.

Assessments of student's practical skills form at least 15% of the final grade and will be assessed in these final exams.

The exams will be tiered; either Foundation (grades 1-5) or Higher (grades 4-9). GCSE Combined Science provides a distinctive and relevant experience for learners who wish to progress to level 3 qualifications.



School contact:
Mrs Pashler

Triple Science

GCSE Biology/GCSE Chemistry/GCSE Physics

Content:

Students who enjoy science and hope to continue the subject at A level can study Triple Science. Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be studied as three separate GCSEs. This course aims to give students opportunities to:

- Develop their interest and enthusiasm for biology, chemistry and physics
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- Acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society
- Acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning

The three separate GCSEs cover the contents of the Combined Science GCSE as outlined previously, along with extra subject-specific material.

The topics covered are:

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Health, disease, and the development of medicine
- Photosynthesis and respiration
- Coordination and control
- Inheritance, variation, and evolution
- Ecosystems



Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Structure, bonding, and the properties of matter
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes in chemistry
- The rate and extent of chemical changes
- Chemical analysis
- Organic chemistry
- Earth and atmospheric science

Physics

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces and motion
- Waves in matter
- Light and electromagnetic waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: AQA

Each GCSE is assessed by a written GCSE taken at the end of year 11. Students will take exams in either Foundation tier (grades 1-5) or Higher tier (grades 4-9).



**School contact:
Mrs Pashler**

Art and Design

The Art and Design GCSE course has been designed to produce well rounded artists and art critiques who can apply their skills to a variety of medias and outcomes. Students will have opportunities to create and develop artwork in response to a given theme. This may take the form of painting, drawing, print design or sculpture.

Students will:

- investigate, experiment, and gather information
- create their work in a range of materials to show that they are adaptable, creative, and skilled
- produce work in their sketchbook showing development of ideas, drawing and research
- draw from primary source and show evidence of this through photography.
- be expected to photograph sources outside of lessons to broaden research opportunities
- produce final pieces to conclude their sketchbook research
- be expected to be organised and able to meet deadlines
- be expected to work on their sketchbook outside of the classroom

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: Edexcel

Students will be assessed in four areas in GCSE Art & Design.

The assessment objectives focus on developing contextual understanding, refine use of media, drawing and recording from observation, and presenting final intentions.

Coursework (60%)

Students will produce a portfolio meeting all assessment objects in response to a theme provided by the teacher. Lessons will offer the chance for them to develop and expand their experience with medias and techniques and they will be encouraged to take and celebrate risks.

Final Examination (40%)

A 10-hour timed test. For this timed test students are given a theme which is set by the exam board in January of year 11. They are expected to develop a body of work exploring different media and techniques in consultation with the teacher. The preparation/sketchbook work which they use to produce the outcome will count for most of your total marks. Students will sit a 10-hour exam over two days to create a final piece in response to their sketchbook preparation.

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Art and Design.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Graphic Design
- ⇒ Fashion Design
- ⇒ Gallery Curator
- ⇒ Web and Game Design
- ⇒ Book Illustrator
- ⇒ Fine Artist
- ⇒ Special Effects Make Up Artist
- ⇒ Tattoo Artist
- ⇒ Architectural Illustrator



Which Famous People Have Studied Creative Subjects?

Alan Rickman, famous as the Hogwarts potions teacher, Severus Snape, but actually set up his own design agency before becoming an actor.

Freddie Mercury studied art and graphic design, later becoming the lead singer of Queen, and designing the band's logo.

Peter Capaldi studied at the Glasgow School of Art before pursuing an acting career that has included playing the twelfth Doctor in *Doctor Who*.

Adam Sandler studied Fine Art at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.



School contact:
Miss Oram/Miss Button

Business Studies

Aims of the Course:

The business world shapes daily life, determines our working activity, and makes goods and services available for us to buy. The challenge of working and the income it provides enables us to fulfil our ambitions. Business is often at the cutting edge of change in modern society.

In this course we will cover:

- Business concepts and issues concerning the activities of a business
- The purpose and role of a business from spotting an opportunity through to the growth of an established business
- The role of marketing and human resources
- The role of operations in business activity (production processes, quality of goods and services, customer service, and working with suppliers)
- The role of finance in business activity (sources of finance, costs, profit and loss, cash flow)
- How business responds to external influences, such as ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate and globalization
- The interdependent nature of business

We consider how Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic have impacted on business activity. Our key aims are to understand how businesses work and to analyse how business decisions are made. The course is therefore interesting and highly relevant.

Nature of the Course:

Students will study six units: business activity, marketing, people, operations, finance, influences on business, the interdependent nature of business.

Business Studies is not just a course for people who want to own their own business. Students need to be prepared to learn lots of new vocabulary and to develop their skills of application, analysis, and decision-making. Students will be expected to take responsibility for becoming an independent learner, researching how real-life businesses operate.

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: OCR

We follow the OCR Specification (J204). There are two GCSE Business Studies examinations to complete at the end of year 11. Each paper lasts 1 hour 30 minutes, carries 80 marks and accounts for 50% of your GCSE grade.

Paper 1: Business activity, marketing and people

Paper 2: Operations, finance and influences on business

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Business Studies.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Business Analyst
- ⇒ Accountant
- ⇒ Management Consultant
- ⇒ Actuary
- ⇒ Social Media Manager
- ⇒ Market and Consumer Research Analyst
- ⇒ Insurance Underwriter
- ⇒ Human Resources Manager
- ⇒ Economist



Which Famous People Have Studied Business?

Golfer **Tiger Woods** attended Stanford University to study Economics.

Actor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** earned a degree in Business and International Economics from University of Wisconsin.

Russell Howard started his stand-up career while studying Economics at University of West of England.

School contact:

Mr Hart



Child Development

The BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Children Development is a vocational course that anyone wishing to pursue a career in working with children aged 0-5 years of age should take as an option.

Throughout the course students will learn about the different ways that children play, how adults support this play, the milestones of a child's development, the types of development and the different ways that early years nurseries and childcare practitioners work to support children's learning and development in an inclusive environment.

There are also opportunities to visit early years centres and nurseries to observe children at play, the way learning is structured and how key workers engage with the children in their care.

Assessment/Exam Syllabus:

The course consists of 3 units studied over the 2-year course; each unit is graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Component 1 – Internal assessment coursework unit: Children's Growth and Development - completed in year 10

Component 2 – Internally assessed coursework unit: Learning Through Play - completed in year 11

Component 3 – Externally assessed exam unit: Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop - completed in year 11



Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further post 16 courses in Children's Play, Learning and Development.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Early Years Teacher
- ⇒ Play Therapist
- ⇒ Children's Nurse
- ⇒ Children's Nanny
- ⇒ Nursery Worker
- ⇒ Playgroup Worker
- ⇒ Community Nursery Nurse
- ⇒ Creche Worker
- ⇒ Play Worker in Hospital

Which Famous People are Involved in Child Development?

Music producer **Pharell Williams** founded a charity to provide underprivileged children with music education.

Pop superstar **Madonna**, who has two adopted children from Malawi, has set up a charity there to support the country's orphaned children.

Football legend **David Beckham** is a UNICEF Ambassador and founded his own children's charity The Victoria and David Beckham Charitable Trust providing wheelchairs to children in need.

Harry Potter author, **J.K. Rowling** founded a charity to get children out of orphanages through foster care and adoption

School contact:

Mrs Beacham



Citizenship

GCSE Citizenship Studies is a subject that motivates and enables young people to become thoughtful, active citizens. Students gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society. The subject will motivate and educate students to become thoughtful and active citizens who engage intelligently and enthusiastically with public life.

Students study 3 units over the two year course, covering the following topics.

UNIT 1 - RIGHTS, THE LAW AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

- Rights and responsibilities
- The law
- The legal system

UNIT 2 - DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNMENT





- Democracy, elections and voting in the UK
- The British Constitution
- National, regional, local and devolved governments
- The economy, finance and money
- The role of the media and free press
- Citizenship participation and active citizenship in the UK
- Politics beyond the UK

UNIT 3 - THE UK AND THE WIDER WORLD

- Identities and diversity in UK society
- The UK and its relations with the wider world

Assessment/Exam Syllabus:

The course consists of 3 components and these are assessed in 3 exams at the end of year 11.

| Component |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Citizenship in perspective | 50 marks | Multiple choice | 50 minutes | 25 % |
| Citizenship in action | 100 marks | Short and long written responses | 1 hour 45 minutes | 50 % |
| Our rights, our society, our world | 50 marks | Short and long written responses | 1 hour | 25% |

To prepare for the Citizenship in Action exam, students are expected to complete a Citizenship Action project which aims to deliver a benefit or change for a particular community (including a school or college) or wider society.

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further post 16 courses in a wide range of subjects including Law and Politics.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Civil Servant
- ⇒ Teacher
- ⇒ Journalist
- ⇒ Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer
- ⇒ Solicitor
- ⇒ Police Officer

Which Famous People Studied GCSE Citizenship?

World championship gold medalist and British diver, **Tom Daley**, achieved excellent results in his GCSEs.

Known for his work on stage and screen, **Benedict Cumberbatch**, studied Citizenship at secondary school.



School contact:

Mrs Hutchison

Drama

This WJEC Educas GCSE is a practical and theoretical course that is aimed at students with an interest in acting and who would like to extend their natural talents in the performing arts field.



Students will learn a range of acting techniques: exploring voice, movement and developing a character, as well as understanding rehearsal skills and preparing for a performance. Students will study various performance styles, including the repertoire and influences of key practitioners and playwrights. To support these skills, students will study improvisation and acting skills and show their response to a variety of stimuli and script. Throughout this course, students will experience a broad and balanced drama curriculum that is designed to integrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed.

The course will interest students who have already been involved in Key Stage 3 drama and taken part in productions either in or out of school.

How is the Course Structured?

There are 3 components:

Component 1 - Devising theatre (40% coursework)

Component 2 - Performing from a text (20% examiner assessed)

Component 3 - Interpreting theatre (40% 1 hour 30 minute written exam)

Students will learn through practical performance-based workshops, rehearsals, personal study, performances, and theory work. They will be expected to be capable of developing their own ideas as well as being able to work as part of a team to achieve common goals.

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Performing Arts.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Actor
- ⇒ Community Arts Worker
- ⇒ Choreographer
- ⇒ Dancer
- ⇒ Drama Therapist
- ⇒ Music Producer
- ⇒ Music Therapist
- ⇒ Theatre Director

Which Famous People Have Studied Performing Arts?

Matt Lucas and **David Walliams** studied Performing Arts at Bristol University before moving into comedy.

The Duchess of Sussex, **Meghan Markle** studied Performing Arts at Northwestern University in Illinois before becoming a successful actress and then becoming UK royalty.

Kit Harrington, who went on to fame in Game of Thrones, studied at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Denzel Washington The Triple Golden Globe winner received his Bachelors of Arts degree in Drama and Journalism from Fordham University in New York.



School contact:
Mrs Beacham

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Engineering.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Aerospace Engineer
- ⇒ Medical Engineer
- ⇒ Software Engineer
- ⇒ Nuclear Engineer
- ⇒ Environmental Engineer
- ⇒ Automotive Engineer
- ⇒ Civil Engineer

Which Famous People Have Studied Engineering?

Elon Musk who founded SpaceX and Tesla.

Jeff Bezos who founded Amazon achieved an Electrical Engineering degree at Princeton.

Rowan Atkinson, famous for playing Mr Bean, has a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from Queens's College, Oxford.

Neil Armstrong, the first person to set foot on the Moon, gained a Masters Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Southern California.

Super Model **Cindy Crawford** has a degree in Chemical Engineering from Northwestern University, Illinois.

School contact:

Mr Holmes/Mr Overing



French

In years 10 and 11 languages become even more interesting. Lessons will move at a faster pace and class sizes will be smaller. This allows students to have more personal attention from your teacher. Students will study French in more detail, building up their confidence in using the language.

Assessment/ Exam Syllabus: Edexcel

Students will study various sub-topics under the contexts of: My personal world, Media and technology, My neighbourhood, Studying and my future, Lifestyle and well-being, Travel and tourism. All four skills – listening, reading, writing, and speaking- are tested in an end of course exam in year 11.

Further Study/Careers:

We cannot stress enough the usefulness of a foreign language in your lives. French is one of the very few languages spoken all over the world and is ranked the sixth most widely spoken language.

Employers value the confidence and communication skills demonstrated by language learners, and the opportunities to use languages in the working world are both endless and exciting.

Aside from the career opportunities, travelling experiences will be much more rewarding, as you will learn about and get to know different people and cultures all over the world.



Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in modern foreign languages and contributes to the EBacc qualification which can support university applications.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Fashion Buyer
- ⇒ Airline Pilots and Cabin Crew
- ⇒ Journalist/Foreign Correspondent
- ⇒ Charity Worker
- ⇒ In-game Translator
- ⇒ Telecommunications
- ⇒ Transport and Logistics
- ⇒ Intelligence and Law Enforcement

Which Famous People Have Studied Languages?

Marathon runner **Paula Radcliffe** completed a degree in French, German and Economics.

Coldplay frontman **Chris Martin** has a degree in Languages (Greek and Latin).

Illusionist **Derren Brown** studied German at University of Bristol.

Olympic Gold Medal athlete, **Christine Ohuruogu**, has a degree in Linguistics from University College London.

Many celebrities are fluent in several languages including actors **Bradley Cooper** and **Will Smith**, singer **Rita Ora**, tennis player **Novak Djokovic**, Match of the Day Presenter **Gary Lineker** and Football Manager **Jose Mourinho**.

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart" Nelson Mandela



School contact:

Mrs Howe

Geography

Geography provides the opportunity for students to understand more about the world, the challenges it faces and their place within it. The course deepens understanding of geographical processes and the impact of change and of complex people-environment interactions.

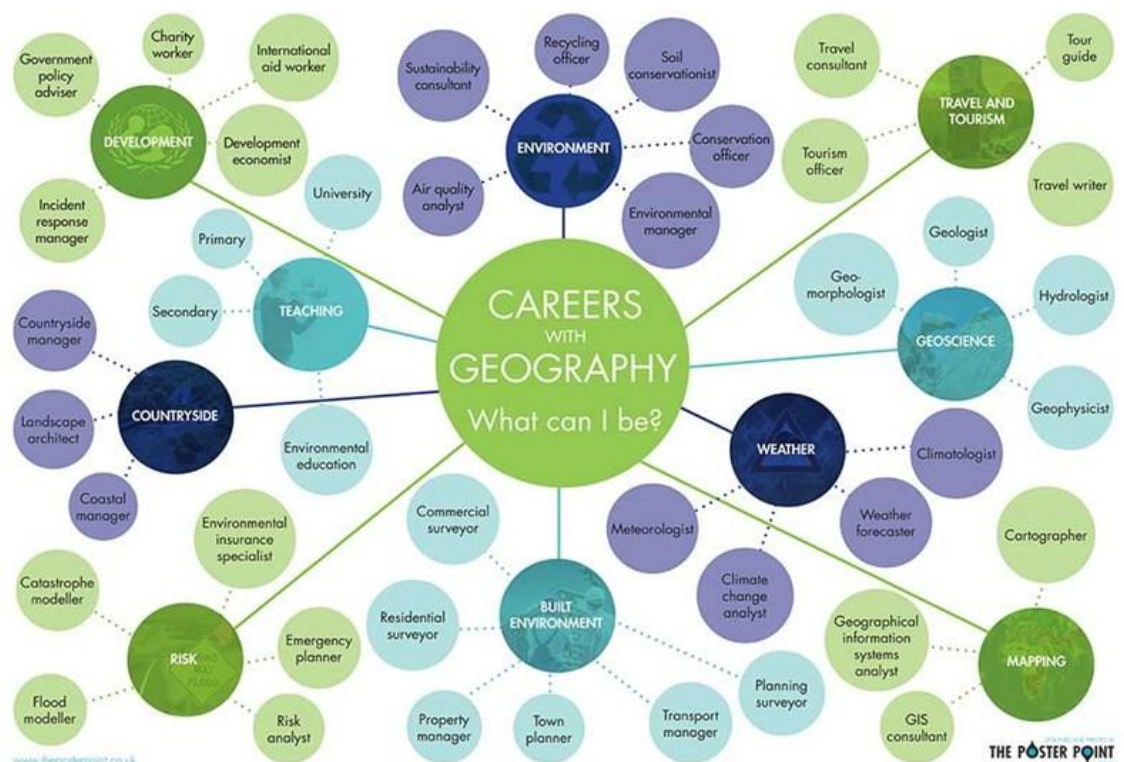
It highlights the links between places and environments at different scales and develops students' competence in using a wide range of geographical investigative skills. Geography enables young people to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.

GCSE Geography requires students to extend their Locational Knowledge and to show competence in maps, fieldwork and geographical skills. Students will study local, national, and international concepts surrounding different economies, environments, and ecosystems.

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: Eduqas B GCSE

The specification is comprised of 3 exams, which are taken at the end of year 11. Students will be assessed on core knowledge, decision making and a fieldwork component and will be awarded a GCSE grade 1 - 9.

Further Study/ Careers:



Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Geography and contributes to the EBacc qualification which can support university applications.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Cartographer
- ⇒ Landscape Architect
- ⇒ Environmental Consultant
- ⇒ Wildlife Enforcement Officer
- ⇒ Urban Planner
- ⇒ Tour Guide
- ⇒ Geological Technician
- ⇒ Surveyor

Which Famous People Have Studied Geography?

Basketball star **Michael Jordan** graduated with a degree in Geography from the University of Carolina.

Prince William studied Geography at St Andrews University.

Mother Theresa taught Geography at covenant schools in India.

Comedian and Actor **Hugh Dennis** has a Geography degree from St John's College, Cambridge.



**School contact:
Miss Holden**

History

The study of History at GCSE will inspire students to develop their understanding of the people, periods and events studied and enable them to think critically, weigh evidence, make informed decisions and develop perspective and judgement. This, in turn, will prepare them for a role as informed, thoughtful, and active citizens. The discipline of History, and a knowledge and understanding of the past will also provide them with a basis for wider learning and study and help them understand their own identity and significant aspects of the world in which they live and

GCSE History Will Include:

- Crime and Punishment c1000 to present day, focusing on Whitechapel 1870-1900
- The Cold War, 1941-91
- Elizabethan England, 1558- 88
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

British history will form a minimum of 50% of the assessed content over the full course. The other 50% will investigate global historical events.

Assessment/Exams Syllabus: Edexcel

The history specification will assess knowledge and skills at the end of year 11, with students being awarded a grade 9 - 1.



Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in History and contributes to the EBacc qualification which can support university applications.

Notable careers:

- ⇒ Historian
- ⇒ Archivist
- ⇒ Archaeologist
- ⇒ Conservationist
- ⇒ Film Production Assistant
- ⇒ Researcher
- ⇒ Tour Guide
- ⇒ Heritage Manager

Which Famous People Have Studied History?

J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, has a B.A. in Classics from Exeter University.

Sacha Baron Cohen, aka Ali G, earned a degree in History from Christ's College, Cambridge.

Presenter **Jonathan Ross** has a degree in Modern European History.

Prince Charles holds a degree in Archaeology, Anthropology and History from Cambridge University.

Comedian **Al Murray**, famous for the Pub Landlord character, has a Modern History degree from Oxford University.



School contact:
Miss Griffiths

Hospitality and Catering

Hospitality and Catering will develop students' knowledge and understanding of the Hospitality and Catering sector and provide students with opportunities to develop associated practical skills.

Hospitality and catering is a dynamic, vibrant and innovative sector delivering vital jobs, growth and investment in the heart of our local communities - important culturally, socially and economically. The sector is a major contributor to the UK economy, employing 2.9 million people and generating £130 billion in economic activity, while paying £38 billion in taxation to fund important local and national services. Hospitality is the third largest private sector employer in the UK; double the size of financial services and bigger than automotive, pharmaceuticals and aerospace combined

The Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support students who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide students with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment.

Assessment/Exam Syllabus: WJEC

The course is made up of two different units studied over two years:

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes 50% of qualification—External exam

Unit 2 is assessed through controlled assessment and submitted for external moderation.— broken down to include a cook and development of cooking to a brief

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Hospitality and Catering.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Restaurant Manager
- ⇒ Food Manufacturing Inspector
- ⇒ Food Critic
- ⇒ Front Office Manager
- ⇒ Food Technologist
- ⇒ Catering Events Manager
- ⇒ Patisserie Chef
- ⇒ Barista
- ⇒ Consumer Scientist
- ⇒ Cruise Ship Steward
- ⇒ Hotel Manager
- ⇒ Wedding Planner

Which Famous People Have Studied Hospitality and Catering?

Celebrity Chef **Gordon Ramsay** studied hotel management at North Oxfordshire Technical College

TV Chef **Jamie Oliver** studied Hospitality and Catering at Westminster Catering College.

James Bond Actor **Daniel Craig** was a Chef before he took up acting.

Great British Bake Off Winner and Strictly Come Dancing finalist **John Whaite** studied at the Cordon Bleu Cookery School in London.



School contact:

Mr Holmes/Miss Button

Photography

This is a technical and skills based course which includes; macro photography, 2 & 3 point lighting, black and white images, studio photography, some basic animation, colour manipulation and photographic editing skills, that allow the creative juices to flow. This course allows you to plan and play with light, looking at various techniques that can impact the way photographs are seen and used in industry.

Students will be using DSLR and various formats of cameras: mobile phone and pin hole camera to explore photographic elements to manipulate and understand images and become proficient in their use.

This course is broken down into two units:

- Unit 1 - internally assessed unit at 50% of the final mark
- Unit 2 - externally set unit at 50% of the final mark

Students need to learn how to manipulate and adjust images to create stories. They will look at the development of colour and see how colour is used with light. This course also looks at the science of photography and the dynamic range of technical skills and analytical skill that photographers use.

Students will be expected to use their own cameras (DSLRs or compact cameras or phone cameras) to take images every week and upload to their own spaces. This course has a 60% written element and a 40% photographic element. It has four main objectives: Refine, Develop, Present and Record which are all outlined within the unit portfolios.

Students will have to produce three final pieces per unit for an exhibition in the summer.



Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Photography.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Film Set Photographer
- ⇒ Forensic Photographer
- ⇒ Portrait & Wedding Photographer
- ⇒ Sports Photographer
- ⇒ Insurance Claims Photographer
- ⇒ Fashion Photographer
- ⇒ Photojournalist
- ⇒ Nature, Wildlife and Travel Photographer
- ⇒ Television Camera Operator
- ⇒ Film/Video Editor

Which Famous People Have Links to Photography?

Rock Singer and star of The Hunger Games, **Lennie Kravitz**, exhibits and sells his photographic work.

Chris Packham, best known by BBC viewers for presenting The Really Wild Show and Springwatch is an award-winning Wildlife Photographer.

Canadian singer/songwriter **Bryan Adams** is also a professional photographer, covering advertising campaigns, magazine shoots and photographing the Queen for her official Jubilee portrait.



School contact:
Miss Button

Religious Studies

Religious Studies at GCSE will equip all students with knowledge of both religious and non-religious worldviews to allow all students to develop their ideas, values, and identities. Students develop specialist vocabulary to explore and respond to a range of religious, philosophical, and theological debates respectfully. By supporting all students to develop religious literacy, this curriculum will prepare students to have the ability to critically analyse and interpret beliefs and teachings. This will allow students to develop the skills required to construct balanced arguments, understand a range of views and make well-informed judgements to make sense of the complex world around them. The vision of this knowledge rich curriculum is to promote respect, by giving all students the aptitude for evaluating and interpreting sources of evidence to allow students to make sense of the world in which they live, achieve their full potential and effectively prepare them for life in Modern Britain.

GCSE Religious Studies will include:

- Christianity: Beliefs, teachings and practices
- Buddhism: Beliefs, teachings and practices
- Religion and life
- The existence of God and revelation
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment

Assessment/Exams Syllabus:

The Religious Studies specification will assess knowledge and skills at the end of year 11 with students being awarded a grade 9-1.

This will be assessed as two 1 hour and 45-minute exams each worth 50% of the GCSE.

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further post-16 courses in Religious Studies, which can support university applications.

Notable careers:

- ⇒ Chaplain
- ⇒ Teacher
- ⇒ Journalist
- ⇒ Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer
- ⇒ Solicitor
- ⇒ Youth Worker
- ⇒ Charity Officer

Which Famous People Have Studied Religious Education?

Comedian **Ricky Gervais** studied Philosophy at University College London.

Actor and martial arts specialist Bruce Lee studied Philosophy at the University of Washington.

Civil Rights Leader **Martin Luther King Jr** studied Theology at Boston University.

The Dark Knight actress **Maggie Gyllenhaal** graduated with degrees in Eastern Religions and Philosophy at Columbia University.



School contact:
Miss Iles

Sport

The Level 1/2 WJEC Vocational Award in Sport and Coaching Principles, has been designed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of Sport. It has been developed to:

- Encourage personal development through a range of practical and theoretical activities
- Give students a wider understanding and appreciation of factors that can affect performance
- Allow students to develop their knowledge and understanding of coaching
- Encourage students to develop their communication, planning and organisation skills

Assessment/Exams Syllabus:

Exam units:

- Fitness for sport - completed in year 11



Coursework units:

- Improving sporting performance - completed in year 10
- Coaching principles - completed in year 11

Each unit contributes to the overall grade - Level 1 pass, merit, distinction or Level 2 pass, merit, distinction, distinction*

There will be an externally assessed exam– which the exam board sets and marks.

The other units will be internally assessed by modules completed over the two year course, these are completed as written tasks.

Additional Information:

This course gives students the opportunity to develop a range of personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in the working life.

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Sports.

Notable careers:

- ⇒ Exercise Physiologist
- ⇒ Sports Dietitian
- ⇒ Sports Journalist
- ⇒ Sports Agent
- ⇒ Sports Photographer
- ⇒ Sports Psychologist
- ⇒ Professional Sports Person
- ⇒ Sports Official

Which Famous People Have Studied Sports?

Edwin Der Sar, Manchester United Goalkeeper, has an International Master of Sport Management degree.

Olympic Gold Medallist, **Victoria Pendleton**, achieved a BSc in Sport and Exercise Science at University of Northumbria.

Olympic Rower and World Number 1, **Heather Stanning**, has a degree in Sports Technology from Bath University.



School contact:

Mr Tankard

Travel and Tourism

This BTEC Tech qualification in Travel and Tourism provides an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of travel and tourism giving an opportunity to develop the knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment.

Students will investigate travel and tourism organisations in the UK, their ownership, aims, key products and services, and how they work with each other. Exploring the role of different consumer technologies within the travel and tourism industry, students will understand the different types of tourism and different types of visitor and investigate the features of and routes to popular tourist destinations.

This course offers students the opportunity to gain the broad knowledge needed to adapt to the ever-changing roles needed to survive in the global economy, including the opportunity to investigate how organisations use market research to identify travel and tourism trends and identify customer needs and preferences. This knowledge will be applied showing understanding of how travel planning meets customer needs and preferences.

Students develop a variety of skills, problem solving, communication, ICT, literacy, and numeracy throughout the course. By exploring the different factors that may influence global travel and tourism, and how travel and tourism organisations and destinations respond to these factors, students can identify the potential impacts of tourism at global destinations and how destinations can manage the impacts of tourism and control tourism development to achieve sustainable tourism. Students will use research, skills, draft reports and manage their time to meet deadlines.

Assessment/Exams:

There are three components for this course:

Component 1 – Assignment – Travel and Tourism

Organisations and Destinations

Component 2 – Assignment – Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism

Component 3 – External Assessment Exam – Influences on Global Travel and Tourism



Travel and Tourism

Further Study/Careers:

Taking this course will enable students to undertake further Post 16 courses in Travel & Tourism and Events Management.

Notable Careers:

- ⇒ Travel Agent
- ⇒ Tour Guide
- ⇒ Resort Representative
- ⇒ Port Operative
- ⇒ Interpreter
- ⇒ Heritage Officer
- ⇒ Hotel Manager
- ⇒ Cruise Ship Steward
- ⇒ Airline Cabin Crew
- ⇒ Travel Writer

Which Famous People Have Links to Travel & Tourism?

Lionel Messi of FC Barcelona is the face of Turkish Airlines and Qatar Airways and is currently the most influential travel celebrity. His “selfie shootout” for Turkish Air was the most-watched travel video on YouTube.

Chris Hemsworth, as Thor, is the face of the Australian Tourist Board, encouraging travellers to plan their next trip to the “Land Down Under”.

Singer **Rihanna**, who is from Barbados, is Tourism Ambassador for this Caribbean island.

Actors **Robin Williams, Michelle Pfeiffer and Kevin Costner** all worked in the tourism industry at U.S. Disney Resorts before making the break into acting.



School contact:

Miss Iles

Next Steps

You will be asked to select **three options and two reserves** from the list of subjects. You can only choose **one** vocational course .

It is important to gain as much information as possible from a wide range of sources, such as:

- This booklet
- Assemblies
- Parents
- Teachers
- Internet and other sources



- ✓ Choose courses that match your interests, abilities and talents.
- ✓ Choose courses that help prepare you for your chosen career.
- ✗ Choose a subject because you like the teacher.
- ✗ Choose a subject because your friends are choosing it.

In ICT lessons, you will be shown how to register for SIMs Options online. This is the software that you will use to choose your preferred subjects. The deadline for completion is **FRIDAY 26TH APRIL.**

Once all choices from the year group have been collated, you will have the chance to discuss your choices with us.

The school reserves the right to make the final decision on whether a course will run and, on the type of course to be followed by each student. The specifications that we choose to follow are subject to change.

The great majority of courses will be entirely suitable, and you can be assured that sympathetic consideration will be given to the needs of every student.