

Durrington High School

Options 2026



Decisions about courses in years 10 and 11
Parent/carer and student guide



Options, Choices and Decisions

You have reached a very important stage in your education and we look forward to supporting you through this exciting time.

Dear student,

The next few weeks are an exciting time during which you will get the chance to tell us which subjects you would like to study in years 10 and 11. Our priority is always to give you the best opportunities, and we will support you and your parents/carers through the process.

As you will probably know there are some GCSE subjects all students have to study. At Durrington these are: English Language, English Literature, mathematics and combined science (called trilogy). Alongside these GCSE subjects all students have lessons in SME and PE during year 10 & 11.

After these subjects, you have a choice and it is very important that you choose carefully.

To help make these decisions, please consider these questions:

What are you good at and what do you enjoy? - This is really important.
What do you want to do in the future and what qualifications do you need?

Students take 8 GCSEs in total at Durrington and those in top set maths have the opportunity to sit a 9th GCSE in further maths (the decision on this is made at a later date). We have a focus on students leaving school with a range of academic GCSEs which includes not only English, maths and science but at least one of computer science, French, geography, history, Spanish or triple science. We believe that students should also study subjects they are passionate about and have 18 options in total to decide from.

GCSE subjects are graded from 1 - 9 with 9 being the highest grade. GCSE written exams take place at the end of year 11. The BTEC subject is a mixture between written exams and coursework, some of which is completed during the course.

There will be occasions when the requests made by a student for a specific combination of subjects cannot be met. This may be due to too many or too few students wishing to study the subject or due to a lack of specialist staff or resourcing. If this is the case we will discuss this with you to find the best way forward.

When choosing subjects it is also important to remember that you are likely to have a different teacher from your current subject teacher. Even if you make the same subject choices as one of your friends you are likely to be in some different class. Throughout the process if you have any questions speak to your tutor, Head of House, Mr Henry or Mr Frost and they 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 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 have done in key stage 3. Discuss your options at the forthcoming Consultation Evening. You have many great opportunities at Durrington and as ever we want the very best for you.

**Mr Allison and Mr Woodcock,
Co-Headteachers**

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 2026

Date	Activity
12/1	Student assembly introducing the options process.
13/1- 30/1	Online assemblies daily during Period 1.
2/2	Information Booklet emailed to parents/carers. Paper copies will be available from reception.
2/2	Student assembly explaining the options form.
5/2	Options evening for parents- <u>Not students.</u>
12/2	Y9 Consultation Evening - you can make appointments with teachers. Mrs Allison will be available to answer any questions about the options process.
13/2	Link and username and password/pin sent home to parents/carers
2/3	Deadline for online form completion 9am.

What will I study in years 10 and 11?

Everyone will study the core subjects:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE mathematics
- GCSE combined science (trilogy), equivalent to two GCSEs

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

- Physical education
- Social and moral education

You must include:

- Three other subjects chosen from the online form

How can parents/carers and students make their choices?

We use an online software called TOOLS for you to make your choices. This stands for 'TimeTabler Options On-Line System'. You can make your choices online from a laptop, tablet, smart phone, iPhone, iPad, etc.

We will send you a link to the software together with an individual Username and Password/PIN. The online form must be completed by Monday 2nd March 2026 at 9am.

You will enter your choices and click submit. You will receive an email confirming the choices you have requested.

In April we will let you know the final subject choices. We will be in touch with you sooner than April if there are any problems in meeting your requests

There are 18 option subjects to decide from:

- Art
- Business
- Citizenship
- Computing
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Digital Information Technology (BTEC)
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- Graphics
- History
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Textiles
- Triple Science

- You must pick three different subjects.
- **You MUST pick at least one from Computer Science, French, Geography, History, Spanish or Triple Science.**
- All subjects are GCSE unless BTEC is stated
- Students cannot study more than one of Art, Graphics or Textiles.
- Students cannot study PE and Business as they are on at the same time.

Attendance

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 2025.

Attendance	% achieving 5 GCSEs at a 4+	% achieving 5 GCSEs at a 5+	% achieving at least one GCSE at a 7+
96 – 100%	85% (139/164)	72% (118/164)	66% (109/164)
90-95.9%	78% (73/94)	56% (53/94)	47% (44/94)
< 90%	47% (28/59)	34% (20/59)	29% (17/59)

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 three courses in which you will achieve success and in which you are particularly interested.

Most students study for eight GCSE subjects. Students in the top sets for mathematics also have the opportunity to take a GCSE in further mathematics.

Your future career needs will be better served by consistently high grades in eight GCSEs spread over a sensible range of subjects rather than a more varied set of grades spread over more 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, revision sessions before and after school and revision at home.

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

Art and Design – Fashion & Textiles 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 - 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, printmaking and mixed media work
- Drawing, sketchbooks, A1 study boards and looking at the work of other artists, designers and craftspeople 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, Multimedia, 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 Multimedia & 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 – 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

You 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
- A white and black fine liner pen
- Sketchbook
- Camera/Digital SLR (desirable)
- A smartphone
- A strong willingness to take photographs out of school hours

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, Multimedia, Journalism, Marketing, Graphic Design
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills, such as; graphic designer, medical illustrator, freelance 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.



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 areas 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.

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. The unit will be assessed by an external written assessment of 90 marks and will be one and a half hours in length. **It is worth 50% of the overall GCSE grade.**
- Building a Business: an extension of unit one, focussed on the growth of businesses and the issues that arise with expansion. The unit again will be assessed by an external written assessment of 90 marks which is one and a half hours in length. **It is worth 50% of the overall GCSE grade.**

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.

Both examinations will take place at the end of Year 11. Both exams are allocated one and a half hours per paper.

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.

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 in to 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 – What is our political system and how effective is it?
- 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, highlighters.

Assessment:

Two written examinations including written essays in exam conditions, 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.

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
- 16.7% of GCSE

What happens when you have finished?

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

Computer Science (option)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: 1CP2

What will you learn?

GCSE Computer Science is a fantastic course that allows students to broaden their knowledge of how computers function. If you are interested in learning about how to make computers do what **YOU** want and would like to know what actually happens **INSIDE THE MACHINE**, then this is the course for you. Not only will you learn to code in a programming language, you will also learn about what makes computers work and key problem-solving skills that can be applied across a variety of different situations that you will face in life.

Our Computer Science qualification will, above all else, be relevant to the modern, changing world of computer science.

Component 01: Principles of Computer Science- Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Application of Computational Thinking- Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators. They will learn Python and will be taught how to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

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.
- Python software (free to download)

Assessment:

- (01) Principles of Computer Science—exam: 90 minutes and worth 50%
- (02) Application of Computational Thinking—on screen exam: 120 minutes and worth 50%

What happens when you have finished?

These skills will be the best preparation for learners who want to go on to study Computer Science at AS and A Level and beyond. The qualification also provides a grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

Do you want to make yourself highly employable in an ever-changing job market that is increasingly dependent on computer systems? Then computer science is the subject for you and your future.

What else might you need to know?

It is suited to students who have a logical and analytical mind and who are interested to know more about programming and how computers operate.

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 applying 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, plastics, woods, metals and fabrics to 3D CAD software (Solidworks) 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, intellectual property, crowd funding.

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 (research - primary & secondary)
 - Designing (sketching and modelling)
 - Making (prototyping skills using tools/equipment/3D printers)
 - Analysing and Evaluating

· **50% Exam**

- Un-tiered written exam. 2 hours. Calculator paper.

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 A-level including: Design & Technology, Architecture & Interior Design, 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, computer and hand 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.

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.

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 - 1 hour 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.

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 students 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 tropical storms.
- 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 exist in these exotic locations?
- Urban issues and challenges present 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?
- Resources management: how accessible are food, energy and water resources 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 written exam papers:

- Physical Geography (1 hr 30 mins) = 35%
- Human Geography (1 hr 30 mins) = 35%
- Issue Evaluation and Geographical Applications (writing about field work) (1 hour 30 mins) = 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 reports 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 have evolved, providing the context for the present and helping us to plan for our future. Indeed Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future, it helps us answer the question of *"how do we wish to live on Earth today so that the next generation has a bright future?"* 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 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 20 minutes; 52 marks (30%)
- Period study and British depth study -1 hour and 50 minutes; 64 marks (40%)
- Modern depth study -1 hour and 30 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 1FR1 Spanish 1SP1

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 6 thematic contexts, namely:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

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 (final examination, 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 A-level or indeed to learn a new language: each new language is easier to learn!

What else might you need to know?

- There are many careers where language skills complement the core skills of a job, for example any career with potential international job opportunities e.g. journalism, science, finance, sport, as well as the more obvious areas such as travel and tourism.
- If you are considering a career as a primary school teacher, remember that languages are now taught in primary schools too.
- 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.

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.

Triple Science (option)

Triple Science leads to 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There is significant content for the individual sciences for those choosing Triple Science. They will have this as one of their 3 options and so can only choose 2 other GCSEs. This course is suitable for those students who have a genuine interest in exploring science at a deeper level and/or studying science subjects at A level. It is done in less time than other GCSEs with only 5 periods per fortnight in Y10 compared to 6 periods for other options. An additional hour is given to one of the three sciences in Y11.

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

Triple Science (option) Continued

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
- 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, microbiology, medicine, engineering and astrophysics.