

Durrington High School

Options 2023



Languages

Mathematics



Food Technology

Sports



Humanities

Art & Design



Religious Education

Media



Music

Performing Arts



Computer Science

English



Sciences

Business Studies



Design Technology

Dance

Decisions about courses in years 10 and 11

Parent/carers and student guide

Options, Choices and Decisions

Dear year 9 student,

You have reached a very important stage in your education and we look forward to supporting you through this exciting time. In the next few weeks you will need to decide which subjects to study in year 10 and 11. Please read this booklet carefully as it will help to explain how the process will work for each of you.

There are some subjects all students have to study at GCSE. At Durrington these are: English Language, English Literature, mathematics and combined science (which is called trilogy). All students also continue to have lessons in SME and PE throughout years 10 & 11. **In addition to these subjects, you have a choice and will pick 4 option subjects to study at GCSE; it's very important that you choose these carefully!**

To help make these decisions about which options you will choose think about these questions:

- What are you good at and what do you enjoy? This is a really important question.
You shouldn't choose a subject because you like your teacher (teachers change and it is unlikely the teacher you have now would end up teaching you at GCSE) You should pick subjects because you enjoy learning that subject and are interested in learning more about it.
- How do you like to learn and how is the course assessed?
- What do you want to do in the future and what subjects will help you achieve this goal?

One of your option choices must be from the following list of subjects (you can choose more if you wish):

- history
- geography
- computer science
- triple science
- a language (French or Spanish).

The majority of students take 9 GCSEs in total. The government are constantly reviewing the qualifications that students are offered. They are putting more emphasis on students leaving school with a broad range of GCSEs which includes English, mathematics, science, a foreign language and either geography or history. Currently universities are not using this as an entry requirement, but this could change. To ensure you are in the best possible position for the future, some of you will want to study a language.

All of the subjects you study will be GCSEs, graded from 1 - 9 with 9 being the highest grade (written exams will be taken at the end of year 11) or BTEC (written exams and coursework during the course).

Nearly all students will be able to study the options they choose however there will be occasions when not all requests can be met and this may be due to over subscription or insufficient numbers. Sometimes specialist staff or resourcing create a ceiling on numbers, we will always discuss this with you to find the best way forward. Also bear in mind that a different teacher may deliver the subject you choose and you may not be in the same group as friends. Throughout the process if you have any questions speak to us and we will be pleased to answer them.

It is really important to keep an open mind, read this booklet thoroughly and consider carefully before you make your decision. Go through the booklet and discuss it with your parents/carers, your teachers and company tutor. Think about what you have recently been told about different courses at key stage 4. Some of them are quite different from what you are doing in key stage 3. Discuss your options at the forthcoming Parents' Evening. You have many great opportunities at Durrington and as ever we want the best for you.

Mr Allison and Mr Woodcock
Co-Headteachers

How to complete your decisions form

1. Read this booklet carefully and discuss with your teachers your best options. You can email teachers, ask them on google classroom and speak to them on parents' evening. Remember, keep your choices broad at this stage unless you are absolutely certain of your future direction.
2. Decide on your choices. Which is your first choice in a particular column? We will try to give you as many of your choices as we can so it is important that you think carefully about your choices.
3. Make a list of teachers you particularly want to talk to and why, then tick off their names when you have talked to them.

Teachers	Advice

Make sure you stick to all the deadlines and share this booklet with your parents / carers so that they can help you in making your choices.

Key dates

20 January 2023	Booklet emailed home.
30 Jan –09 Feb 2023	Online assemblies 9am-9:15am each morning
09 February 2023	Parents Options Evening
10 February 2023	Loom video/Powerpoint for parents/carers
10 February 2023	Assembly explaining process for completing decision form (8:45am-9:05am).
10 February 2023	Decision form emailed home.
01 March 2023	Parents' evening
06 March 2023	Last date for completion of decision form.

What do I have to study in years 10 and 11?

Everyone will study the core subjects

- GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined science (trilogy), equivalent to two GCSE's

You will also take the following non-examined core compulsory subjects

- Physical education
- Social and moral education

You must include

- Four other subjects chosen from the four columns of the decisions form

Attendance

Attendance is important throughout a student's schooling. There is a strong link between attendance and achievement in school. In year 10 and 11 absences from school have an even greater impact. Coursework takes place throughout the school year and therefore no holiday or similar absences are authorised by the school.

The table below indicates how school attendance impacted on the GCSE results of our students who left in 2022.

Attendance	% achieving 5 GCSEs at a 4+	% achieving 5 GCSEs at a 5+	% achieving at least one GCSE at a 7+
96 – 100%	91% (147/161)	81% (131/161)	74% (119/161)
90-95.9%	82% (83/101)	71% (72/101)	53% (54/101)
< 90%	43% (22/51)	29% (15/51)	14% (7/51)

Aspirations and Perseverance

Courses for next year have been arranged to give you a real chance to succeed in your chosen areas. It will usually be possible to choose 4 courses in which you will achieve success and in which you are particularly interested.

Most students study for, and take, 9 GCSE subjects. Students in the top sets for mathematics have the opportunity to take a GCSE in further mathematics.

Your future career needs will be better served by consistently high grades in 9 GCSEs spread over a sensible range of subjects rather than a more varied set of grades spread over more than 9 subjects.

In all subjects you will learn the necessary skills and subject matter to get the highest grades. These grades require perseverance with consistent study as well as ability. You will be expected to work in your own time with home learning, master classes and revision.

Every year at Durrington, large numbers of students have high aspirations and gain GCSEs with high and consistent grades. Many others get top grades in the subjects in which they feel confident. We recommend that our high achieving students all study a language.

Art and Design - Fine Art (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8201

What will you be learning?

- This is a very broad and exciting course which encourages you to work with a wide range of materials, techniques and processes
- You will build up a portfolio of artwork which may contain painting, sculpture, print making and mixed media work,
- Drawing, sketchbooks, A1 study boards and looking at the work of other artists, designers and crafts people are all fundamental to the course
- You may have the opportunity to attend enrichment workshops offered by Worthing College and Northbrook Metropolitan College
- You will critique Works of Art and annotate your work to demonstrate their influence on your work.
- You will also have the opportunity to attend extra-curricular trips to Brighton, London, European destinations and New York to enhance your studies.

Equipment needed

- Drawing equipment and a sketchbook

Assessment - 100% Practical course - No written exam

- 60% coursework – 3 projects
- 40% exam board set task – 10 hour practical exam (over 2 x 5 hour days)

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- A Level art & design related courses
- BTEC Diploma in art & design related courses
- Art Foundation course
- Degree in a range of subjects such as Fine Art, Graphics & Illustration, Photography, Multi Media, Fashion & Textiles or 3D Design.
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills

What else might you need to know?

- You are expected to attend one weekly after school enrichment session.



Art and Design - Graphic Design (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8203

What will you be learning?

- This is an exciting visual creative course where you will work with a wide range of techniques and processes, including drawing, painting, spraying, printing, card manipulation and digital images.
- You will develop skills in visual composition using typography, colour, line, tone and shape to produce graphic outcomes such as posters, illustrations and product/brand advertising.
- You may have the opportunity to attend enrichment workshops offered by Worthing College and Northbrook Metropolitan College.
- You will critique Works of Art and annotate your work to demonstrate their influence on your work.
- You will also have the opportunity to attend extra-curricular trips to Brighton, London, European destinations and New York to enhance your studies.

Equipment needed

- Drawing equipment and a sketchbook

Assessment -100% Practical course - No written exam

- 60% coursework – 3 projects
- 40% exam board set task – 10 hour practical exam (over 2 x 5 hour days)

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- A Level Graphic design related courses
- UAL Level 3 - Diploma/Extended Diploma in Art & Design – Graphic Design and Illustration
- Graphic Communication A Level
- Graphic Design and Communication A Level
- Degree in a range of subjects such as Graphics, Illustration and Multi media & Design
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills

What else might you need to know?

- You are expected to attend one weekly after school enrichment session.



Art and Design - Textile Art (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8204

What will you be learning?

- This is a very exciting course which offers you the opportunity to work with a wide range of materials, textile techniques and processes, including - fabric printing, batik, spraying, transfer printing, fabric construction, stitching, felting and fabric manipulation.
- Observational drawing, use of sketchbook and looking at the work of other textile / fashion designers are fundamental to the course.
- You will also develop your fashion design skills through reinventing and recycling old materials into new garments.
- You may have opportunities to attend enrichment workshops offered by Worthing College and Northbrook Metropolitan College.
- You will also have the opportunity to attend extra-curricular trips to Brighton, London, European destinations and New York to enhance your studies.

Equipment needed

- Designing / drawing equipment
- Sketchbook
- A willingness to work hard and be creative

Assessment -100% Practical course - No written exam

- 60% coursework 2 - 3 units and portfolio work
- 40% controlled test - a 10 hour practical exam (over 2 x 5 hour days)

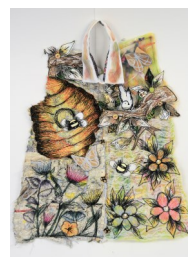
The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Lots of colleges offer design-related courses (AS / A2, BTEC, etc.) including fashion design, interior design, photography etc.; but you may just enjoy the experience gained from doing a practical subject
- Degree in fashion/textiles, interior design/surface pattern design, costume design, theatre set design
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills

What else might you need to know?

- Students are expected to attend one after-school session per week.



Art and Design – Photography (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8206

What will you be learning?

Throughout the course you will develop work in one or more areas of photography, such as those listed below:

- Portraiture
- Location photography
- Studio photography
- Experimental and mixed media imagery
- Installation
- Documentary photography
- Photojournalism
- Fashion photography

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

The way sources inspire the development of ideas relevant to photography including:

- How sources relate to historical, contemporary, social, cultural and issues-based contexts and external considerations such as those associated with the cultural industries and client oriented requirements.
- How ideas, themes, subjects and feelings can inspire creative responses informed by different styles, genres and aesthetic considerations and/or an individual's distinctive view of the world.

You will develop skills in different photographic techniques and processes such as; lighting, viewpoint, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement.

You will have the opportunity to attend enrichment workshops offered by Worthing College and Northbrook Metropolitan College.

You will also have the opportunity to attend extra-curricular trips to Brighton, London, European destinations and New York to enhance your studies.

Equipment needed

- Designing/Drawing equipment
- Sketchbook
- Camera/Digital SLR (desirable)
- A smartphone

Assessment -100% Practical course - No written exam

- 60% coursework 2 - 3 units and portfolio work
- 40% controlled test - a 10 hour practical exam (over 2 x 5 hour days)

What happens when you have finished?

- A Level Photography, Journalism, Media Studies
- BTEC Diploma in art & design related courses
- Art Foundation course
- Degree in a range of subjects such as Photography, Multi Media, Journalism, Marketing, Graphic Design
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills, such as; graphic designer, medical illustrator, free lance photographer, press photographer, television camera operator, advertising art director

What else might you need to know?

- Students are expected to attend one after-school session per week.



Business (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: 1BS0

What will you be learning?

The Business Industry is fast paced and ever changing. GCSE Business will give you a taste of what it might be like in industry and develop the necessary skills. Business combines academic study with an understanding of the real commercial world. This course will enable you to see business from the point of view of the owners, managers, customers and employees. You will learn about the problems and decisions facing small and large businesses and identify what makes a business a success or failure. You will understand how business people meet the challenges of the environment and identify what makes a successful entrepreneur.

The subject content for GCSE Business is set out to try to match how the real business world operates. It will cover 2 core areas of theory:

- Investigating Small Businesses: introducing students to entrepreneurship and the issues concerned with the setting up and operation of a business.
- Building a Business: an extension of unit one, focussed on the growth of businesses and the issues that arise with expansion.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Investigating Small Businesses - 1 hour 45 mins 50%

Paper 2 – Building a Business- 1 hour 45 mins 50%

Through these two units of theory students will learn about different types of Business Organisation, Marketing, Business Finance, People in Businesses, Operations Management and Customer Service. Students learn all this in context to how this is applied in real life business, both large and small. This makes this course so relevant to what the students need to know no matter where in business they see themselves

Equipment needed

- All students studying this subject must have a general thirst to understand what is happening in the business world. Students will actively engage in the study of business and economics to develop as effective and independent students, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds

What happens when you have finished?

- No matter what you decide to do when you leave school, the chances are you will be involved in some way in a business. Business helps you to understand more about how and why businesses operate in the way they do.
- This GCSE provides a useful insight and foundation for further study of Business Management, Finance, Accounting, Economics and Law

BTEC in Digital Information Technology

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Technical award

Examination board: Pearson

Specification: ISSUE 2 – September 2022

What will you learn?

The BTEC Level 2 First Award offers an exciting programme for those students who wish to learn the power of new technology and learn the digital skills to get ahead in the workplace.

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Around 1.46 million people work in digital companies and there are around **45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time**. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. The UK has positioned itself to be the 'Digital capital of Europe' as it continues to invest billions every year in digital skills and commerce. The modern world expects digital skills to be as important as English and Maths

Cybercrime is an increasing threat – understanding the different types of threats and how to mitigate against them is vital to any business that uses and retains sensitive data. You will develop an understanding of what cyber security is and the importance of legal and ethical considerations when using modern technologies. This qualification will enable you to use project-planning tools, models and techniques within a digital context.

Digital projects today often involve working with diverse teams across different locations. You will develop an understanding of what a virtual work environment is and how cloud technologies allow remote teams to work together more effectively.

Overview of Course and assessment

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques - Students will be taught how to design and make their own website for a customer.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data - students will look at a large set of data and present this in a way that everyone can understand, they are taught graphs to pivot tables, macros to slicers.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices - this is the theory part of the course, where students learn the theory of cyber crime, networking, cloud computing and new technologies.

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. each worth 30% of the final grade. Component 3 is a written paper taken during Year 11 worth 40% of the final grade.

This is a Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction grading system*

Equipment needed:

The following is not needed, but is strongly recommended.

- A home computer with internet access. If this isn't possible then the department will make provision for after-school access

What happens when you have finished?

This qualification can lead to more specialised study in IT-related area at Level 3, which can lead on to an apprenticeship, higher education and ultimately, a range of career possibilities relating to IT or other digital industries. Students often use this course to continue in web design, VR design or cyber security,

Citizenship Studies (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

Specification: ICSO

Is Citizenship Studies for you?

If you are interested in the way the world works and what is happening in the communities you live in then this is the course for you. For example, if you have something to say about how the country is run or the way knife crime is increasing in the UK then you have found the right course.

What will you be learning?

You will be learning about the legal and political systems of the UK, who makes up our communities and the injustices some citizens in the UK experience. You will explore how people can take an active part in our democracy, develop an understanding of your rights and how we can all work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally.

You will also learn about a variety of topical, and at times controversial issues, from matters associated with politics, ethics, economics, society and the environment. Students will also experience citizenship action and learn from trying to make a difference themselves.

The course is divided into 5 key themes:

- A. Living together in the UK – Who is in our community and what issues do they face
- B. Democracy at work in the UK – How our political system works and is it fair?
- C. Law & Justice – How does Law and Justice work in the UK?
- D. Power & Influence – Who has power across the Globe?
- E. Taking citizenship action – A chance to choose, study and research a topic you are passionate about

Successful citizenship students should engage in discussion (both written and verbal); have a firm grasp of the differences between facts and opinions and their significance; and be able to recognise bias.

Equipment needed:

- Basic equipment such as pens, pencils, coloured pencils, ruler, eraser, highlighter

Assessment:

Two written examinations, each 1 hour and 45 minutes and each 50% of the final GCSE grade.

- **Paper 1:** questions based on Themes A, B, and C
- **Paper 2:** questions based on an in-depth citizenship action that you will have carried out as part of your GCSE course (Theme E Taking citizenship action) and Theme D

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the highest grade.

What happens when you have finished?

It is an ideal subject to prepare you for Post-16 subjects such as Law, Politics, Criminology and Sociology.

What else might you need to know?

It is useful for you to be aware of what is happening in the world (local, national and international) by watching, reading or listening to current affairs programmes on a regular basis.

Computer Science (option)

Qualification: GCSE
Examination board: OCR
Specification: J277

What will you learn?

The government calls computer science the 4th Revolution, and this is the course that students need to study to best prepare themselves for this current workplace and their future.

You will see the power of computers once they are all connected and how this is changing the world we live in. From AI to big data, you will learn and discuss the impact of this on our world, and you will be part of the exciting changes that are happening around us.

GCSE computer science is a fantastic course that allows students to broaden their knowledge of how computers function and how they can be used to make a positive difference to the world and solving problems. Our computer science qualification will, above all else, be relevant to the modern, changing world of computer science.

"All our children deserve a chance to become creators instead of consumers of computer science"
Maria Klawe

Component 01: Computer systems - Introduces students to how computers work inside, how images and sound are stored by the computer, wired and wireless networks, cyber security and hackers. It also looks at cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - Students develop skills and understanding in problem solving: Students enjoy the challenge of learning to solve problems in the class using flowcharts or python code. We spend at least an hour a week learning python and students then, often in pairs, try to come up with solutions to these problems.

Equipment needed:

The following equipment is not necessarily required but recommended:

- A home computer (a PC or Laptop rather than a tablet) with internet access.

Assessment:

- (01) Computer systems— exam: 90 minutes and worth 50%
- (02) Computational thinking—exam: 90 minutes and worth 50%

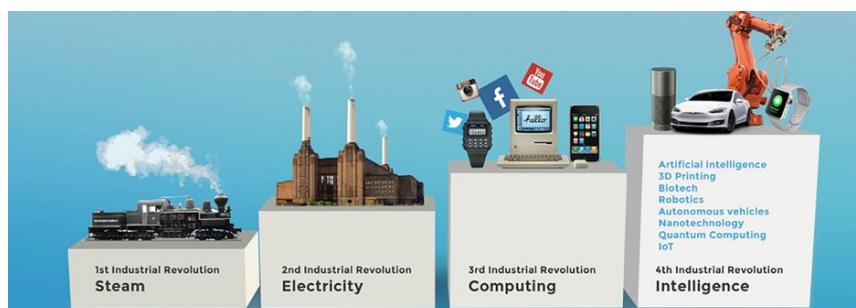
What happens when you have finished?

Do you want to make yourself highly employable in an ever-changing job market that is increasingly dependent on computer systems.

Do you see yourself with a career in finance, medicine, app development, environmental studies Then computer science is the subject for you and your future.

What else might you need to know?

This is a course for everyone. Computer science industry needs a broader range of people, to ensure the technology that is been developed is for everyone. Be part of shaping the worlds future: Pick Computer Science.



Dance (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8236

What will you be learning?

- Critical appreciation of own dance work
- Critical appreciation of professional works
- Healthy lifestyle and safe dance practice
- Choreographic processes for both solo and group pieces. Students will learn how to respond creatively to an externally set stimulus, to choreograph their own complete dance
- Performance skills - students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to perform dance as a soloist and in a duet / trio

Equipment needed

- 2 x black cotton leggings
- 2 x black cotton, sleeveless, slim-fit t-shirts
- Lined notebook and classroom based equipment

Assessment

- Written paper 40%
- Performance 30% 40 marks (12 marks for set phrases, 24 marks for duet/ trio performance and 4 marks based on mental skills and attributes during the performance)
- Choreography 30% 40 marks (solo or group choreography)

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Prepares you for AS / A2 level in dance
- Prepares you for BTEC National Diploma in dance
- With further training you could become a professional dancer, choreographer or teach dance

What else might you need to know?

- Students will be expected to attend one enrichment session each week to participate in extra-curricular dance activities such as Dance Live.

Design Technology (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Exam board: AQA

Specification: 8552

What will you be learning?

GCSE Design and Technology is an exciting course aimed to prepare you for an increasingly technological world. Throughout the course you will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. There is a large emphasis on designing for real life problems, modelling and prototyping. We use a range of modelling materials from clays, paper/card, foamboard and fabrics to 3D CAD software and 3D printing. The use of mathematical skills is a key requirement (15% of written exam).

The main subject content areas:

- **Core technical principles** e.g. new and emerging technologies, energy generation/storage, developments in new materials, mechanical devices, materials and their working properties.
- **Specialist technical principles** e.g. stock forms, types and sizes, scales of production, specialist techniques and processes, surface treatments and finishes, forces and stresses.
- **Designing and making principles** e.g. investigation, primary and secondary research, environmental, social and economic challenge, prototype development, tolerances, material management.

Equipment needed

- Access to a laptop/computer

Assessment

- **50% NEA - Substantial design and make task**
 - Contextual challenges will be released annually by AQA, you will produce a working prototype and a written/electronic portfolio of evidence that demonstrates the following criteria:
 - Investigating
 - Designing
 - Making
 - Analysing and Evaluating
- **50% Exam**
 - Un-tiered written exam. 2 hours.

What happens when you have finished?

Design skills and the ability to visualise new ideas can be useful in many jobs firstly any form of design e.g. toy design, furniture design, interior design, product design etc. Any form of manufacturing or engineering jobs and architecture. Other areas that these skills are recognized are marketing, advertising & branding, performing arts (stage/set design), construction.

Many local colleges offer design-related courses at AS/A-level including: Architecture, Product Design, Furniture Design, 3D Design, Graphic design/communication, Computer Aided Design, Aircraft Maintenance, Mechanical Engineering, Electronic Engineering and Motorsport Engineering.

What else might you need to know?

There are a lot of different activities and skills involved with the course; you will create an extensive portfolio to take to interviews.

You will gain a wide variety of skills including drawing, annotating, researching, ICT and modelling. You will be designing products on paper and using 2D and 3D CAD software to present your solutions. You will be modelling your designs using a range of different materials, tools and CAM equipment.

You will need to be well organised and ensure that you keep up with the design and make task.

Food Preparation and Nutrition (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8585

What will you be learning?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting course that sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

The main subject content areas:

Food preparation skills (e.g. knife skills, sauce making, dough & pastry, raising agents.)
Food, nutrition and health (e.g. micronutrients, macronutrients, energy needs, nutritional analysis.)
Food science (e.g. heat transfer, functional and chemical properties of food.)
Food safety (e.g. principles of food safety, contamination, food spoilage.)
Food choice (e.g. food labelling and marketing influences, international cuisines.)
Food provenance (e.g. environmental impact and sustainability of food.)

Equipment needed

- Access to a laptop/computer.
- Please note that the majority of ingredients will need to be provided from home.

Assessment

- **50% Coursework**

Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks)

Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks)

Written/electronic portfolio. You will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

- **50% Exam**

Un-tiered written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

What happens when you have finished?

The qualification will give you a broad background in food and nutrition with an emphasis on practical skills, nutritional knowledge and the science behind food. It is suitable both for students who wish to progress to further education or for students who wish to enter into the food or sports industries. Many local colleges offer food-related courses in Catering & Hospitality.

What else might you need to know?

There are a lot of different activities and skills involved with the course and you will create an extensive portfolio to take to interviews. The course will enable learners to gain industry specific skills and knowledge. Much of this will be transferable into a good range of employment and further education opportunities. You must be committed to practising the skills at home.

Drama (option)

Qualification: GCSE Drama

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: 1DR0

What will you be learning?

- Drama skills such as still images, narration, action and reaction etc.
- Theatrical styles and conventions
- Responding to live theatre and analysing texts
- Team work and personal skills such as communicating and presenting ideas
- Evaluation skills
- Characterisation and acting skills
- Self confidence
- Practitioners and their influence

Equipment needed

- Yourself
- Pen and notebook for some lessons
- Enthusiasm

Assessment

- Devising - non-exam assessment 40%
 - Portfolio—45 marks (15 for evaluation and 30 for process)
 - Performance—15 marks
- Performance from Text—20% 2 extracts from the same play Monologue/duologue/small group or any combination
- Written exam - 40%
 - Section A - Bringing texts to life - responding to set texts (An Inspector Calls)
 - Section B - Live theatre evaluation

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- The communication skills, creative skills and group work skills you use in drama are highly valued in every field of work. Also, the physical and intellectual confidence that comes from exploring ideas through drama will aid you in whatever you end up doing. We aim to teach the course in as practical way as possible to equip you for the exam whilst retaining the essence of the subject

What else might you need to know?

- You will be required to work as part of a team, and to perform on a regular basis. There will be times when rehearsals are required out of lesson time so you must be reliable and committed and attend after school when required.

English Language (compulsory)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: EDUQAS

Specification: C700QS

What will you be learning?

- Reading for understanding (students will learn to analyse a variety of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts)
- Writing to suit different purposes and audiences
- Appreciation of a variety of texts

Equipment needed

- Pens, pencils, ruler, your own fiction reading book

Assessment

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading Study and Creative prose Writing. (40%) (1 hour 45 minutes)

Section A (20%) – Reading (40 marks)

This section will test through structured questions the reading of an unseen extract from one 20th century literary prose text (about 60-100 lines).

Section B (20%) – Prose Writing (40 marks)

This section will test creative prose writing through one 40-mark task. Candidates will be offered a choice of four titles giving opportunities for writing to describe and narrate, and imaginative and creative use of language. This response should be a narrative / recount.

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading study and Transactional/Persuasive Writing (60%) (2 hours)

Section A (30%) – Reading (40 marks)

This section will test through structured questions the reading of two high-quality unseen non-fiction texts (about 900-1200 words in total), one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century. Non-fiction texts may include, but will not be limited to: letters, extracts from autobiographies or biographies, diaries, reports, articles and digital and multi-modal texts of various kinds from newspapers and magazines, and the internet.

Section B (30%) – Writing (40 marks)

This section will test transactional, persuasive and/or discursive writing through two equally weighted compulsory tasks (20 marks each). Across the two tasks candidates will be offered opportunities to write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and to real-life contexts in, for example, letters, articles, reviews, speeches, etc.

Component 3: Spoken Language (unweighted)

Candidates will be required to complete one formal presentation or speech. They will also be assessed on their responses to questions and feedback following the presentation or speech. Standard English should be a feature of all parts of the candidates' work in this component.

Achievement in Spoken Language will be reported as part of the qualification, but it will not form part of the final mark and grade.

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1 - 9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- English is a basic requirement for most college courses and apprenticeships, but there are many courses that you can build on from English GCSE, including, English Language / Literature A levels, sociology and psychology

English Literature (compulsory)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: EDUQAS

Specification: C720QS

What will you be learning?

- Analysis and appreciation of a variety of contemporary poetry as well as pre-19th century poems by a selection of poets
- Analysis and appreciation of modern texts and pre-20th century prose text
- Analysis and appreciation of Shakespeare's work and other playwrights

Equipment needed

- Pens, pencils, ruler, your own fiction reading book
- Set text - (preferable)

Assessment

Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry (2 hours 40%)

Section A (20%) Shakespeare

Macbeth

One extract question and one essay question based on the reading of a Shakespeare text.

Learners are not permitted to take copies of the set texts into the examination.

Section B (20%) Poetry from 1789 to the present day

Two questions based on poems from the WJEC Eduqas Poetry Anthology, one of which involves comparison.

Learners are not permitted to take a copy of the anthology into the examination.

Component 2: Post 1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen poetry (2 hours 30 mins 60%)

Section A (20%) Post-1914 Prose/Drama

An Inspector Calls (Priestley);

One source-based question on the post-1914 prose/drama text.

Learners are not permitted to take copies of the set texts into the examination.

Section B (20%) 19th Century Prose

A Christmas Carol (Dickens)

One source-based question on the 19th century prose text.

Learners are not permitted to take copies of the set texts into the examination.

Section C (20%) Unseen Poetry from the 20th/21st Century

Two questions on unseen poems, one of which involves comparison.

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1 - 9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- There are many courses that you can build on from English Literature GCSE, including, English Language /Literature A levels, sociology and psychology.

Geography (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8035

What will you be learning?

The AQA GCSE course explores a wide array of contemporary and critical geographical issues across three broad themes, giving you an in-depth knowledge of both UK and global geography. Throughout year 10 and year 11 you will learn about:

- Natural hazards: causes, impacts and responses to events such as earthquakes and Hurricanes.
- Climate change: how has global climate changed over time and why? Going forward what are our options for adaptation and mitigation?
- Coastal and glacial landscapes: what processes shape our coastlines and glacial landscapes? Are these processes putting us at risk? What opportunities and challenges do these landscapes present?
- Ecosystems: where are the world's major biomes? What are tropical rainforests and hot deserts like? What opportunities and challenges do we face in these exotic locations?
- Challenges of large urban areas in both high and low income regions of the world.
- Development: why is the global distribution of wealth uneven? Is the gap between rich and poor growing? Why does the UK have a north-south divide and how might we address it?
- Resource management: how accessible are food, energy and water around the globe?

Equipment needed

- Geography is for everyone, all you need is a positive attitude to learning and the endeavour to solve problems.

Assessment

3 exam papers:

- Physical Geography (1 hr 30 mins) = 35%
- Human Geography (1 hr 30 mins) = 35%
- Issue Evaluation and Geographical Application (writing about field work) (1 hr 15mins) = 30%

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Geography offers the widest route into post-16 education, university and careers.
- Extensive educational and employment opportunities. Geography is highly valued by employers, the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) placed geography among the top subjects for graduate earnings (2-10% more than the average graduate). The Higher Education Careers Service Unit report that geography students are more likely to gain employment after graduating compared to graduates from many other subjects.

What else you might need to know?

- Awe-inspiring field trips in breath-taking locations such as the Jurassic Coast and Iceland.
- Geography helps us understand how past societies and environments developed, which provides the context for the present and helps us to plan for our future. Geography helps us answer the question of "how do we wish to live?" in an informed way.
- Geography is a very popular and engaging subject at our school, much of the work you have done at KS3 has been designed to prepare you for GCSE geography, and the course will build on this knowledge such as your work on Ecosystems during year 9.

History (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: 1HI0

What will you be learning?

The new Edexcel History specification offers students an opportunity to study a broad and diverse range of issues related to the history of Britain and the wider world. It provides students with the necessary skills to help them progress to further study in history as well as in a wide range of other subjects.

The content includes:

Unit 1- Thematic study and historic environment

- Crime and Punishment in Britain c1000—present
- Whitechapel c1870-1900: crime, policing and the inner city

Unit 2- Period study and British depth study

- Super power relations & Cold War 1941-91 (Period study)
- Anglo Saxon & Norman England (British depth)

Unit 3- Modern Depth Study

- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

Equipment needed

- Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Crime and Punishment in Britain c.1000- present. Revision guide and workbook. ISBN-9781292169705
- Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Superpower Relations and the Cold War Revision Guide and Workbook ISBN-1292169753
- Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Anglo-Saxon and Norman England Revision guide and workbook - ISBN: 9781292169743
- Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939 Revision guide and workbook. ISBN- 9781292169736

Assessment

Three exam papers

- Thematic study and historic environment -1 hour and 15 minutes; 52 marks (30%)
- Period study and British depth study -1 hour and 45 minutes; 64 marks (40%)
- Modern depth study -1 hour and 20 minutes; 52 marks (30%)

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Students may wish to continue their studies onto A level History. The Edexcel course has been specifically designed to link into A Level specifications
- The qualification is recommended for the following careers, as students have learnt vital skills which are highly thought of – journalism, accountancy, government, TV, law, army, police, research and teaching are just some of the careers which history supports

What else might you need to know?

- This is an exciting course which allows students to develop their analysis and interpretation skills.
- An interest in history and a willingness to engage in debating and thinking skills is essential for this course.

Languages - Spanish and French (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: French 1FRO Spanish 1SPO

What will you be learning?

You will be continuing to develop your linguistic skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar) and cultural understanding, building on your KS3 Foundations. However, the GCSE syllabus revisits all the topics covered at KS3 and more. They are arranged by the exam board into 5 themes, namely:

- Identity and Culture (self, family, friends, celebrations, free time and hobbies)
- Local area, holiday and travel (where you live, visiting other countries)
- School (subjects, rules, uniform, what your school is like)
- Future aspirations, study and work (jobs, work experience and future plans)
- International and global dimension (the environment and other social/global issues)

Equipment needed

- There are many free websites and apps that we will recommend to support you with your language learning e.g. Quizlet, wordreference.com.
- GCSE Revision Guides and Revision Workbooks are available to purchase via MFL teachers (usually half price—c.£3 each) and are advised. A bi-lingual dictionary is also useful.

Assessment

- Listening - 25% of the final GCSE grade (final examination)
- Speaking - 25% of the final GCSE grade (teacher conducted)
- Reading - 25% of the final GCSE grade (final examination)
- Writing - 25% of the final GCSE grade (final examination)

Each of the four assessments are available at Foundation tier (5-1) or Higher tier (9-4). Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers. Tiering decisions are made in Year 11 to enable students to get the best possible exam outcomes.

What happens when you have finished?

- After completion of the course, you may opt to study French or Spanish at AS and A2 level or indeed to learn a new language: each new language is easier to learn!

What else might you need to know?

Languages skills are in increasingly short supply at a time when the demand from employers for language skills is rising. Whatever career path you think you might take, having a language GCSE could give you the edge over other candidates.

Mathematics (compulsory)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8300

What will you be learning?

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry and measures
- Ratio proportion and rates of change
- Statistics
- Data Handling
- To apply your knowledge, skills and understanding to relevant real-world situations
- To communicate maths effectively
- How to pose questions and develop convincing arguments
- To interpret and evaluate problems

Equipment needed

- Black pen
- Pencil
- Scientific calculator – Casio FX83 or FX85 recommended
- Protractor
- Ruler

Pairs of compasses will be provided by the school and should not be brought in.

Assessment

- Foundation tier (grades 1 - 5) or Higher tier (grades 3 - 9) where 9 is the highest grade
- Paper 1 - non-calculator - 1 1/2 hour - 33 1/3%
- Paper 2 - calculator - 1 1/2 hour - 33 1/3%
- Paper 3 - calculator - 1 1/2 hour - 33 1/3%

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Higher GCSE prepares you for an AS / A2 level in mathematics or statistics
- With further training, Maths can also lead you into a variety of exciting career opportunities in research such as scientific, medical, artificial intelligence and statistical, or different sectors of engineering like nuclear engineering or aerospace engineering, or could even lead to work as a computer game designer, app designer, meteorologist or getting a job in the financial sector.

Media Studies (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: EDUQAS

Specification: C680U10-1

What will you be learning?

- How to deconstruct (take to pieces) and analyse different forms of media
- How products communicate with their target audiences
- How to be an active rather than a passive consumer of the media

Equipment needed:

- Pens, pencils, memory stick

Assessment (exams and coursework):

Paper 1: Component 1 - Questions will focus on all four areas of the theoretical framework: section A (Media Language and Representation); section B (Media industries and audiences).

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (40% of GCSE)

Section A: two questions in this section in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers or print advertisements):

One question assessing media language in relation to one set product

One two-part question assessing representation in relation to one set product and one unseen resource in the same media form.

Section B: section assesses two of the following media forms: film, newspapers, radio or and/or video games.

One stepped question on media industries

One stepped question on audiences.

Paper 2: Component 2 – this component assesses all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media in relation to television and music.

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (30% of GCSE)

Section A: Television

One question on either media language or representation, which will be based on an extract from one of the set television programme episodes (to be viewed in examination)

One question on media industries, audiences, or media contexts.

Section B: Music (music videos and online media)

One question on either media language or representation (reference to relevant contexts may be required)

One question on media industries, audiences, or media contexts.

Component 3 – Creating Media products (coursework)

Practical skills relating to the media format (could be a newspaper, music video, film poster etc.) Students produce: a statement of intent and a media product for an intended audience

- A choice of briefs provided by the exam board (30% of GCSE)
- Assessed by teachers. Moderated by EDUQAS

What happens when you have finished?

- Media Studies combines practical and theoretical knowledge – particularly the value of pre production work and production skills with a focus on issues that relate to your everyday lives.
- You gain a valuable insight into the way the media works
- The opportunity to be creative in areas that interest you like film, TV and magazine
- Analyse and understand things that you might otherwise have taken for granted, such as a TV series, a film, a video game, a vlog or a newspaper.
- Develop an appreciation, decision making skills and critical understanding of the media and its role in daily lives.
- Provides a relevant, grounding for careers in TV, film, radio, gaming, publishing, journalism and advertising.
- Media Studies supports the humanities subjects and English.

Music (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: OCR

Specification: J536

What will you be learning?

- The GCSE course focuses on solo and group performances and individual composition.
- Music GCSE gives an opportunity to learn about many musical genres.
- The musical elements include rhythm and metre, structure and form, timbre and texture, dynamics, melody and harmony.
- Students develop instrumental and vocal skills through solo and group performances.
- During the GCSE course, students are able to explore a broad range of compositional techniques.
- Students study the areas of study through the following strands; My music, The concerto through time, Rhythms of the world, Film music, Conventions of Pop.

Equipment needed

- Students are expected to bring in their instruments for the practical lessons.

Assessment

- Component 1: Area of Study 1 – My Music - Integrated Portfolio —solo performance, own composition—30%
- Component 2: Practical component —composition to a set brief and ensemble performance —30%
- Component 3: Listening and Appraising music: exam—1 hour 30 minutes—40%
Aural recognition and context unheard/ unfamiliar music from within areas of study 2,3,4 and 5

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

Music GCSE offers the opportunity to further your qualifications through A level or BTEC courses.

What else might you need to know?

- Students are expected to learn one instrument or have singing lessons with a peripatetic instrumental teacher.
- You will be required to work as part of a team, and to perform on a regular basis. There will be times when rehearsals are required out of lesson time so you must be reliable and committed.

BTEC Performing Arts Acting (option)

Qualification: BTEC Level 1/ 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts: Acting
(This is a vocational course and should be chosen by students who may wish to pursue theatre at college.)

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: 603/7054/3

What will you be learning?

- How to respond to a stimulus, how to develop ideas and the process from rehearsal to performance.
- How to create performance in the style of contrasting theatre practitioners.
- How to review live theatre and analyse the work of key theatre practitioners and styles.
- Students will learn the value of team work and personal skills such as communicating, presenting, negotiation and compromise.
- How to become reflective practitioners by developing evaluative skills.
- Students will learn characterisation and acting skills.
- Students will develop self-confidence.

Equipment needed:

- A4 Ring binder folder.
- Dividers and post it notes.
- A pen and note book.
- Yourself
- Commitment, passion and enthusiasm.

Assessment: All components are assessed by a combination of performance and written portfolio

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts – internal assessment—30%

Learners will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.

Component 2: Developing skills and techniques in the performing arts – internal assessment—30%.

Learners will develop their performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting repertoire as performers.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief - overall and external assessment—40%

Learners will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as a performer in response to a given brief and stimulus.

What happens when you have finished?

The communication skills, creative skills and group work skills you use in drama are highly valued in every field of work. Also, the physical and intellectual confidence that comes from exploring ideas through drama will aid you in whatever you end up doing. We aim to teach the course in as practical way as possible to equip you for the exam whilst retaining the essence of the subject.

What else might you need to know?

You will be required to work as part of a team, and to perform on a regular basis. There will be times when rehearsals are required out of lesson time so you must be reliable and committed and attend after school when required.

GCSE Physical Education (option)

Qualification: GCSE PE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8582

What will you be learning?

- The human body and movement in physical activity and sport
- Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data
- Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport
- Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health fitness and well-being
- Practical skills in a range of key activities
- Analysis of performance

Equipment needed

- Perfect PE kit for every practical lesson
- Classroom based equipment

Assessment

- 30% practical
- 60% theory examinations - 2 exams each - 1hour 15 minutes
- 10% analysis of performance and controlled assessment coursework

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Good preparation for AS level sport and BTEC courses.

What else might you need to know?

- The GCSE PE course has changed with the amount of practical performance reduced to 30%.
- You will need to have a keen interest in sport, play sport regularly outside of school and keep aware of any sporting issues/developments in the news.
- To be successful on this course you will need to have a passion for sport, consider yourself a strong practical performer in a number of sporting activities, have excellent attendance, very good organisational skills and a desire to continually improve.
- All students are expected to regularly attend at least one extra curricular sports club.

Combined Science (Trilogy) (compulsory)

Qualifications : 2 GCSEs

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8464

What will you be learning?

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

How it's assessed

- 6 x Written exam papers: 1 hour 15 minutes each paper
- Foundation (1-5) and Higher Tier (4-9) where 9 is the best grade
- 70 marks
- Each exam is worth 16.7% of GCSE

What happens when you have finished?

- Awarded two GCSEs
- This GCSE is accepted by all colleges as two separate GCSEs

Triple Science (option)

Triple Science leads to 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Due to the significant content for the individual sciences those choosing Triple Science have this as one of their 4 options and so can only choose 3 other GCSEs.

It is most suitable for those students who have a genuine interest in exploring science at a deeper level and / or studying the sciences at A level.

Biology

Qualification: 1 GCSE **Exam board:** AQA **Specification:** 8461 - Biology (1 GCSE)

What will you be learning?

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Chemistry

Qualification: 1 GCSE **Exam board:** AQA **Specification:** 8462 - Chemistry (1 GCSE)

What will you be learning?

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Physics (see over page)

Triple Science (continued) (option)

Physics

Qualification: 1 GCSE **Exam board:** AQA **Specification:** 8463 - Physics (1 GCSE)

What will you be learning?

- Subject content
- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Space physics (physics only)

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessments

- 6 x Written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- Each exam is worth 50% of GCSE

What happens when you have finished?

- Entry to college if Higher paper taken to study AS / A level Physics
- Leads to a wide choice of scientific careers including astrophysicist, weather forecaster, sound engineer, civil engineer, aeronautics, electronics, IT and telecommunications etc. Also useful for many other careers

What else might you need to know?

- Assessment occurs at the end of Year 11.
- Qualification leads to a wide choice of scientific careers including marine biology, engineering and astrophysics.

The decision form must be completed electronically by Monday 6 March 2023

- Use this copy in the booklet to make your mind up before you complete the link to the form that will be emailed to you on the 10th February.
- You must have a different choice for each of the 4 columns.
- **You MUST pick at least one from Computer Science, French, Geography, History, Spanish or Triple Science in at least one column. Please note you cannot pick Drama and BTEC Performing Arts.**
- All subjects are GCSE unless BTEC is stated.
- Paper copies of the Decision Form are available on request.
- Please list the 4 subjects you have picked in order of preference (write them first (1) to last (4)).
- Additional Support *** - Guided Choice—letter from Mrs Blight
- Pathway to College *** - Guided Choice –letter from Mrs Rice

Column 1	
Additional Support ***	
Art	
Citizenship	
Computer Science	
Drama	
French	
History	
Media	
Music	
Spanish	

Column 2	
Pathway to College ***	
BTEC Performing Arts	
BTEC Digital Information Technology	
Business Studies	
Drama	
DT	
Geography	
Graphics	
History	
Textiles	

Column 3	
Art	
Citizenship	
Computer Science	
DT	
Food preparation and nutrition	
Geography	
Graphics	
History	
Photography	
Triple Science	

Column 4	
Business Studies	
Dance	
French	
Geography	
PE	
Photography	
Spanish	
Textiles	
Triple Science	

Then please pick any two different subjects as reserves

1st reserve choice.....

2nd reserve choice.....

Notes