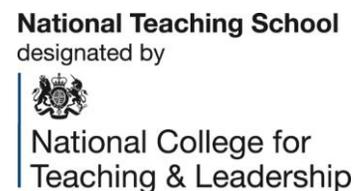
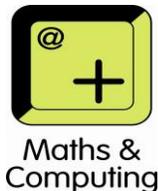


Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing



Spring 2022 KS4 Options Booklet



Options 2022 Timeline - Key Dates

FEBRUARY 2022							MARCH 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28						27	28	29	30	31		

Wednesday 2nd February

Assembly to launch Options Process

Wednesday 9th February

Assembly with Mr Moore, Careers Advisor. Year 9 Options Information on Website

Wednesday 2nd March

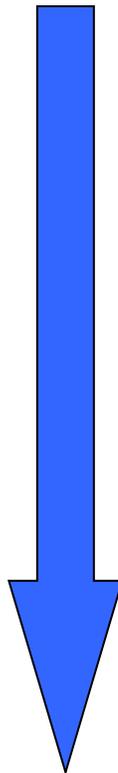
'Virtual' Parent/Carers' Evening

Wednesday 9th March

Final submission date for forms

End of summer term

Option allocations complete



You are approaching a significant time in your education at Whitburn Church of England Academy: shortly after February half term you will have considered and chosen the courses you will take in Years 10 and 11.

During the next few weeks you should discuss your ideas with your parents / carers to help clarify your thoughts about which options to choose. We hope that you will seek help and advice about your GCSEs. Your Head of Learning and Form Tutor will be very pleased to discuss any issues with you if you see them in school or contact them via 'chat' on teams.

The GCSE Options Process

As you prepare for Year 10, there are certain choices to make. Some of your subjects for next year are compulsory, as the National Curriculum states that you must study them. These Core Subjects will provide you with many of the skills you will need as you continue your education. This booklet contains a lot of information which will help you to make decisions about your GCSE option choices. Please read all the information carefully because the subjects you choose will be taken for the next two years and you will not be able to change them. This is an opportunity for you to personalise your curriculum and select subjects which you really enjoy and want to study in greater depth. There are some subjects you must take and all of this is explained in detail later in the booklet but you will receive a lot of advice and guidance from experienced staff about choices that may be suitable for you. Please listen carefully to all the advice you are given before making your choices.

You will be asked to select **five** subjects. You will be allocated **three** of your choices so it is really important that the subjects you choose are ones that you would want to do. It may not be possible to guarantee your first three choices so when you complete your online option form we will ask you to rank your subject choices 1 to 5, where 1 indicates that this is your preferred choice.

How should you choose?

As students in Year 9, it is quite natural that you may be undecided about your future plans and many of you will, without doubt, change your minds over the next two years.

You should therefore consider the following points:

- Keep your career options open by choosing **as broad a range of subjects as possible**.
- Within the bounds of the option choices available, choose subjects that you **enjoy** or in which you are **successful** (preferably both).
- **Listen** to the advice of subject teachers, especially where new subjects are involved.
- If you do have definite career/job plans at this stage find out if there are certain subjects that would be **helpful** to you to study.
- Don't take or drop subjects for the wrong reasons, and don't pay too much attention to the 'advice' given by friends: **what suits them may well not suit you**. You also may not end up in the same class.
- Do **talk** to students you know who are in Year 10 or 11 about a specific subject you might wish to study.
- Do get all the information you can from this booklet and by **asking questions** before deciding on your subjects. If you have any doubts or need any help, **ask a teacher**.
- Try not to choose a subject just because you **like** (or dislike) the teacher. You may have different teachers next year.
- Do think about your **skills** and how you work and try to match these with the different demands of the different subjects.
- Subjects have different amounts of marks awarded for examinations and for non-examined assessments. Do think carefully about **how you work best** when making your selection of subjects.

Things to think about when choosing options

Making a Balanced Choice

It is important that you continue to study a variety of courses. Not only will this contribute to your general education, it will also mean that doors to a wide number of careers and further study will remain open to you.

A limited number of universities have indicated that continuing with a language subject at GCSE is of benefit for application for a wide range of courses. Students should take this into account when making their selection of subjects.

English Baccalaureate

The Government believes that all schools should offer students a broad range of academic subjects and the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) promotes this aspiration. The English Baccalaureate is a progress measure to recognise students **achieving at least 5 good passes (Grade 5 and above)** across a core of selected academic subjects, which **must** include English Language and Literature, Mathematics, two Sciences, one Humanities subject and one Modern Foreign Language. The EBacc is not, at present, a requirement for University application. There is no additional exam and no certificate is awarded.

You will be able to study the following subjects in order to achieve the English Baccalaureate:

- GCSE English Language and English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSEs in 2 Sciences - either GCSE Combined Science, Computer Science or Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- GCSE in Geography or GCSE History
- GCSE French or GCSE in Mandarin Chinese

Any choice of options should be made on the basis of taking a balanced range of GCSE courses, considering possible future study, career options and, of course, subjects that you enjoy and have an aptitude for.

We offer the EBacc combination to all students but this is NOT compulsory.

For a **BALANCED** range of subjects, we ask that you opt for **at least one** of the following: **History, Geography or French**. *Those who are on the Mandarin Chinese course must choose this subject.*



Opting for at least one of the above will provide you with a wide range of opportunities for future studies and career decisions.

Every effort is made to enable students to study the subjects that they choose, but it should be noted that if any option is undersubscribed it will not run.

We build our Key Stage 4 timetable around the students' choices made just after these are submitted. **Changes to choices after the deadline date cannot be accommodated** so it is important that students are confident about their choices. Provisional option blocks are outlined on the last page of this booklet based on historic patterns. We ask that you look at this when considering option combinations.

All students in Year 9 are currently following the **Combined Science-Trilogy** course (two GCSEs). As the Separate Science courses are very challenging, only a small number of students will be eligible to follow this route. Students following the separate science courses will cover more content in each subject than those who follow the combined course. This means that they will cover the content at a much faster pace and will be expected to consolidate their understanding through extra home learning and independent revision. This accelerated course is only suitable for the most able students and, at a later date that we will inform you about, we will select the small number we believe can be successful following this more demanding route. These courses will lead to **three GCSEs in Science**: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The examining board is AQA.

Computer Science is available as an option for those students whose academic performance in Year 9 suggests they can cope with this course. Due to the very challenging nature of this qualification, students should currently be at least '**secure**' in their understanding of Computing in order to be considered for this course.

Looking Ahead

In two years time you will be making another vital decision about your future. Listed below are the types of courses which at present can be taken after GCSE:

A Level

To be able to study A Levels, you would usually be expected to achieve 5 GCSEs or more at grade 6 or above. Due to the changes to the qualifications, with the exception of those studying Further Maths, students will choose 3 subjects to study at A Level. These normally require two years study and will be assessed during the summer of Year 13. Some may also choose to study Core Maths or an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). Sixth Forms and post 16 providers have specific requirements for each particular course they offer: our current prospectus provides further details on the Academy website

www.whitburncofeacademy.org.

A Levels are the traditional route to Higher Education and students wishing to go to University should study 3 A Levels. Choices made at GCSE can affect what you go on to study later on, so you need to give it careful thought. Usually, if you think you might like to take a subject at A level, you should also choose to study that subject at GCSE. There are also several 'new' subjects available at A Level that can be taken without any previous study; these include Psychology and Economics. Those students targeting a future place at one of the 'Russell Group' Universities (the 24 leading Universities in the UK) should check specific courses for entry requirements as a minority can require a language and/or humanities subject at GCSE.

Vocational Courses

These can be studied over one or two years and are more practical based; these are delivered by both Colleges and school Sixth Forms.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships give you the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification and develop professional skills, while earning a salary. Mr Moore, our Careers Co-ordinator, provides impartial careers guidance advice and has further information about apprenticeships available at Level 2 and Level 3.

Who can help you choose?

Help is available in a variety of ways. We hope that the talks you have already had in school have been helpful. In addition, several people are able and willing to help:

- Subject teachers, who know your strengths and weaknesses in their subjects.
- Your Form Tutor and Head of Learning, who have an overall picture of your progress.
- Our Careers Co-ordinator, Mr Moore, who can provide specialist information and links to websites such as Unifrog.
- Mr Craggs, the Head of Sixth Form.
- Any teacher you regard as an 'adviser'; they may know you well enough to be sympathetic and to help you sort out any problems.
- Parents/carers and other relatives.

It's not easy to make decisions about your future - this is why help is available and important. Don't feel that you have to 'get on with it' by yourself - you don't!

GCSE Courses

In Year 9 you have already started your GCSE courses in Combined Sciences, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Religious Studies. For your GCSEs all assessment continues to be **linear** in structure, so that examinations are taken at the **end** of the course. Additional marks will be awarded for technical accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar for GCSEs in English Literature, Geography, History and Religious Studies. GCSEs are graded from 9 (highest) to 1.

Technical Awards

To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum for all students, we offer a number of Technical Award subjects. Technical Awards are the high quality KS4 vocational awards, which have full parity with GCSEs. However they suit the learning needs of many students more effectively as they only have one exam paper and offer more opportunities for continuous assessment. Technical Awards are graded from Distinction* to Pass at level 1 (grades 1-3) and 2 (grades 4-9 grades).

Non-exam assessment

The term 'non-exam assessment' covers a range of different forms of assessment. Non-exam assessments are not necessarily 'internally' or teacher-marked nor undertaken over an extended period of time. A performance may, for example, be undertaken under timed conditions and marked by a visiting exam board assessor, but because not all students will be assessed simultaneously it does not fall within the definition of 'assessment by exam'. The assessment breakdown is shown below:

Subject	Assessment through Examination (%)	Assessment through Non -examined work (%)
Art	0	100 (40% externally set)
Business Studies	100	0
Child Development	40	60
Computer Science	100	0
Creative Media	40	60
English Language	100	0
English Literature	100	0
Food Preparation and Nutrition	50	50
French	100	0
Geography	100	0
Graphic Design	50	50
History	100	0
IT	40	60
Mandarin Chinese	100	0
Mathematics	100	0
Media Studies	70	30
Music	40	60
PE	60	40
Performing Arts	40	60
RE	100	0
Science - Combined or Separate	100	0
Sport Studies	40	60
Sociology	100	0

Year 10 and 11 Curriculum

Everyone will study these **compulsory** subjects:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science

Religious Studies

Physical Education

Personal, Social and Health Education

Tiers of Entry

Please note that for the current *GCSE* specifications, there are only tiers of entry (higher or foundation tier) in Maths, Modern Foreign Languages and the Sciences.

In the core subjects, new sets are created as we move into Year 10. Most students will remain in the same set throughout Years 10 and 11, although a small number may be moved when progress is reviewed.



We also shuffle students from P band to Q band and vice versa. This happens every year and, as sets are changed at the start of Year 10 too, students quickly settle into their new classes.

Option Choices

You need to select to study **three option subjects** and **2 reserve choices** from the following list:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Child Development
- Computer Science *(recommended at least 'secure' on your Y9 report to be eligible)*
- Creative Media Production
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- Graphic Design
- History
- Information Technologies
- Mandarin Chinese *(compulsory for those who study this subject)*
- Media Studies
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- Sport Studies
- Sociology

You cannot opt for **both** of the **PE/Sport** or **Media** qualifications. You cannot opt for **both Graphics** and **Art**. Remember, although we offer the EBacc combination this is not compulsory. For a **balanced** range of subjects, we ask that you opt for **at least one** of the following: **Mandarin Chinese (only those that study it), French, History or Geography.**

Key Stage 4 Subjects

Art - AQA

Fine Art GCSE is a demanding yet rewarding course aimed at students who have an interest in being creative, especially by painting and drawing. Students have the opportunity to develop knowledge of collage, photography, textiles, printing and a huge range of other materials and techniques. Good organisational skills, dedication, knowledge of art theory and independent learning are essential to excel at this course. Homework is set on a weekly basis.



By studying this course, you will:

- learn how to **research** a theme and how to improve your artistic skills.
- study historical and modern **artists, crafts people and designers**.
- learn how to **develop ideas** through experimenting with a variety of materials such as painting, drawing, mixed media, digital photography, creative textiles and possibly 3D.
- learn how to **create** a large piece of work based on your research and ideas.

This course has two components:

- **Portfolio (60%)** is one full project based on a theme which you start in September Year 10 and finish in December Year 11. Additional work can also be included.
- **Externally Set Assignment (40%)** is set by AQA and issued to you in January of Year 11. You will have approximately 12 weeks to create a project then 10 hours to make a 'Final Piece'. The 10 hours is spread across two full days and you will be off timetable. This project is the Externally Set Assignment.



Post 16 Progression can include A Level Art and Photography or BTEC Diplomas in Art & Design, Graphic Design and Photography. Career opportunities are many and varied such as art therapy, fashion and textiles, computer game and web design, set design, theatrical make-up, animation, architecture and advertising to name a few.



Contact: Mrs Dembry

Business Studies - Edexcel

The Business Studies GCSE course is divided into two themes:

- Theme 1: Investigating a small business
- Theme 2: Building a business



By studying this subject you will:

- Learn how small businesses are started, discover how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy.
- Discover how businesses grow and investigate the factors that affect them in local, national and global contexts.
- Learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them.
- Look at real life business situations and understand why they are happening.

Assessment

Theme 1: Written examination paper consisting of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. (50% of the final grade).

Theme 2: Written examination paper consisting of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. (50% of the final grade).

Post 16 Progression This can include studying A-levels in Business or Economics. Apprenticeships are often available in accountancy firms, retail businesses, insurance, banking and other financial areas. Business Studies and Economics can be studied to degree level, allowing you to specialise in areas such as international business, marketing, human resources management, global finance or economic development.

Contact: *Ms Thirlwell*



Child Development – OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 2

This technical award qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in child development. It will prepare students for further qualifications in Child Care, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology.



Assessment

R057: Health and well-being for child development (Written paper – 40%)

You will learn about topics such as:

- Pre-conception health and reproduction
- Antenatal care and preparation for birth
- Postnatal checks, postnatal care and the conditions for development
- Childhood illnesses and a child safe environment

R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years (Centre Assessed Unit – 30%)

You will learn about topics such as:

- Creating a safe environment in a childcare setting
- Choosing suitable equipment for a childcare setting
- Nutritional needs of children from birth to five years

R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years (Centre Assessed Unit – 30%)

You will learn about topics such as:

- Physical, intellectual and social developmental norms from one to five years
- Stages and types of play and how play benefits development
- The development of a child aged one to five years
- How to plan and evaluate play activities for a child aged one to five years for a chosen area of development.

Post 16 Progression: The knowledge and skills you develop will help you to progress onto further study in the care sector. You may want to go on to further study such as A levels, Technical Awards or a mixture of both.

Contact: *Mrs Tennet*

Computer Science - AQA

This demanding AQA course is aimed at students who have an interest in a career in computing, engineering or science. **Students need to have a keen interest in problem solving and programming.** Computer Science is available as an option for those students whose academic performance in Year 9 suggests they can cope with this course. Students should currently be **at least secure** in their understanding of **Computing** in order to be considered for this course.



By studying this course, you will:

- develop an understanding of current and emerging technologies;
- learn how to write computer programs using Python programming language;
- make informed decisions about the use of Computing devices; learn about Cyber Security and the issues involved in keeping data and computer systems secure.

Assessment

This course has two components:

- 'Computational Thinking and Programming Skills' assessed through a written paper. (50% of the GCSE grade).
- 'Computing Concepts' assessed through a written paper. (50% of the GCSE grade).

Post 16 Progression: This course will allow progression to courses such as A-level Computer Science. This in turn can lead to a range of careers such as games developer, systems analyst and cyber security specialist.

Contact: *Mr Mulford*

Creative Media Production - Edexcel BTEC Level 2

This highly enjoyable qualification gives you the chance to develop practical Media skills and techniques, learn how to respond to a brief, and explore potential careers in the industry. You will have access to industry standard resources such as Adobe Creative Cloud for photo and video editing, as well have lots of opportunities to develop your cinematography and photography skills.

As the BTEC Technical Award in Creative Media Production is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, you can explore the sector while:

- developing skills in the medium/ format you enjoy
- producing your creative response to a brief
- reviewing and reflecting on your work



The course has three components:

Component 1: Exploring Media Products - 30% - Internally Assessed

Learn about the Media sector and investigate products you enjoy from across the following sectors:

- audio/moving image (TV programmes, films, video shorts and animations)
- publishing (newspapers, magazines, books, e-magazines, comics)
- interactive (websites, mobile applications, mobile games, video games).

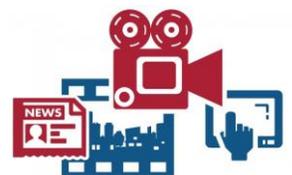
Component 2: Developing Digital Media Production Skills - 30% - Internally Assessed

- Work through the pre-production, production and post-production phases to create your own print, moving image or interactive piece.

Component 3: Create a Media product in response to a brief - 40% - Externally Assessed

- Apply the skills you have learnt in a timed response scenario as you respond to a brief.

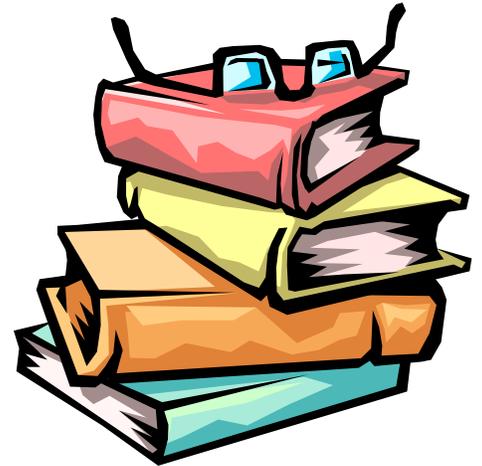
Post 16 Progression: This course leads to further vocational and academic study at level 3, such as Media Studies or Film A-level, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.



Contact: Mr Thompson

English Literature and English Language - AQA - Compulsory

You will study an integrated course - AQA GCSE English Language / English Literature. This will generate two separate GCSE qualifications. The syllabus contains reading and writing elements as well as a spoken language assessment. All students will be entered for both Language and Literature examinations. Both English Language and English Literature are linear, non-tiered courses culminating in examinations worth 100% of the overall grade.



There will be two written examination papers for Language and two for Literature. Additional marks will be awarded for technical accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) throughout.

Post 16 Progression English is a requirement for the vast majority of Post-16 courses and employers look for it too. Having a GCSE in English will help you in all career paths in the future. These subjects can also help you towards a career in the legal profession, broadcasting, publishing, journalism, marketing, editorial work, copywriting, library work, acting, translating and teaching, to name a few.

If you fail to secure a grade 4 or above at GCSE, you now have to continue with this subject at Sixth Form or College. This also applies even if you are completing an apprenticeship or other work related training.

Contact: *Miss Adamson*



Food Preparation and Nutrition - Eduqas (WJEC)

This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on nurturing practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition. It equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Over the course students will develop a wide range of practical skills, in preparation for a three hour practical assessment. Students will generate a portfolio of skills as they complete the course.



How GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is assessed



Food Preparation and Nutrition Written Examination (50%)

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the six areas of content through theory and practical based tasks and activities. These areas are (1) Food commodities, (2) Principles of nutrition, (3) Diet and good health, (4) The science of food (5), Where food comes from and (6) Cooking and Food Preparation.

Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action (50%)

This component consists of two pieces of non-examination assessment; (i) a scientific food investigation which will assess knowledge and understanding in relation to scientific principles and (ii) a food preparation assessment where students will need to prepare, cook and present a menu of 3 dishes and supporting written evidence.



Students will be expected to provide their own ingredients for Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE lessons, though financial assistance may be available.

Post 16 Progression: Food Technology career possibilities include those in food marketing management, food product design, nutrition, catering, public health and hospitality business management.

Contact: Mrs Dembry

French - AQA

You will follow the **AQA Specification GCSE in French**. This will build upon the language learnt in KS3.

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). The course is entirely assessed by final examinations. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing examinations will be taken at the end of year 11. In the French GCSE course, you will study three themes, divided into topics.

- **Identity and culture:**
 - *Me, my family and my friends*
 - *Technology in everyday life*
 - *Free time activities*

- **Local, national, international and global areas of interest**
 - *Home, town, neighbourhood and region*
 - *Social issues*
 - *Global issues*
 - *Travel and tourism*

- **Current and future study and employment**
 - *My studies*
 - *Life at school/ college*
 - *Education post-16*
 - *Jobs, career choices and ambitions*



The final examination tests four skill areas:

- Paper 1: Listening (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam
 - Section A: questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
 - Section B: questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

- Paper 2: Speaking (25% of the overall GCSE): non-exam assessment
 - Role-play
 - Conversation around a photocard
 - General conversation

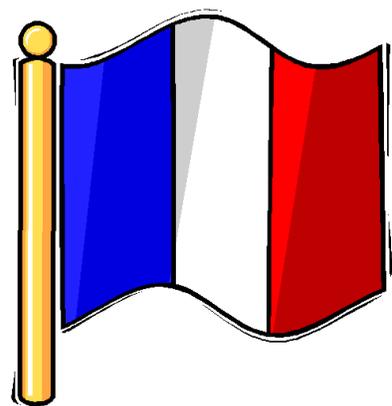
- Paper 3: Reading (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam
 - Section A: questions in English to be answered in English or non-verbally
 - Section B: questions in French to be answered in French or non-verbally
 - Section C: translation from French into English

- Paper 4: Writing (25% of the overall GCSE)
 - Foundation Tier
 - Question 1: message (response to a photo)
 - Question 2: short passage (4 bullet points)
 - Question 3: translation from English into French
 - Question 4: structured writing task (90 words)

 - Higher Tier
 - Question 1: structured writing task (90 words)
 - Question 2: open ended writing task (150 words)
 - Question 3: translation from English into French (90 words)

Post 16 Progression Languages can be studied to A-level and to degree level. Careers include interpreting, translating or teaching. However, as many jobs now require people to speak more than one language, being able to do so will increase your employability.

Contact: *Mrs Latimer Mills*



Geography - AQA

This GCSE course is divided into three units:

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment - you will study topics such as 'The challenge of natural hazards', 'The living world' and 'Physical landscapes in the UK'.

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment - you will study topics such as 'Urban issues and challenges', 'The changing economic world' and 'The challenge of resource management'.

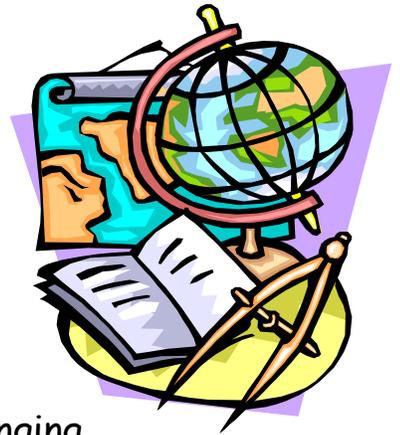
Unit 3: Geographical applications - this involves issue evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills

Assessment

You will sit three examination papers (one each for Units 1, 2 & 3). Paper 1 and 2 are each worth 35%, so comprise 70% of the total marks. The other 30% of the marks are gained from Paper 3.

Post 16 Progression The skills you develop in your geographical studies make you of potential interest to a wide range of employers as it is a much respected academic subject. Associated future careers include environmental and transport consultancy, surveying, cartography and architecture. In addition many geographers move into finance, law, accountancy and marketing.

Contact: Mrs Matterson



Graphic Design: NCFE Level 2

The Graphic Design technical award course is an exciting and creative course, which uses a wide range of media in the production of the final pieces of work.

Mixed Medias include:

- Computer manipulation
- Video editing
- Paints / Pastels / Oils/ Coloured pencils
- Range of papers
- Photography

Students are able to choose a range of media to complete the briefs given, throughout the course. **Students cannot take both GCSE Art and Graphics.**

The course is broken down into 4 Units:

Unit 1: Introduction to Graphic Design

Unit 2: Graphic Design Practice

Unit 3: Responding to a Graphic Design Brief

Unit 4: Graphic Design Portfolio



Unit 1 and 2 are completed in Year 10 and Unit 3 and 4 are completed in Year 11.

The assessment consists of 2 types of assessment:

- **Internal assessment** - portfolio of evidence. This will be graded by centre staff and externally moderated by NCFE. This accounts for **50%** of the final grade.
- **External assessment** - 10 hour task-based exam. This accounts for **50%** of the final grade.

The course is graded at Level 2 with a PASS, MERIT, DISTINCTION and DISTINCTION*.

Post 16 Progression May lead to further studies such as Level 3 or A Level qualifications in Design and Technology or Art and Design. It can lead to a variety of careers such as those in web design, animation, games design and production, architecture, marketing and advertising.

Contact: *Mrs Dembry*

History - AQA

Component 1: Understanding the Modern World

Section A: Period Studies

America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality - including the Boom of the 1920s, the Depression of the 1930s, the USA during and after World War Two, including the Civil Rights movement.

Section B: Wider World Depth Studies

Conflict and Tension, 1918-1939 - including the Versailles Treaty, The League of Nations and the Causes of World War 2.



Component 2: Shaping the Nation

Section A: Thematic Study

Britain: Power and the People: c1170 to the present day - about the power of the rulers and the struggles of ordinary people to gain more rights and freedom.

Section B: British Depth Studies, including the historical environment

Elizabethan England, c1568-1603 - Elizabeth's court, everyday life, threats to Elizabeth and England, and a study of a key Elizabethan environmental feature.

Assessment

Component 1: Written exam worth 50% of the total marks.

Component 2: Written exam worth 50% of the total marks.

Post 16 Progression History can be studied at A level, but also prepares students for studying other subjects with extended writing. History is a much respected academic subject that can lead to any job that requires higher level analysis and evaluation, good research skills, good verbal and written communication skills and an understanding of people.

Contact: *Mr Liddle*

IT: OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in IT

This high quality technical award qualification is aimed at students who would like the opportunity to develop IT knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. It can complement GCSE courses such as Business Studies and Media Studies. It requires students to apply their knowledge and skills in practical ways, through engaging projects that will enable them to develop their ideas.

By studying this course, you will:

- Use different applications and tools to design, create and evaluate IT solutions and products.
- Select the best tools and techniques to solve a problem.
- Solve problems by exploring different software application tools and techniques.
- Create IT solutions and digital products.
- Use planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised and timely way.
- Find imaginative ways to solve IT problems.



Assessment

The course is assessed over three units.

- **IT in the Digital World (40% external assessed examination).** You will learn about design and testing concepts for creating an IT solution using a variety of design tools and testing strategies. You will study cyber-security, digital communications and the Internet of Everything (IoE).
- **Data Manipulation using Spreadsheets (30% internally assessed NEA).** You will plan, design, create, test and evaluate a spreadsheet to meet a client's requirements.
- **Using Augmented Reality to Present Information (30% internally assessed NEA).** You will design, create, test and review an Augmented Reality model prototype.

Post-16 progression includes T Levels or A Levels, as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects or an apprenticeship in the IT sector. This award can support most career choices as employers value digital skills in a world where digital technology is transforming all aspects of the economy and society.

Contact: Mr Mulford

Mandarin Chinese - AQA

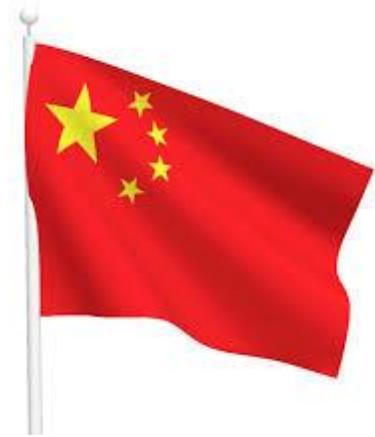
Those who currently study Mandarin will continue with this subject at GCSE. You will follow the **AQA Specification GCSE in Chinese (Spoken Mandarin)**. This will build upon the language learnt in KS3. This course is entirely assessed by final examinations. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing examinations will take place at the end of Year 11.

In the Mandarin GCSE course, you will study three themes, divided into topics:

- **Identity and Culture**
 - *Me, my family and friends*
 - *Technology in everyday life*
 - *Free time activities*
 - *Customs and Festivals in Chinese speaking countries/communities*

- **Local, national, international and global areas of interest.**
 - *Home, town, neighbourhood and region*
 - *Social issues*
 - *Global issues*
 - *Travel and tourism*

- **Current and future study and employment**
 - *My studies*
 - *Life at school/college*
 - *Education post-16*
 - *Jobs, career choices and ambitions*



The final examination tests four skill areas:

- Paper 1: Listening (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam.
 - All questions in English and to be answered in English or non-verbally.

- Paper 2: Speaking (25% of the overall GCSE): non-exam assessment.
 - Role-play
 - Conversation around a photocard
 - General conversation.

- Paper 3: Reading (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam.
 - Sections A: questions in English to be answered in English.
 - Section B: translation from Chinese into English - Foundation Tier minimum 35 characters. Higher Tier minimum 50 characters.

- Paper 4: Writing (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam.
 - Foundation Tier
 - Question 1: message (response to photo)
 - Question 2: short passage (4 bullet points)
 - Question 3: translation from English into Chinese
 - Question 4: structured writing task

 - Higher Tier:
 - Question 1: structured writing task
 - Question 2: open ended writing task
 - Question 3: translation from English into Chinese

Contact: *Mrs Latimer Mills*



Mathematics - Compulsory - Edexcel

Mathematics is an essential skill in daily life as it is required to manage personal finances and assist in problem solving.

Students will be following a linear course which will be examined at the end of two years. The advantage of following a linear course is that the content can be taught in any order to help students make connections across the different topic areas of mathematics and also there is a much lower burden of assessment throughout the course. This means that students are generally more focused and mature by the time they come to sit their Mathematics exam.



Maths is for everyone. It will develop your problem-solving and reasoning skills, as well as your ability to use and apply standard techniques. The course also encourages you to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in your own life and to society.

Assessment is by three written examination papers at the end of the course; two calculator papers and one non-calculator. The topic areas are Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Statistics and Probability. There are two tiers of entry.

Post 16 Progression It has been proven that studying mathematics helps to increase your chances of future employment as most jobs require a basic level of mathematical competency. Furthermore GCSE Mathematics is an essential entry requirement for many Post-16 courses. **If you fail to secure a grade 4 or above at GCSE, you now have to continue with this subject at Sixth Form or College. This also applies even if you are completing an apprenticeship or other work related training.** It prepares you for A-level Mathematics and Science courses, as well as other subjects which involve statistics and numeracy, i.e. Economics, PE and Geography. Mathematics can also be studied to degree level, either as a stand-alone subject or as part of a course such as electronics, engineering and computer science.

Contact: *Mrs Bartch*

Media Studies – Eduqas (WJEC)

In this engaging GCSE course you will learn to:

- Analyse and compare media products from the past and present
- Develop practical skills by providing opportunities for production using Adobe Creative Cloud
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of media issues
- Develop understanding of the media and its role in society
- Demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making, and analysis

There are three components:

Component 1: Exploring Media Language and Representation

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Component 3: Creating Media Products



Assessment

Component 1 covers the film industry, newspapers, radio, advertising, video games, and magazines; It is a written exam and is worth 30%

Component 2 covers television crime drama, music videos, social media & websites. It is a written exam and is worth 40%

Component 3 is your response to a brief set by the exam board, it is non-examination assessment (coursework) and makes up the final 30%.

There are links with English and English Literature as you critically evaluate texts. There are also strong links with ICT through the involvement of technology in media production and the careful consideration of audience.



Post 16 Progression

Some go on to study A-level Media or Film Studies. However this course gives you a valuable insight into media related work such as advertising, digital manipulation, and web design, as well as the film and video game industries.

Contact: *Mr Thompson*

Music - Edexcel



You will learn how to improve your performing skills and, through work in composing, gain an insight into how music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product. You will also be expected to analyse music in a variety of styles through generic listening questions and detailed study of eight set works; two works for each of the following areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700 - 1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.

There are 3 units:

Unit 1: Performing Music (30%) - You will produce both a solo and an ensemble performance which will be recorded and assessed in the academic year in which you will be awarded the qualification. The performances must last a minimum of four minutes in total and may be on any instrument and in any style. The standard level of performance is around ABRSM (or equivalent examination board) grade 4 and continual practice throughout the course is required. Controlled assessment conditions will apply to this unit.

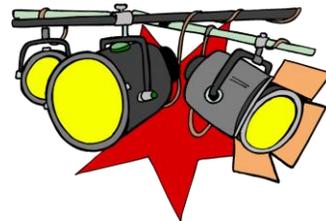
Unit 2: Composing Music (30%) - You will produce two compositions; one to a set brief from the examination board and one of your own choice. The combined length of the two pieces will be a minimum of three minutes. Controlled assessment conditions will apply to this unit.

Unit 3: Music - Listening and Appraising (40%) - This is an externally marked examination covering; the four areas of study, aural and theory skills.

Post 16 Progression: Music is a good preparation and solid foundation for further study in Music and Music Technology, as well as being recognised by 'Russell Group' Universities. It can lead to careers in the music industry, publishing, teaching and entertainment, or any job that involves communication and expressive skills. Your listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations. Performing skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience; useful if you intend to pursue a career in Performing Arts, Business or Law.

Contact: *Miss Cresswell*

Performing Arts - WJEC



WJEC Performing Arts Technical Award provides students with opportunity to develop:

- students' knowledge and understanding of the performing arts sector;
- practical skills;
- performing, creating and performance arts in practice;
- working as part of a team.

Assessment consists of three units. All units involve working to a brief. Upon completion, students will be awarded on a Pass/Merit/Distinction scale.

Unit 1 - Performance (60 marks - 30%) - enables learners to gain a holistic knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to reproduce an existing piece of professional/published work. This can be done through Drama or Musical Theatre.

Unit 2 - Creating (60 marks - 30%) - Unit 2 enables learners to gain, develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to create and refine original work in the performing arts. This can be done as a designer (costume/set/lighting.)

Unit 3 - Performing Arts in Practice (80 marks - 40%) - introduces learners to areas of the performing arts that need to be considered when responding to an industry commission, and will involve marketing and research.

Post 16 Progression. This course leads to more advanced qualifications including A Level Theatre Studies or Performing Arts. Drama can benefit students who wish to pursue a career in the arts, media, the communications industry, law, marketing and any career that is public facing.



Contact: *Miss Wilson*

PSHE/RSE - Compulsory

This is not a GCSE course. Throughout the programme you are taught by your Form Tutors and specialist speakers where appropriate. Elements in this course will include Health Education, Careers Education, Personal Development, RSE and Citizenship. RSE lessons will focus on healthy relationships, which include relationships with friends, family and partners and online.

You will be encouraged to develop your confidence, independent learning skills and to take on responsibility. You will also be encouraged to engage in group and class discussions, developing good relationships and to respect diversity between people. You will also be taught how to develop a healthy, safe lifestyle and economic and financial awareness.



Careers Education is an important part of this course and you will develop your own Independent Learning Plan (ILP). Preparation for Work Experience will take place and time will also be given so that you can negotiate GCSE and learning targets.

You will use the Unifrog program to research careers and create a detailed CV and personal statement to support you in your post-16 choices. This will provide useful evidence to show future employers.

The PSHE programme will run alongside your long registration activities and assembly topics, therefore you will be able to create a greater understanding of the topics covered and develop your learning and self-reflection skills.

You will develop enterprising skills and attitudes to prepare you for work and later life. You will also be empowered to take responsibility towards achieving your goals.

Contact: *Mrs Craig*



Physical Education - Compulsory

All students will be involved in a range of activities that develops personal fitness and promotes an active, healthy lifestyle. Students will opt to follow an 'individual' or 'team' pathway which will both aim to develop their technique and improve performance in their chosen activities. GCSE PE pupils will be encouraged to take part in the activities that will best support their practical assessment.

Physical Education - AQA

The GCSE course is made up of two exams (60%) and practical assessments (40%). Both exams are written papers lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. Questions are multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer and extended answers.

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport (30%)

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training



Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport (30%)

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being



Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity (40%)

This is a controlled assessment worth 40% of the total marks. Practical performance will be assessed across three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in a team or individual activity). In school you will complete at least four assessments as a performer across a range of team and individual sports.

You may be assessed in practical activities that you complete outside of school (Golf, Skiing, Canoeing, Equestrian etc) that are not delivered on-site. Where an assessed activity has been performed outside of school, an audio-visual recording is required. Each sport/activity is worth 25 marks and you will also be assessed in your ability to analyse and evaluate your performance in your main sport. This is also worth 25 marks.

Examples of sports that can be assessed;

Team	Individual
Football, Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Handball, Hockey, Cricket, Badminton (Doubles), Dance, Tennis (Doubles), Volleyball	Table Tennis, Badminton, Tennis, Trampolining, Athletics, Climbing, Dance, Swimming, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics, Squash, Golf, Sailing

This course is suitable for students who take part in at least two sports/activities to a good standard. Due to the substantial amount of physiology theory contained in this course, they must have a keen interest in the theoretical side of Physical Education/Sport.

Post 16 Progression This course provides an excellent foundation for pursuing a range of Post-16 courses such as A level Physical Education and allows for progression to related vocational qualification such as BTEC Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Science. With further training, it can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities in sports science, teaching, recreational management, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry and the armed forces.

Contact: *Mr Leggett*



Religious Studies - AQA - Compulsory

You will follow the **GCSE Full Course**. This GCSE course commenced in Year 9 and lasts for three years.

The GCSE course is designed to allow you to make a thematic study of religion and religious responses to fundamental questions of life, with a particular focus on ethical and philosophical issues. Topics include:

Component 1

Christianity

Islam

Component 2

Religion and life

Religion, peace and conflict

Religion, crime and punishment

'Relationships and families' or 'The existence of God and revelation'



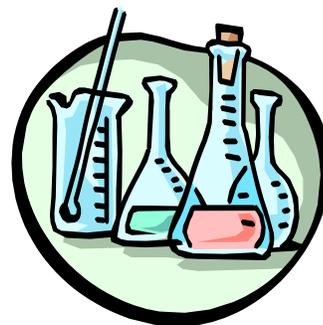
There is one written paper for each component and each contributes 50% of the total marks.

Post 16 Progression Religious Studies is a valuable entry qualification to Post-16 education. This course develops your ability to listen, share and express views. It also develops your ability to acknowledge and respect others' opinions on a range of moral and ethical issues and questions of belief. Some go on to study Religious Studies, which explores the philosophy of religion and ethical theory at A level.

Contact: *Dr Henderson*

Science - AQA - Compulsory

All students in Year 9 have already started to follow the **Combined Science** course (two GCSEs).



Science - GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

The majority of students will sit the **AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy**. This is a double award, so equivalent to two GCSEs in Science and offers a good grounding in all 3 scientific disciplines. It is taught as three separate sciences, but assessed and awarded as a combined science.

Topics covered will include areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics - focusing on 'How Science Works'. These will be assessed by external assessments in Year 11. These papers contribute 100% of the final marks. There is also a 'required' practical element to the GCSE, where you will be assessed on your practical skills.

Separate Sciences

As the Separate Science courses are very challenging, only a small number of students will be eligible to follow this course. Students following the separate science courses will cover more content in each subject than those who follow the combined course. This means that they will cover the content at a faster pace and will be expected to consolidate their understanding through extra home learning and independent revision. This accelerated course is only suitable for the most able students and, at a later date, we will select the small number of students we believe can be successful following this more demanding route. These courses will lead to **three GCSEs in Science**: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The examining board is AQA.

Post 16 Progression Both the combined course and separate sciences will give you a firm foundation for a wide range of further qualifications including A-levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Future careers include medicine and veterinary care.

Contact: *Mrs Pollard, Dr Holder and Miss Kiefer*

Sport Studies - OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 2



The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies is a technical award that takes a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/Physical Education themes.

Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and outdoor activities. Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry. This course is suitable for students who enjoy taking part in sport, are interested in coaching/leadership and outdoor activities.

The course consists of three units. With the exception of Unit 1, these are assessed through coursework only. Unit 1 is assessed externally through a written exam. Each piece of coursework ranges from experimental reports, interviews, investigative research, practical assessments and presentations. **Unit 1 is worth 40%, whereas Unit 2 and 3 are worth 30% each.**

Units	How assessed?
<i>R184: Contemporary issues in sport</i>	Written paper 1 hour and 15 minutes -70 marks
<i>R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities</i>	Centre assessed tasks, OCR moderated.
<i>R187: Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities</i>	Centre assessed tasks, OCR moderated.

Post 16 Progression: It provides students with the opportunity to enter employment in the sport and active leisure sector or to progress to other vocational qualifications such as BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport or on to A level Physical Education. It also provides students the opportunity to develop a range of skills, techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life. This course is a starting point for a route to employment into many diverse areas of sport, including junior level roles in the sport and active leisure sector, such as recreation assistant or sports leader.

Contact: Mr Leggett

Sociology - AQA

Sociology is the study of society. This GCSE course is divided into two parts:

Part 1: The sociology of families and education.

Social theory and methodology. (How sociologists carry out their research into society).

Part 2: The sociology of crime and deviance.

Social stratification. (Social class and power in society).

Topics will include:

- Family forms and the changing nature of the family including divorce rates.
- The roles and functions of education and factors that affect student achievement.
- Why crime exists and explanations of why there are differences between male and female rates of crime.
- Factors affecting people's life chances and poverty as a social issue.



Assessment

You will sit 2 exam papers, each of which make up 50% of the GCSE. Each section has a range of multiple choice questions and a combination of short and extended answers.

Post 16 Progression

This course will provide an excellent base for studying A-level Sociology. However, this course is for anyone who wants to learn more about the society in which we live and has an interest in the world around them. It is useful for any career which will involve working with people from a range of backgrounds.

Contact: *Miss Boswell*

Choosing your Options

You will be sent an online Options Form. This should be completed by **3.30pm on Wednesday 9th March 2022**.

Please note that we **cannot guarantee** that everyone will follow their first three choices; we must consider student suitability, class sizes, staff numbers and the availability of specialist rooms. You must also choose your option choices carefully as you will **not** be able to change your choices after your form has been submitted.

To complete the online Options Form:

- Please rank your 5 choices you have made in order of preference

Remember:

- You cannot opt for **both** of the **PE/Sport** qualifications
- You cannot opt for **both** of the **Media/Creative Media** qualifications
- You cannot opt for **both Art and Graphics** qualifications
- Check you have chosen at least **one** of the following as a choice: **Geography, History, French or Mandarin Chinese (compulsory choice for those that study it)**
- Please look at the provisional option blockings on the next page when making your choices

Please note that all the information contained in this options booklet is current at the time of issue. However we reserve the right to make specification changes in the best interest of students or as a consequence of legislation.



Provisional Option Blocks 2022-2024

Option Block X	Option Block Y	Option Block Z
Business Studies	Art	Art
Creative Media	Child Development	Business Studies
Geography	Computing Science	Food and Nutrition
History	French	French
Music	Geography	Geography
PE	Geography	Graphics (Art)
PE	History	Mandarin Chinese <i>(or Block X)</i>
Sociology	IT	Media Studies
Sports Studies	Performing Arts	Sociology

- You cannot opt for **both** of the **PE/Sport** qualifications
- You cannot opt for **both** of the **Media/Creative Media** qualifications
- You cannot opt for **both Art and Graphics** qualifications
- You cannot opt for both **Mandarin Chinese** and **French**

- Check you have chosen at least **one** of the following as a choice: **Geography, History, French or Mandarin Chinese (compulsory choice for those that currently study it).**