Royal Greenwich Trust School

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

PART OF UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS TRUST

YEAR 9 GCSE Options



Introduction

Dear Student,

This year marks an important stage in your journey at RGTS. Over the coming months, you and your parents or carers will make key decisions about the subjects you will study as you move into **Key Stage 4 in September 2026**.

The next two years of your education are crucial. The choices you make now will shape your learning in Years 10 and 11 and play a significant role in the results you achieve at the end of Key Stage 4. This booklet has been designed to guide you through the options process and to support you in making informed choices that are right for you.

Please read this booklet carefully. It provides clear information about the subjects available and the different pathways you may choose from. You are encouraged to discuss your options with your parents or carers, as well as with your teachers, who are well placed to offer advice and guidance.

Making thoughtful and informed decisions now will help ensure that you enjoy your studies and achieve your best possible outcomes. Your success in Year 11 will open doors to your next steps at age 16, whether that is continuing your education at RGTS or moving on to further education, employment, or training elsewhere.

At RGTS, we are committed to supporting you to become a successful, confident, and well-rounded individual. We hope that when you leave us, you do so with the qualifications, skills, and experiences needed to realise your future ambitions, whatever path you choose.



How to choose my options

1. **Think about your future after GCSEs**
   If you are planning to study **A Levels** and then go to **university**, following an **EBacc pathway** is a strong choice. It keeps your options open and helps you develop the academic skills needed for further study.

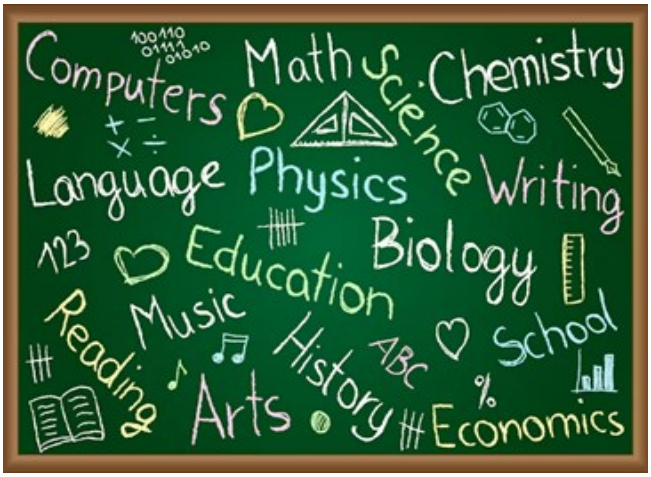
2. **Choose subjects you enjoy**
   You will be studying these subjects for the next **two years**, so it is important to choose courses that you enjoy and feel **motivated** to learn.

3. **Choose subjects you are good at**
   Success matters. Selecting subjects where you can achieve your **best possible grades** will help you progress confidently to your next steps.

4. **Be independent in your choices**
   Do not base your decisions on what your friends are choosing or who you think might teach the subject. Teachers and timetables can change. This is **your future**, and your choices should be right for you.

5. **Listen to advice and guidance**
   Speak to your **teachers, tutors, and parents/carers** and consider their advice carefully. They know your strengths and can help guide you towards choices that will support your success and future goals.





The Timeline

Term 3:

Assembly Launch and Options Booklet Monday 12th January	Students will attend a dedicated launch assembly introducing the **Key Stage 4 options process**. The assembly will outline the timeline for making choices and the support available, ensuring students feel informed and confident as they begin to consider their GCSE options. Parents are encouraged to review the **Options Booklet** with their child, which outlines the subjects available, course content, assessment methods, and potential **future pathways**, and to discuss their child's interests, strengths, and aspirations together.
Futures Fortnight Monday 19th January – 30th January	All students will receive a presentation on the full range of subjects available during tutor and class time, allowing them to gain **an in-depth and realistic understanding** of the course content and the level of study required. Students will also have the opportunity to **ask questions** about the different subjects, and we therefore encourage parents and pupils to **prepare any questions in advance**. The presentations will be saved in the Student Shared Area and website for students to access.
Year 9 Pathways Information Evening 5th February 5- 6pm	Students and families will be introduced to the RGTS GCSE and Key Stage 4 curriculum through **a presentation in the Lecture Theatre from 5-6pm**. The signup link for the Year 9 Pathways Information Evening will be live on our website.
Y9 Straw Poll Monday 9th February	Students will share their initial Pathways preferences, as well as highlight any areas where they would welcome further guidance or support via MS Forms.

The Timeline

Term 4:

1 to 1 Interviews: Commencing 23rd February	Targeted students will take part in a **one-to-one online interview with a member of staff**, alongside their parents or carers, to discuss and share their initial Pathways preferences.
Year 9 Pathways Final Deadline: Friday 17th April	Parents and carers **submit the Pathways Preference Form.**



Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

The Curriculum

Maths	English	Science	PE	RE	Character Develop-ment	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
4 lessons	5 lessons	5 lessons	2 lessons	1 lesson	1 lesson	4 lessons	4 lessons	4 lessons

The subjects shown in pink are called Core Subjects. Religious Studies (RE), Physical Education (PE), and Character Development, alongside Mathematics, English, and Science, are compulsory for all students in the UK. Together, these subjects help to build well-rounded students by developing academic knowledge, personal skills, health and wellbeing, and positive values. In addition to the core subjects, RGTS offers a further three option choices, which students will select through three different pathways.

Pathways Explained

What is a Pathway?
A pathway is the programme of subjects your child will study during Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). There is no single pathway that is right for every student. Pathways are designed to help students choose a balanced set of subjects based on their strengths, interests, and future plans.

One commonly discussed pathway is the **Academic Pathway** which includes:
- English, Mathematics and Science
- One humanities subject (Geography, History or Religious Studies)
- One modern foreign language (Spanish)



Pathways Explained

The government recommends this combination as it provides a strong academic foundation and helps keep future options open, including A Levels, university, apprenticeships and careers.

GCSE Grading Explained

GCSE grades changed from letters (A*–G) to numbers (9–1) in 2017.

- Grade 9 is the highest grade
- Grade 1 is the lowest grade
- Grade 5 is considered a strong pass

Most GCSEs are now exam-based, with final exams taken at the end of Year 11.

What is a GCSE?

GCSEs (General Certificates of Secondary Education) are the main national qualifications taken at age 16. Students study their GCSE subjects over two years (Years 10 and 11) and sit their final exams in the summer of Year 11. GCSEs are recognised and accepted by sixth forms, colleges, universities and employers.

What is a BTEC and vocational subject?

BTECs and vocational subjects are practical, work-related qualifications that combine hands-on learning with subject knowledge. They help students develop real-world skills and can lead to further education, apprenticeships, employment or higher education. BTECs are valued by colleges, universities and employers in the UK and internationally.



Pathway Options

1. Academic Pathway

Best for: Students who enjoy academic subjects and want to keep all future options open.

What it includes:

- A language (Spanish)
- A humanity (History or Geography)
- Plus another option of choice

Why choose this?

Keeps doors open for A Levels, university, and competitive careers
Valued by top colleges and universities
Strong foundation for subjects like Law, Medicine, Teaching, Business

2. Blended Pathway

Best for: Students who enjoy both practical and academic learning

What it includes:

- Geography, History or Spanish
- A mix of GCSE and vocational subjects
- Hands-on learning alongside classroom study

Why choose Blended?

Learn by doing as well as thinking
Builds real-world skills employers want.
Leads to college, apprenticeships, or sixth form.



Pathways Options

3. Vocational Pathway

Best for: Students who thrive in practical, hands-on subjects

What it includes:

- Career-focused courses (e.g. Construction, Engineering, Health & Social Care)
- Coursework and practical assessments

Why choose Vocational?

Direct route into apprenticeships, college, or employment
Learn job-ready skills
Excellent progression to Level 3 courses

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
GCSE Sociology	GCSE History	GCSE Business
GCSE History	GCSE Art	GCSE Spanish
GCSE Business	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Geography
GCSE Spanish	GCSE RE	GCSE Drama
GCSE Food & Nutrition	BTEC Design	GCSE Art
OCR IT	BTEC Sport	GCSE History
Music Vocational Award	BTEC Health & Social Care	

GCSE English Language

This is a core subject so you don't need to select it as a preference

Studying GCSE English Language will help you to read and write fluently and accurately so that you can use language in a more sophisticated way to communicate your ideas and understand those of others.

Through studying a range of non-fiction and fiction texts such as newspaper articles, letters, biographies and extracts from literary works, you will learn how to use English in a variety of real life situations and draw upon your own .





COURSE OUTLINE

This course is 100% exam at the end of Year 11.

All students will sit the same exam. (AQA spec)

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

(written exam – 50%) 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

(written exam – 50%) 1 hr 45 mins

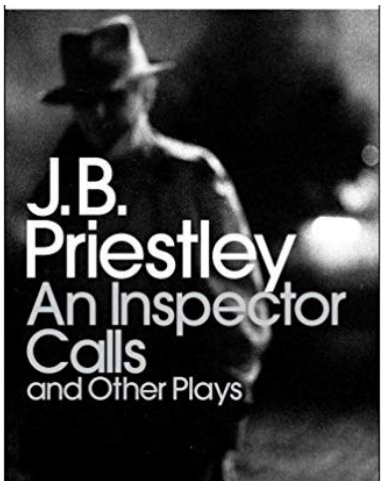
Spoken Language Endorsement:

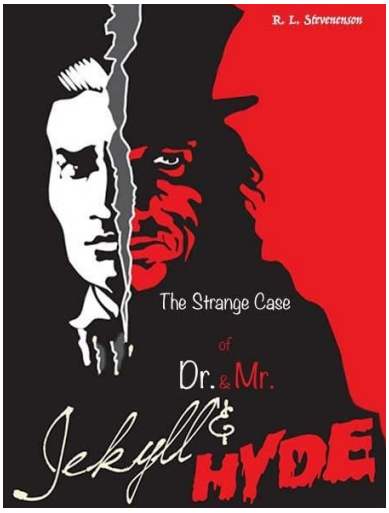
(in-school recording, graded separately to the 2 external examination elements)

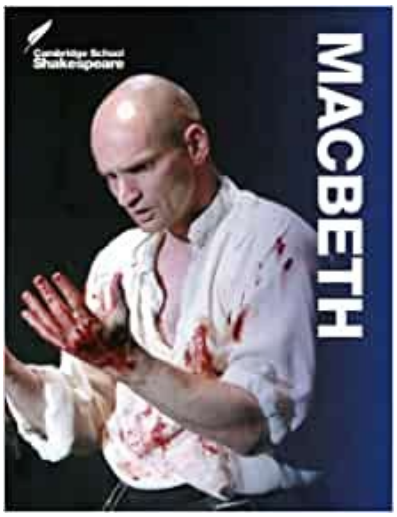
GCSE English Literature

This is a core subject so you don't need to select it as a preference

GCSE English Literature will give you the opportunity to study classic literature, contemporary novels, plays and poetry. Not only will you learn how the English language can be used for expressive and dramatic effect, but you will also explore the world from a range of perspectives, through different times and cultures.







COURSE OUTLINE

This course is 100% exam at the end of Year 11. All students will sit the same exam. All exams are closed text, which means students will not have a copy of the text with them in the exam.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Nineteenth-Century Novel (written exam – 40%) 1hr 45 mins

Section A – Shakespeare (Macbeth)

Students will answer one question on Macbeth. They will be required to write about an extract from the play and link it to the text as a whole.

Section B The Nineteenth-Century novel (Jekyll and Hyde)

Students will answer one question on Jekyll and Hyde They will be required to write about an extract from the novel and link it to the text as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (written exam – 60%) 2hrs 15 mins

Section A – Modern texts (An Inspector Calls)

Students will answer one essay question on An Inspector Calls.

Section B – Poetry (Power and Conflict cluster)

Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the Power and Conflict cluster.

Section C – Unseen Poetry

Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

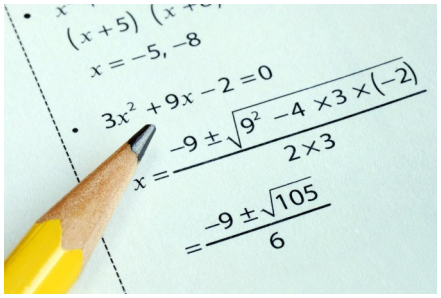
GCSE Mathematics

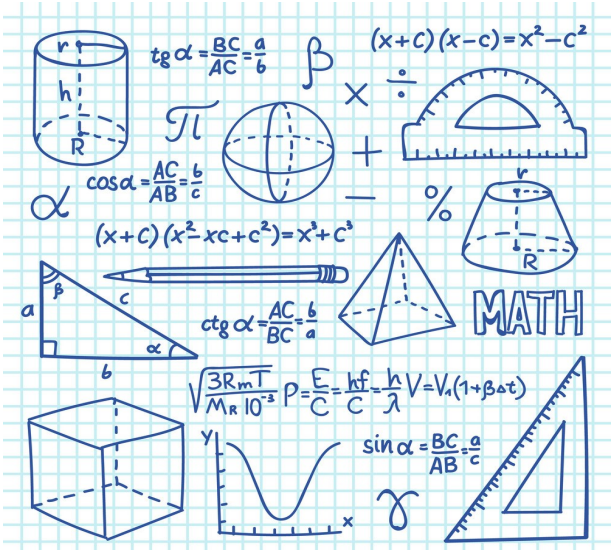
This is a core subject so you don't need to select it as a preference

This course will teach you a wide range of mathematical skills and knowledge. Whilst studying the GCSE you will acquire and use problem-solving strategies, select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in mathematical, every day and real-world situations as well as reason mathematically to make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions. The GCSE also teaches you to interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context

The content of the GCSE Maths course is divided into six strands. Topic areas covered are:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry & Measures
- Statistics
- Probability
- Ratio, Proportions and Rates of Change





COURSE OUTLINE

Mathematics GCSE qualification has two tiers: Higher and Foundation

Assessment For both tiers, students will sit 3 exam papers:

- **Paper 1 (Non – Calculator)** 33.3%
- **Paper 2 (Calculator)** 33.3%
- **Paper 3 (Calculator)** 33.3%

Your progress throughout Year 10 and Year 11 will be used to determine the tier for which you should be entered.

GCSE Combined Science

This is a core subject so you don't need to select it as a preference

The skills, knowledge and understanding that you will acquire throughout this course will help you to appreciate how science works and its essential role in the wider world. Most students will study GCSE combined Science which will count as two GCSEs. You will learn about the world around you gaining scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. You will develop a critical approach to



COURSE OUTLINE

For the Combined Science course you will sit a total of six exams, each one being 1 hour 15 minutes long. Each paper is out of 70 and is worth 16.7% of your GCSE. You will sit two papers for each science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Biology

Paper 1

- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics

Paper 2

- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance
- Variation and Evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

Paper 1

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding structure and properties of matter
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Chemical Changes
- Energy Changes

Paper 2

- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic Chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using the Earth's Resources

Physics

Paper 1

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particles model of matter
- Atomic Structure

Paper 2

- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

GCSE Geography

This GCSE qualification enables you to explore the world, the issues we face and our place in them, and to help prepare you to succeed in any future chosen pathway. To be successful in this GCSE qualification, you will need to have an interest in current world events, have strong literacy skills coupled with a thirst for geographical facts and have developed analytical skills. You will need to write in detail whilst showing an understanding of key global and local case studies covering all topics.



COURSE OUTLINE

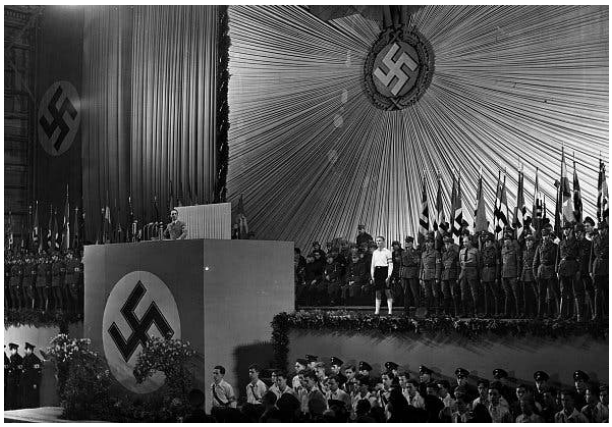
Unit 1: Global Geographical Issues (written examination)
1 hour and 30 minutes *37.5% of the qualification*
Content: Hazardous Earth, Development dynamics and Challenges of an urbanising world.

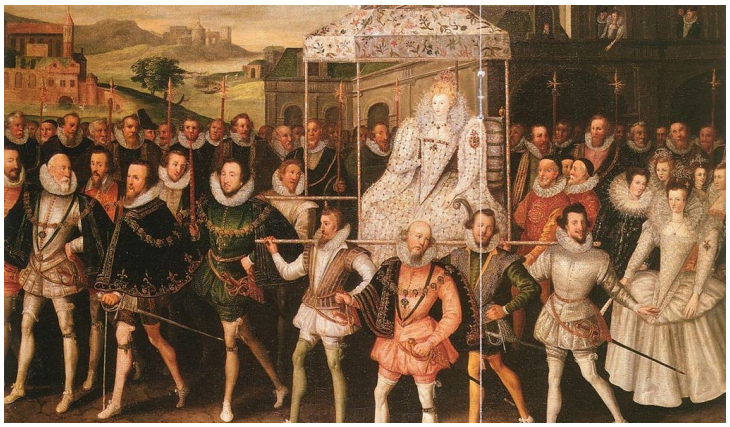
Unit 2: UK Geographical Issues (written examination) 1 hour and 30 minutes *37.5% of the qualification*
Content: The UK's evolving physical landscape (coastal change and conflict and river processes and pressures), The UK's evolving human landscape (Dynamic Urban areas and changing rural areas) and geographical investigations (including one physical fieldwork – coasts - and one human fieldwork investigations – urban study).

Unit 3: People and Environment Issues - Making Geographical Decisions (written examination) 1 hour 30 minutes *25% of the qualification*
Content: 'People and the Biosphere', 'Forests Under Threat' and 'Consuming Energy Resources'.

GCSE History

In GCSE History, you will acquire the skills and knowledge to engage with and understand a fast changing world. This GCSE qualification will engage you with a broad and diverse study of the history of Britain and the wider world and give you skills that will support progression to further study of history as well as a wide range of other subjects. To be successful in this GCSE qualification you need to have an interest in historical events, have strong literacy skills and have developed reading skills.







COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000-present Thematic study and historic environment *30% of the qualification.*

Unit 2: Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 British depth study *20% of the qualification.*

Unit 3: Weimer and Nazi Germany 1918-39 Modern depth study *30% of the qualification*

Unit 4: Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91 Period study *20% of the qualification*

GCSE Religious Studies

In GCSE Religious Studies you will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions, investigate religious texts and explore different religious, philosophical and ethical arguments and themes, and their impact and influence in the modern world. You will examine a range of areas including authority of scripture, key beliefs, forms of religious expression, diversity within and between Christianity and Islam**;** and the place of these religions in the 21st century in the context of human relationships, science, conflict and social justice.



GCSE Religious Studies is a perfect choice for anyone who is interested in people's beliefs and values; is fascinated by the nature and impact of religion**;** and willing to develop critical thinking. You will need to be open minded, willing to engage in debate, and be aware that others may think differently from you. You must be ready to challenge ideas, while respecting and valuing the views of others. You will reflect on, and formulate your own beliefs and values on issues like abortion, the death penalty, science and religion.



RE can lead into direct degree options such as Religious Studies, Philosophy and Theology. However, many people go on to careers in Politics, Law, Medicine, Journalism, Media, Public Services, education but the options are limitless. Universities and the working world value Religious studies as it teaches about how human belief can shape our lives.

<u>COURSE OUTLINE</u>

Paper 1: Study of Religions (written examination) 1 hour and 45 minutes *50% of the qualification*

Content: This paper looks at two religions in depth; Christianity: Beliefs and practices; Islam: Beliefs and practices

Paper 2: Thematic Studies (written examination) 1 hour and 45 minutes *50% of the qualification*

Content: There are 4 topics in this paper which apply both religions to themes: Religion, War and Conflict; Human Relationships; Religion, Crime and Punishment; Religion and life.

GCSE Spanish

Modern Foreign Languages are increasingly important for today's young people. As an integral part of the English Baccalaureate, a GCSE in Spanish will equip you with a skill that can be utilised in countless careers. Spanish is the fourth most spoken language in the world with over 400 million speakers worldwide. Students with an additional language have a huge range of opportunities open to them and will be well placed in competing for the best university courses. The aim of our Spanish department is to develop competence in oral and written communication, so that you become confident in dealing with a range of authentic listening and reading material and gain a sound working knowledge of basic grammatical structures. You will also learn a huge amount about English through your study of Spanish, as well as gaining an insight into the cultures of Spanish speaking countries.

COURSE OUTLINE

Paper 1: Listening: Understanding and responding to spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar for each tier. Dictation of short, spoken extracts

How it's assessed: Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier). 40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)

Paper 2: Speaking

What's assessed: Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake a Role-play. Carry out a Reading aloud task. Talk about visual stimuli

How it's assessed: Non-exam assessment (NEA). 7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time. 10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time. 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier). 25% of GCSE

Paper 3: Reading

What's assessed: Understanding and responding to written texts which focus predominantly on the vocabulary and grammar at each tier. Inferring plausible meanings of single words when they are embedded in written sentences. Translating from Spanish into English.

How it's assessed: Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier). 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier). 25% of GCSE

Paper 4: Writing

What's assessed: Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli. Translating from English into Spanish.

How it's assessed: Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier). 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier). 25% of GCSE

Assessment is set in the context of these three themes: Theme 1: People and lifestyle Theme 2: Popular culture Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

GCSE Drama

If you opt for drama you will have the opportunity to be creative and expressive. Your communication skills will be developed and this will enable you to become more articulate in your speech. You will also hone the skills needed to work co-operatively as part of a team. By the end of the course your confidence will have grown and every successful doctor, lawyer and accountant needs confidence! But, it is not all about performing. There is a written component for the drama course, which is similar to GCSE English Literature, so be prepared to work with the same level of focus and commitment.





COURSE OUTLINE

In drama your practical and written skills will be assessed.

Component One - Understanding Drama

You will have a written examination which is based on a set play and a live theatre production, and is worth 40% of the final mark.

Component Two - Devising Drama

This assessment is both practical and written, you will be required to write a 2500 word devising log about the creative process. This component is worth 40% of the final mark.

Component Three - Texts in Practice

This a practical exam and you will be assessed on your ability to stage and perform extracts from a set play. This component is worth 20% of the final mark.

Performing Arts (Music)

LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD

Do you have a passion for music? Are you a budding musician, producer, MC, DJ, singer, composer, events coordinator, arts manager? Do you want to discover more about the fantastic roles behind the scenes – from sound engineer to recording technician, event manager to producer?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including: Communication, confidence, learning independently, organisation, research, self-discipline, performing under pressure, working creatively, problem solving, stamina, taking on responsibility and time management.





COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Performing (Coursework, 30%) You will learn the skills and techniques needed to produce a successful performance of an existing work.

Unit 2: Creating (Coursework, 30%) You will learn how to create and refine your own original work in music.

Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice (Coursework, 40%) You will learn about areas of the performing arts industry that need to be considered when responding to a commission, and will consider these when coming up with and pitching your own idea.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? You will be assessed through project work. For each unit you do practical projects. The project for Units 1 & 2 will take 10 hours each and be worth 30% of your qualification. In Unit 3 your project which will take 20 hours and be worth 40% of your qualification. For each one you will be given a scenario and will need to undertake a number of tasks including research, planning, practical work and reflection.

CAREERS WITH PERFORMING ARTS Opportunities in the performing arts industry include:

- Arts administrator
- Community arts worker
- Composer
- Sound Designer
- Music therapist
- Sound technician
- Musician
- DJ
- Musical Theatre Performer
- MC
- Producer
- Events Manager

GCSE Business

Business is everywhere and by studying this subject, you will be able to invest in your future. GCSE Business will enable you to apply your knowledge to contemporary issues and to different types and sizes of businesses. You will gain a solid understanding of the main areas within a business like examining a business' financial position or thinking about the decisions a business can take when they are marketing a new product as well as analysing how global events can affect businesses.

How will it help me with my future?

As a business student, you will be valued for your ability to think commercially and creatively. The world of work will appreciate your business acumen your ability to draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems. GCSE Business is an excellent platform for those considering to enter the world of business management, financial services or law however as discussed earlier, the skills and knowledge you gain can be applied to other career pathways. This subject is also perfect for those thinking about starting their own businesses as well.



COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Investigating Small Business (written exam – 50%)

Unit 2: Building a Business (written exam – 50%)

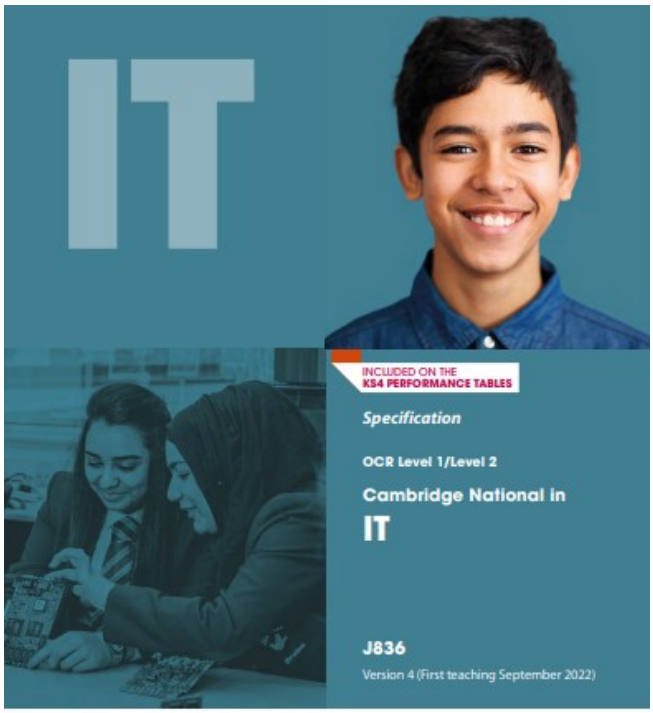
Please note there is no COURSE WORK.

Information Technology

Cambridge National in Information Technologies Level 1 / Level 2

Cambridge National in Information Technologies will improves your knowledge of the digital environment and your confidence with IT.

This qualification is suitable for students who wants progress onto other related study, such as vocational qualifications in Information Technology, A Levels, T Levels and apprenticeships.



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Cambridge Nationals

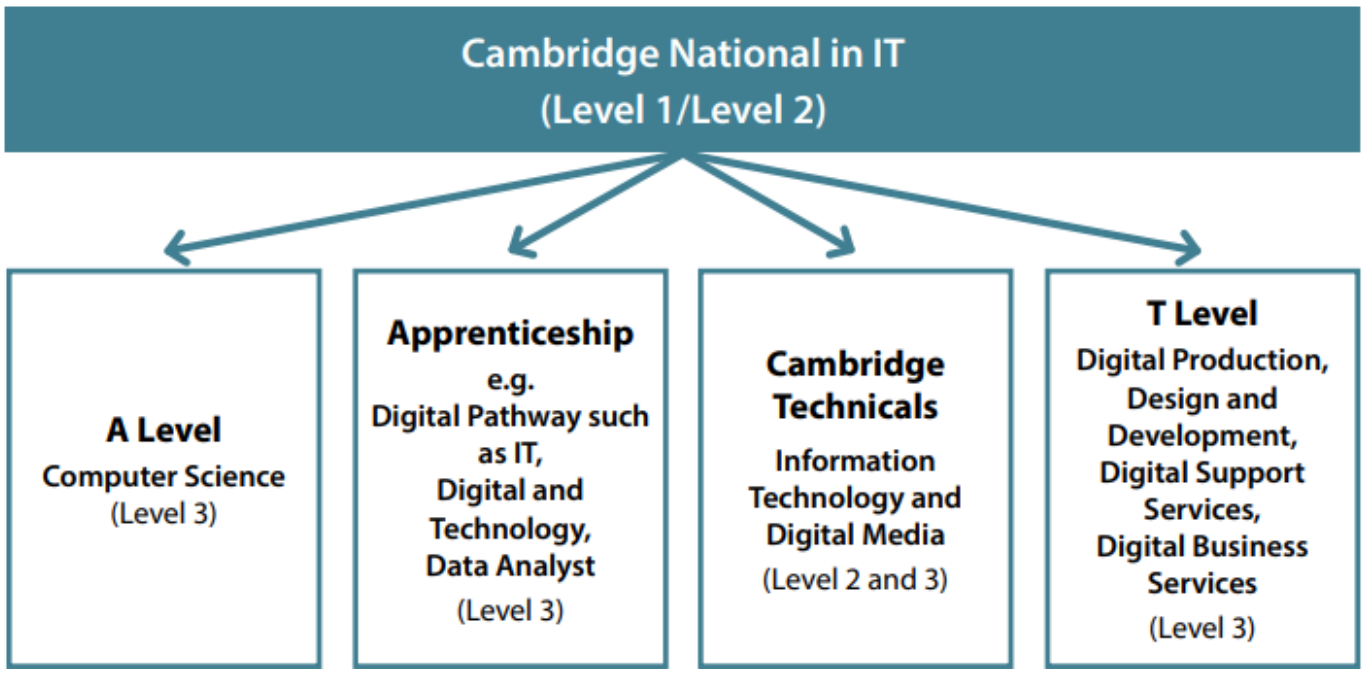
OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Course Outline

Unit RO50: IT in the Digital World (Exam)

Unit R060: Data manipulation using spreadsheets (Coursework)

Unit R070: Using Augmented Reality to Present Information (Coursework)

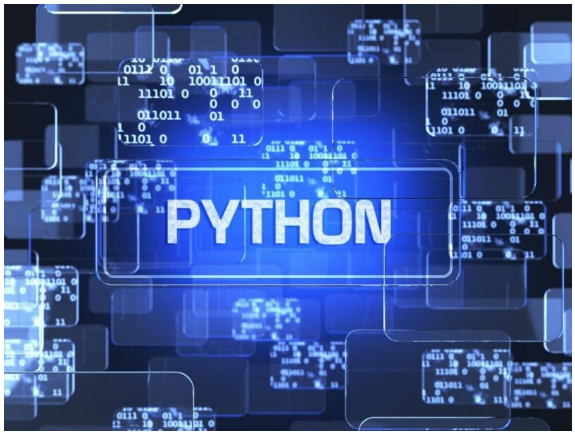


GCSE Computer Science

This course will encourage you to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.







COURSE OUTLINE

This course is 100% exam at the end of Year 11. All students will sit the same exam.

Paper 1: Computer System

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes

50% of total GCSE

80 marks

This paper consists of multiple choice ques-

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes

50% of total GCSE

80 marks

This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B.

In section A, Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in paper 1

In Section B, questions assessing students'

BTEC TECH AWARD SPORT (Equivalent to a Level 2)

If you enjoy PE and are interested in challenging yourself to study the subject at a more advanced level, then this is the course for you! As you would expect, there is a strong practical element where you will have the opportunity to develop your sporting and fitness skills. There is also a significant theoretical component where you will extend your knowledge and understanding of physical education and physical activity in relation analysing sporting performance, barriers to sport participation , coaching and leading sports activities .

This is a level 2 qualification (Equivalent to 1 GCSE). It provides students with a route to carry on with studying sport at Level 3 which is A Level study. The opportunities then become enormous, students can continue their journey in sport in ways such as; sports therapy, sports coaching, sports analysis or even a PE teacher!





COURSE OUTLINE

The course is split into 3 components:

Component 1—Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (split into 4 tasks, which is internally assessed 30%).

Component 2—Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (split into 4 tasks which is internally assessed 30%).

Component 3—Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (externally asses, exam format 40%).

GCSE Sociology



Sociology is a chance to study a brand new subject, broadening your horizons and introducing you to different ways of thinking.

Sociology offers a different perspective from what you have studied so far, helping you to develop the skills to look at the world in a critical sense and develop ideas to change and improve our society.

You will study four units, built upon a foundation of knowledge of **Sociological Theory and Methods**. You will learn about **Crime and Deviance**; the factors within society that lead people to crime and how we can control it. You will compare different **theoretical perspectives** on criminal explanations and argue their case, investigating the underreported crimes and the impact on our communities. *You will learn to develop a critical argument, bringing in both sides to reach a conclusion.*

You will also study the functions of **Education,** and what it brings to our society. We will investigate questions such as: why do girls achieve better than boys? What impact does poverty have on academic achievement? How can school culture affect our futures? *You will choose appropriate research methods to investigate key areas of Sociology, making ethical decisions and further your research understanding.*

We will investigate the role of the **Family** in society and how it has changed over the years, the changing rates of marriage and divorce and what families do that enhance or limit our opportunities to succeed. *Within this, you will learn key skills such as essay writing and interpreting sources of information to enhance your written work.*

The final module of study is **Social Stratification,** investigating different factors within society that affect our life chances such as gender, race and ethnicity. This module will give you a rounded understanding of the way our society function, expanding your understanding of the functions of different societies, comparing Capitalism to Communism and beyond.

Sociology builds key skills that can be applied to many different A levels, Level 3 study and beyond. Many people who study Sociology at GCSE go on to careers in Politics, Law, Journalism, Media, Public Services, Research and Health and Social Care, but the options are limitless. Universities and the working world value Sociology as it teaches about the running and functioning of society and the importance of key institutions within it.

<u>COURSE OUTLINE — AQA GCSE Sociology</u>

Two years of study with two final exams in the Summer of the second year of study
Modules include: Sociological Theory, Research Methods, Social Stratification, Family, Education and Crime & Deviance.

Paper 1: The Sociology of Family, Education, Social Theory and Methodology
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE grade

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance, Social Stratification, Social Theory and Methodology
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE grade

BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care

Health and Social Care is best suited to students who want to work with people in a helping capacity, be that children, elderly people, people with disabilities or any other group with additional needs. It is a hands on subject with learning that is directly relevant to your life at many different stages. Health and Social Care will help you to develop skills that are useful for your academic studies and more practical learning that you can take into your life and future careers.

BTEC subjects are mostly based on assessed tasks that are completed at the end of each period of study and will spread the pressure of GCSE study over time. This gives students many opportunities to showcase their knowledge and build up a strong foundation before sitting an externally assessed task. You will cover a range of units that look at the **human development** and factors that may impact on development from birth to death. You will gain a greater understanding of **health and social care services and values** and the provision that supports people with a range of needs in our communities, with the potential to use those skills in practical engagements with service users. Finally you will learn about physical and mental **health and wellbeing** and how to improve it. This is the exam unit which will also draw on the knowledge you have gained in the previous two units. This will act as a taste of the many careers where you can use Health and Social Care, such as nursing & midwifery, childcare, care assistance, speech and language therapy, disability support, social work and many more.





COURSE OUTLINE

Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care—Level 2

Three components studied over two years:

Component 1—Human Lifespan Development (30%)

Internally assessed task, externally moderated

Component 2— Health and Social Care Values and Services (30%)

Internally assessed task, externally moderated

Component 3—Health and Wellbeing (40%)

Externally assessed synoptic exam, 2 hours & 60 marks

GCSE Art



In this course you will study drawing, painting, collage, printmaking and various sculpture techniques. You will also learn about artists from other times and cultures through visiting galleries and museums in London. You will learn to work with a wide variety of media, developing your techniques. This course, therefore, is an excellent base for students wishing to pursue a career in art or design-based industries. These could include gallery/museum management, architecture, fashion, advertising, animation, games designer, photo journalism, 3-D industry, illustration, printer, studio painter. Much of the work you do in this course will already be familiar to you as it leads on (at a much higher level) from the work you completed in KS3.













COURSE OUTLINE

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (coursework – 60%)

This portfolio contains all your artwork produced during Years 10 to 11. You will be expected to research your work and show evidence of how you have explored your ideas and developed your skills. Your supporting studies are as important as the finished pieces and so your books should be packed! You will be expected to research themes, develop personal ideas and make observations relating to artists that you have studied. Independent research is a key element of this and it is essential that your work is presented to a high standard at all times.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (exam – 40%)

The assignment consists of a broad based thematic starting point set by the exam board. The topic will be given to you in early February of Year 11 and you will have eight weeks of preparation time before a final ten-hour exam. Again, your preparatory material, sketches and research are as important as your final piece of work.

GCSE Food & Nutrition

Food Preparation and Nutrition helps you to understand the physical, chemical, nutritional, biological and sensory properties of foods. The aim of studying GCSE Food is to learn all about food in its widest sense and to help you to develop a wide range of food preparation skills.

Studying Food & Nutrition will give you the opportunity to understand the theoretical knowledge of Food Commodities, Principles of Nutrition, Food Spoilage, Diet and Health, Science of Foods and Food Provenance.







COURSE OUTLINE

Studying GCSE Food & Nutrition you will be assessed on two Non– Exam Assessment (NEA) element worth 50% of the final grade. The NEA is made up of two distinct tasks.

1. The **Food Investigation task** which is worth 15% of the GCSE grade.
2. The **Food Preparation task** which is worth 35% of the GCSE grade.

The assessments involve carrying out scientific investigation on the functional properties of ingredients, a practical task demonstrating your technical skills by planning, preparing, cooking and presenting three dishes within 3 hours.

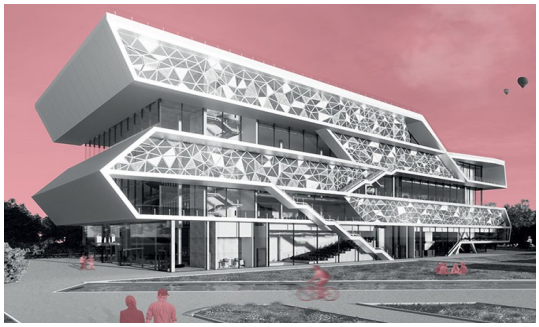
3. The **Written Examination Food and Nutrition** is designed to give you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of nutrition, to apply your knowledge of cooking and food preparation and to analyse different aspects of nutrition, food, cooking.
Section A: This is worth 20 marks. It consists of 20 multiple– choice questions.
Section B: This is worth 80 marks.

Construction and the Built Environment

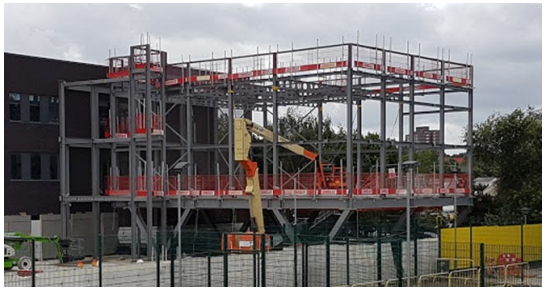
Construction, and the study of the construction, is based on the idea of practical problem solving.

For centuries, the construction industry has been at the heart of solving society's problems, and creating innovative solutions to the basic problems we encounter every day.

The construction industry plays the most hands on part in shaping the future of society and the community in which you live.









Course Outline

Course Length: 2 Years

What does the qualification cover?

•The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in the following areas:

There are 3 components

•Construction technology

•Construction in practice

•Construction and design



BTEC Design

The BTEC Tech Award in Art and Design is a **practical, creative qualification** that combines **coursework and an exam**. It is ideal for students who enjoy designing, making, and working with fabrics, paper, mixed media and materials while developing skills used in real design and creative industries.

What You Will Learn

Students will explore a range of materials, techniques, and processes while working on exciting design projects. You will learn how to research ideas, develop designs, and create high-quality design outcomes.

How the Course Is Assessed

The course is assessed through a combination of **coursework and an exam**:

Coursework (60%)

Students complete two practical units where they explore art & design techniques and produce design work and finished outcomes. This work is completed in class and assessed by your teacher.

Exam (40%)

The final unit is an externally assessed exam set by Pearson. It tests your understanding of materials, processes, design principles, and industry practice. The exam is taken under exam conditions.



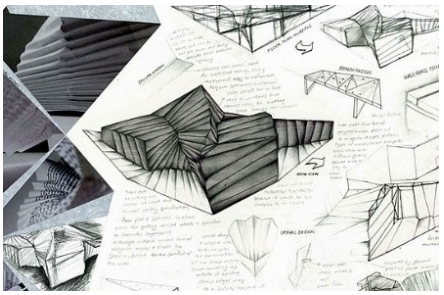


Achieve a **Level 1/2 BTEC Tech Award**, equivalent to a GCSE

Future Pathways and Ca- reers







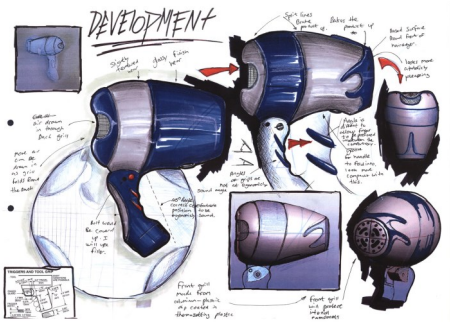
This qualification is an excellent pathway into:

Level 3 courses in Art, Design, Textiles or Product Design

Apprenticeships in creative industries

Careers such as:

Printmaker



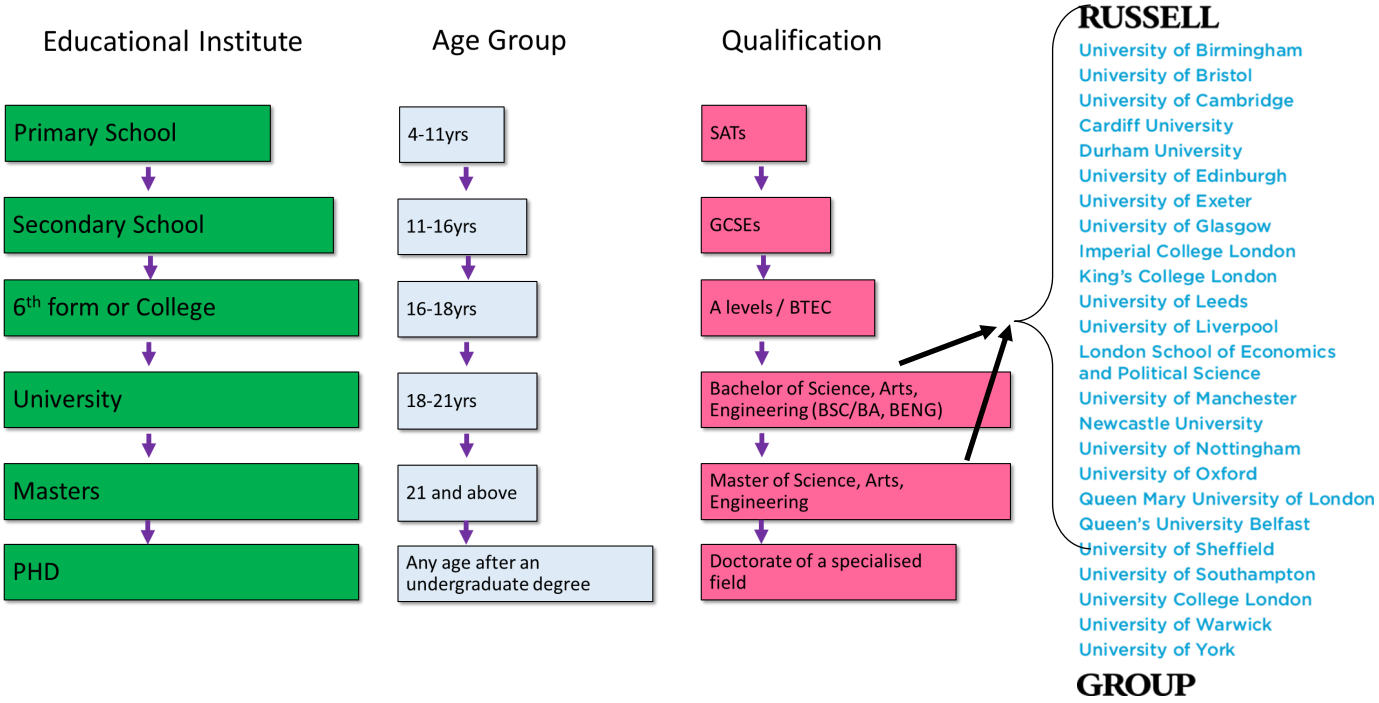




Destinations

During tutor time sessions focused on educational journeys and careers, students were encouraged to begin planning their pathways towards future careers. Tutors facilitated discussions around well-known universities, as well as apprenticeships and alternative routes, helping students explore a range of post-16 and post-18 options.

Is your journey academic?



What is an apprenticeship?

Some students may feel that an **apprenticeship** is the best route into their chosen career. An apprenticeship allows you to work in a real job while studying for a formal qualification, usually spending one day a week at college or a training centre.

By the end of the apprenticeship, students gain valuable skills, experience, and a nationally recognised qualification, which can lead directly into employment or progression to a higher-level apprenticeship.

Apprenticeships are available across a wide range of careers. For further information, please visit www.prospects.ac.uk.



Our Education & Careers Partners

To support discussion, we recommend exploring information and resources from our trusted education and community partners, who provide valuable insight into GCSE progression, post-16 options and longer-term destinations.

- **Queen Mary University of London** Offers clear guidance on academic pathways, subject progression and university study, helping families understand how GCSE choices support future success.
- **King's College London** Provides insight into academic and professional routes, including how subject choices at GCSE underpin progression to A Levels and higher education.
- **University College London** Shares information on subject pathways, skills development and progression into a wide range of degree and career routes.
- **University of Greenwich** A key local partner offering accessible prospectus information, progression guidance and examples of academic and vocational routes into higher education.
- **University of East London** Provides strong guidance on inclusive pathways, employability skills and routes into higher education, apprenticeships and professional careers.
- **University of Warwick** Offers insight into competitive academic pathways and the importance of subject choices in supporting progression to highly selective courses.
- **Tower Hamlets Council** Supports young people and families with careers guidance, training opportunities and local progression routes.
- **NHS** Provides information on a wide range of health-related careers, highlighting the skills and qualifications needed for future pathways.
- **Poplar HARCA** Supports community development, training and employment pathways, offering insight into vocational and professional routes.

Going that extra mile



Alongside your GCSE courses, you will have opportunities to take part in a wide range of **enrichment activities**. These experiences help you develop new skills and strengthen applications for future study or employment. While many students will have similar GCSEs, it is your additional experiences—such as music, drama, sport, and debating—that help you stand out.

Student Voice

The School Council is an excellent way for students to demonstrate maturity, responsibility, and leadership. By representing the views of their peers, students help shape school decisions, lead projects, and contribute positively to the school community.

Business and Careers Links

In Year 10, all students take part in a range of careers-related activities, including work with our university and business partners. Some students will also have opportunities to take part in workshops, programmes, visits, and events linked to their subjects and future career interests.

Volunteering

Students are encouraged to volunteer throughout the year and make a positive contribution to both the school and the wider community. Events such as Open Evenings, Winter Fest, and Sports Day provide opportunities to show commitment, initiative, and teamwork.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A wide range of sports and extra-curricular clubs are available, supporting physical health, wellbeing, teamwork, and resilience.

Leadership Opportunities

Students can apply for leadership roles, such as Prefects, which help develop responsibility, confidence, and organisational skills valued by employers and colleges.

Reading and Personal Development

Reading opportunities and enrichment activities support literacy, independence, and lifelong learning, helping students succeed both academically and personally.

Supporting Your Child

The partner organisations shared by the school are designed to help families understand where GCSE choices can lead, rather than to make early or fixed decisions about careers.

When using these resources with your child, focus on:

• Exploring possibilities, not selecting a final career
• Understanding the skills and habits needed for different pathways
• Seeing how GCSEs support a range of post-16 and post-18 options, including university, apprenticeships and employment

Use the information to talk together about:

• Subjects your child enjoys and is willing to work hard in
• How they cope with challenge and feedback
• The type of learning they respond best to (academic, practical, creative or mixed)

These resources are most effective when used alongside school guidance. Encourage your child to speak to their form tutor and subject teachers, and refer to the Options Booklet as the main source of accurate information.

Above all, reassure your child that GCSE choices are important, but not irreversible, and that effort, resilience and attitude matter as much as subject choice.

Parent Checklist: Before Submitting GCSE Choices

- We have read the Options Booklet together
- We understand the pathways available (academic, blended, vocational)
- We have discussed strengths, interests and challenges honestly
- We have considered workload and commitment, not just enjoyment
- We understand that not all preferences can be guaranteed
- My child has spoken to their form tutor or subject teachers
- We have explored the partner resources to understand future pathways
- We feel confident the choices give the best chance of success

If you are unsure at any stage, families are encouraged to contact the school for further guidance.

Key Contacts

We are committed to supporting families throughout the GCSE options process by ensuring clear and accessible points of contact at every stage. Parents and carers are encouraged to reach out to the school with any questions or concerns, whether about subject choices, pathways, or individual student needs. Dedicated staff are available to offer guidance, discuss options in detail, and provide reassurance, helping families to make informed and confident decisions that best support their child's future.

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