



St. George's School
A Church of England Academy

OPTIONS 2017 - 2019



Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	2
Option subjects offered:	6
CORE SUBJECTS.....	7
Mathematics.....	7
English Language.....	8
English Literature	9
Science	10
Religious Education.....	11
OPTION CHOICES.....	12
Art and Design.....	12
BTEC Business Studies.....	13
Computer Science	14
Resistant Materials	15
Food Preparation & Nutrition.....	16
French	17
Geography.....	18
BTEC Health and Social Care	19
History.....	20
Information Communication Studies.....	21
Physical Education	22
Spanish.....	23
Drama.....	25
Dance.....	26

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is produced to help pupils choose from the **option subjects** available, together with giving information about the **core subjects** which will be studied, such as Mathematics and English.

With regard to options, it is important that each pupil's curriculum be well balanced as future plans can change and it is imperative to keep the range of choices for later life open. However, in years 10 and 11 it is appropriate to begin to specialise in some subjects that match interest and ability and possible future career and educational aspirations.

All pupils must choose at least one of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects of: Geography, History, a Foreign Language or Computer Science.

Over the next few weeks, pupils will need to think carefully about the options subjects that they would like to choose to study in Years 10 and 11. If they require more information about the options system or any of the subjects described here, they should speak to their subject teacher, head of subject or College Tutor.

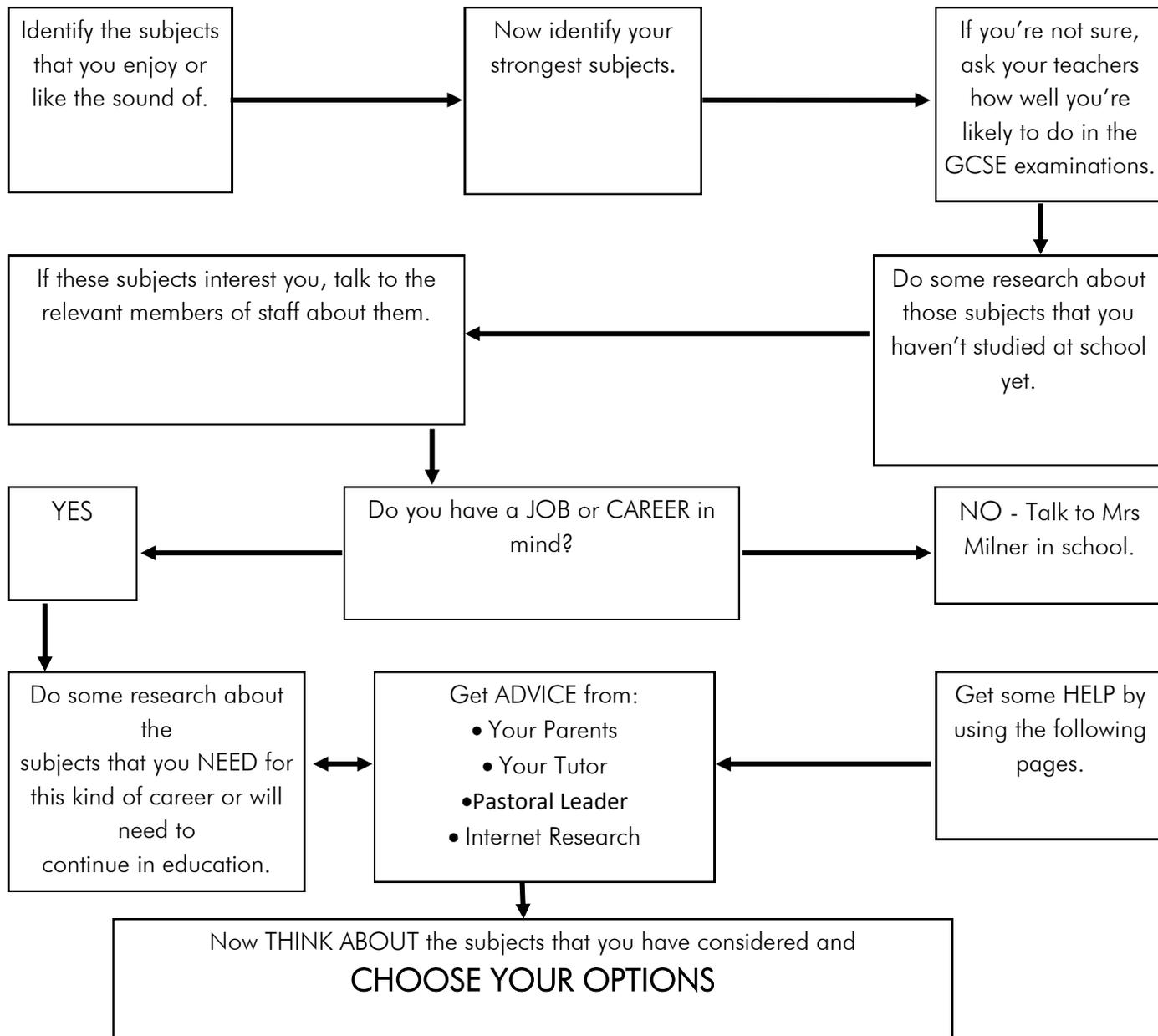
Please can pupils:

- **Read this course guide carefully**
- **View it with people at home**
- **Discuss it with people at home.**

Mr Gaitatzis will explain to year 9 pupils how the option system works. He and others will provide guidance about how to make appropriate choices. Tutors will make sure that pupils have understood how the option system works and will provide help if required.

Due to pupil choices, courses may require modification. Therefore it is possible that not all courses will run, particularly if pupil uptake is low. Every effort will be made to allocate the chosen options, however, in any open system we cannot guarantee this. If it necessary to discuss options further, Mr Gaitatzis or other senior staff will see pupils individually.

FLOW CHART AID



SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

What do pupils have to take?

All pupils must take:

- English Literature and Language
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Science (the Science department will talk to pupils about the most appropriate course).
- ICT based qualification for some.
- Core Physical Education
- At least one English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subject:
Geography, History, a Foreign Language or Computer Science.

Pupils should then choose their preferred option subjects. This will result in a selection of subjects which have been chosen because:

- Pupils enjoy them
- Pupils are good at them
- Pupils may need them for a career or further education courses.

New 9-1 grading for all subjects.

Parents and pupils should be aware that 'new specification GCSEs' in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics started in September 2015 with a different grading system. This is now the case with Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science, Computer Science, Dance, Food Preparation & Nutrition, French, Geography, History, Drama, Physical Education, Religious Education and Spanish which move in September 2016 in line with this new grading system of 9-1 (formerly A*-G).

The content of these new GCSEs using the 9-1 grading system which started in September 2015 includes:

A much larger, more 'challenging' GCSE content for all subjects, pupils are expected to dedicate more time studying their chosen subjects, therefore a wise decision with options will provide a better balance for the academic requirements during their GCSE's.

What are the characteristics of the new GCSE and grading system?

1. Current grading structure to be replaced by numbers. The new grading for all subjects moves from (A*-G) to 9-1.
2. Assessment by external exam only.
3. Linear assessments.
4. Tiering to be avoided, unless strong subject-specific reasons.
5. Expectations to match and exceed those of high-performing countries.

KEY DATES

Wednesday 1st February – Options Inspiration Day – Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Thursday 9th February – Parents’ Options Information Evening – 5.30pm

Monday 20th February – FIRST DAY for acceptance of Options Form submissions.

Monday 27th February – LAST DAY for the return of Options Form submissions.

July 2017 - pupils’ subject choices are confirmed.

Option subjects offered:

Humanities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCSE Geography *• GCSE History *
MFL: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCSE French *• GCSE Spanish*
Computer Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICT• Computer Science*
Design and Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCSE Food and Nutrition• GCSE Resistant Materials
Arts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GCSE Art and Design• GCSE Drama• GCSE Dance• GCSE PE
Technical Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BTEC Health & Social Care• BTEC Business Studies
*English Bacallaureate subjects

Qualification types:

There are two different types of qualifications available.

GCSE: This is highly valued by schools, colleges and employers, so is useful whatever a pupil's future plans are. The qualification mainly involves studying the theory of a subject, combined with some investigative work. Some subjects also involve practical work. Typically they are assessed by a combination of written exams and controlled assessments.

BTEC: BTECs are technical qualifications suitable for a wide range of pupils, built to accommodate the needs of employers and allow progression to university. They provide a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a key theoretical background. Assessment is mostly on-going throughout the course with usually only one externally assessed exam.

English Language

What will I study?

All pupils will follow a course in English Language GCSE during which pupils are tested on their ability to read, write, speak and listen effectively.

English Language can only be taken with English Literature so all pupils will take two GCSEs.

This course is assessed by two final examinations and by in class assessment of speaking and listening.

Speaking and listening work involves teacher assessment of the pupils' communication skills, their ability to use Standard English and their ability to respond to questions. This activity, whilst not contributing directly to the final GCSE grade for English Language, will be reported on to the exam board so needs to be completed to a high standard.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE English Language

How would it help me in the future?

You could take this course to prepare for advanced level courses such as an A/AS Level in English or you may need to strengthen your grades by completing a foundation or intermediate vocational qualification. With further training, you could go into a job related to English such as a Teacher, Journalist or Editor. You could also go straight into employment and do further training or part time study with the support of your employer.

How will my work be assessed?

Two written papers worth 50% each. The course is assessed by final external examinations.

Pupils will follow the AQA course. They will need to be able to write a description, a narrative and also complete a written non-fiction task such as a letter. Additionally, they will have to show understanding and analytical skills on pieces of writing from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries – both fiction and non-fiction.

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

The actual course builds on skills you have acquired throughout your school career such as P.E.E., inference and deduction, commenting upon the writer's craft, comparing two texts, completing writing tasks that could include any of the following: descriptions, letters, speeches, articles, leaflets, reports and reviews. However, you will find that you need to write in more detail, be more independent and write to quite tight deadlines. There is also an increased importance on how accurate your written work is, so it is important to spell correctly, use a range of punctuation and use correct grammar.

English Literature

What will I study?

This qualification is taken in conjunction with English Language and offers pupils the opportunity to achieve an extra GCSE.

Pupils will study a range of Pre and Post 20th Century works including Shakespeare, novels, plays and poetry.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE English Literature

How would it help me in the future?

You could take this course to prepare for advanced level courses such as an A/AS Level in English Literature or you may need to strengthen your grades by completing a foundation or intermediate vocational qualification.

With further training, you could go into a job related to English Literature such as a Teacher, Poet, Writer or Journalist.

You could also go straight into employment and do further training or part-time study with the support of your employer.

How will my work be assessed?

Examinations 100 %

2 exam papers – one worth 40% and one worth 60%

Pupils will follow the AQA course. They will study texts such as 'Romeo and Juliet', 'A Christmas Carol', and 'An Inspector Calls'. There is an increased emphasis upon the study of poetry, both from an Anthology and poetry that they first see in the examination.

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

The main differences are that you have more texts to study and you have to learn them off by heart and know all about characters and themes. You will still discuss the texts, you will still have to analyse the texts but you need to be able to write essays in the examination. There is an increased focus upon spelling, punctuation and grammar, so accuracy in your written work is an essential requirement. You will find that you need to be more independent and self-motivated to succeed in this GCSE.

Science

What will I study?

All pupils will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and follow the new AQA 9-1 specifications to achieve two or three Science GCSEs. The qualifications will be graded on a nine-point scale: 1-9 where 9 is the higher level. The level of exam entry will be appropriate for their demonstrated abilities. The tiers of entry are as follows: Higher level 4-9, Foundation level 1-5. We will enter pupils for the most appropriate science qualification for them, to ensure they achieve the best results they can. This may mean being entered for Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects to attain 3 GCSEs but could mean that pupils are entered for combined science, attaining 2 GCSEs. All pupils will begin their GCSE in year 9. GCSE Science gives the pupils an understanding of scientific ideas, concepts, explanations and investigations.

What qualification will the course lead to?

3 Science GCSEs

How would it help me in the future?

Science prepares and provides pupils with the appropriate qualifications to go on to study A levels in Science and other subjects. With further training, pupils with this qualification can go into Science related jobs such as researcher, teacher, electrician, nursing and midwifery. It will lay foundation for a career in medicine, sports science, marine biology, dentistry, engineering, zoology, computer science, mechanics and astrophysics.

How will my work be assessed?

There will be no controlled assessment element. This is a linear qualification. In order to achieve the award, pupils must complete all examinations at the end of the course.

The GCSE exams in science include questions that allow pupils to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content developed in one section or topic including the associated mathematical and practical skills. Their ability to apply mathematical and practical skills to areas of content they are not normally developed in their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge and understanding within one answer. A range of question types will be used including multiple choice, short answer and extended responses. Extended response questions will allow pupils to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured. Extended responses may be written extended calculations or a combination of both, as appropriate to the question. There will be required practical lessons that pupils must participate in and exam questions will assess pupils on their understanding of these investigations.

The minimum assessment requirement for attaining 2 or 3 GCSE's is the completion of six exam papers. Each will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

How will it be similar to what I have done in year 9?

Pupils will be taught separate biology, chemistry and physics lessons by specialist teachers. The content will develop and enhance concepts covered in year 9 and develop these core ideas further.

Religious Education

What will I study?

Religious Education is a compulsory subject in which all pupils follow a full award course.

Current topical issues are studied focussing on the religions of Christianity and Judaism.

Religion and Ethics:

This course deals with belief in God, issues surrounding life and death as well as a number of other key issues and topical subjects. Marriage and family and living the religious life.

Religion, Peace and Conflict:

This course looks at issues surrounding Religion, Peace and Conflict and crime and punishment

What qualification will the course lead to?

Full course GCSE RE

How will it help me in the future?

The skills that you will learn in GCSE Religious Studies will be useful to you in any number of careers; Law, Medicine, Teaching, Youth work, Journalism, Civil Service or Government agencies to name a few.

How will my work be assessed?

The Religious Studies examination is split between two papers (50% Religion and Ethics, 50% Religion, Peace and Conflict). You will be expected to answer four written questions in 1 hour 45 mins, on each examination paper.

How will it be similar to what I have done in year 9?

In KS3 you have been learning about the six World Religions. In KS4 we take what you have learnt about the religions and apply this to real life issues that you will all experience in some way in your future life. We will study a range of moral Issues and understand why different people approach these issues in different ways.

You will develop the skills of investigation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, communication and debate. This course encourages pupils to:

- develop their interest in a study of religion and its relation to the wider world.
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.
- reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes.

OPTION CHOICES

Art and Design

What will I study?

GCSE Art begins with a chance for you to develop your drawing skills and experiment with a huge variety of different techniques. You will have the chance to try lino-printing, mono-printing, textile techniques such as Batik and appliqué, sculpture, photoshop work and painting.

You will be encouraged from the start to research and analyse the work of other artists who inspire you, and as you go through the course you can choose to look at the artists who interest you the most. You gather marks for your GCSE by drawing and taking photographs and researching the work of other artists.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE Art and Design. This is a single award so you end up with one GCSE pass in Art and Design.

How would it help me in future?

This course will allow you to refine your skills and express yourself in a visual way. It could be the first step towards an A level or simply a way of nurturing your creativity and independence. This could lead to a degree in a number of Art and Design courses, or help you to be creative in another course you choose. The range of possible careers you could pursue is enormous; you could become an illustrator, architect, interior designer, art therapist, arts manager, graphic designer, set designer, fashion designer, costume designer, web designer, games designer, car designer etc.

How will my work be assessed?

The coursework/portfolio of work is worth 60% of your final GCSE grade. This will be made up of two or more projects.

Your coursework is marked using four assessment objectives. These focus on the following areas:

- Assessment Objective 1 – Artist research
- Assessment Objective 2 – Experimenting
- Assessment Objective 3 - Recording and developing
- Assessment Objective 4 - Presenting

You will have an externally set task. This is 40% of your final GCSE grade. This is marked using the same assessment criteria as your coursework.

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

You will need many of the skills you have developed in Art during year 9. You will record and develop your ideas in a sketchbook and present your understanding in a final outcome. Using new media and techniques, and exploring your own individual ideas will be the main difference from the Year 9 course.

BTEC Business Studies

Equivalent to one GCSE

What will I study?

You will cover a wide range of business functions which will give you an idea of the business world and prepare you for the world of work. You will be introduced to the most important aspects and skills in industry and develop essential skills required by employers. These include communication, application of numbers, ICT and Personal Learning and Thinking Skills. You will learn about the following:

- Enterprise in the Business World
- Finance for Business
- Recruitment, Selection and Employment
- Promoting a brand

What qualification will the course lead to?

BTEC Level 2 First Award in Business

How would it help me in the future?

The course gives you an insight into the world of business. You may wish to continue to a higher level of BTEC after completing this course and you can carry some of the units to the next level. You will develop business skills which include wider key skills in communication, research, working with others, discussion and ICT that will help you in your other subject areas, further education and future employment.

Further vocational and academic qualifications

You will be able to progress further to a BTEC First Diploma in Business or move on to a higher level qualification such as a Level 3 BTEC National Certificate in Business, specialising in your preferred field such as finance, law or marketing. Alternatively you could go on to do A level Business Studies.

How will my work be assessed?

You will be assessed in a variety of ways including:

75% coursework including:

- Report writing
- Role plays and demonstrations
- Research tasks
- Presentations
- Production of leaflets, booklets, newspaper articles
- Interviews
- Project files
- An external examination in the finance unit (25%)

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

This is a new subject for you and very different to anything you have done so far. However it will build upon some of the skills you have developed in year 9 such as problem solving and communication.

Computer Science

What will I study?

This exciting GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work, how they are used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. You will also do some fascinating in-depth research and practical work. For example, some of the current investigations look at JavaScript, encryption and assembly language programming.

What qualifications will the course lead to?

GCSE Computer Science

How would it help me in the future?

If you take a GCSE in Computer Science and then go on to study the subject at A Level or university, you'll have an advantage over fellow pupils who are picking up the subject at these higher levels. The increasing importance of information technologies means there'll be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field. The course is also an excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you'll develop, especially where they're applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

How will my work be assessed?

The assessment for this GCSE is divided into three parts.

Please note that this is not yet confirmed and may be subject to change

2x 1hr Exam (80% Marks): The computer systems and programming unit will teach you the theory about a wide range of issues such as hardware and software, the representation of data in computer systems, databases, computer communications and networking, programming and more.

Controlled Assessment 1 (20% Marks): The practical investigation is all about engaging with computing in the real world. You'll look at a computing topic in more depth and carry out a practical investigation into a computing issue.

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

Computer Science will focus on the mechanics of computers. A simple analogy is to think about driving a car. GCSE ICT teaches you how to drive the car; GCSE Computer Science teaches how to build your own engine.

Design and Technology

Resistant Materials

What will I study?

This course involves the designing and making of useful, environmentally friendly products that have the potential to be further developed in industry. Pupils are expected to be creative in their design work (which will include computer aided design) and take into consideration factors such as the sustainability of the materials to be used.

If a student chooses this course they will have already shown an interest in sketching, drawing, investigating and making things. Although the subject has a practical aspect, the designing and development of ideas is at its core and its importance cannot be under emphasised. The course also includes theory work which underpins both designing and making.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE Design & Technology (Resistant Materials)

How would it help me in the future?

You could take this course to prepare for advanced level courses such as an A/AS Level in Design and Technology/Product Design.

With further training, you could go into a job related to Design and Technology and Electronics such as a Technician, Electrician or Design Engineer.

You could also go straight into employment and do further training or part-time study with the support of your employer.

Design can also be studied at University where BA Design and BSc Computer Aided Design courses are widely available.

How will my work be assessed?

There are three parts to the course:-

Designing - using knowledge and understanding along with design and communication skills, to creatively design products to suitable specifications

Making - pupils will plan how to make their final designs and use their practical skills to create a finished product.

Theory - pupils will gain an understanding of areas such as materials, processes and environmental issues.

In year 10 pupils will undertake a minor project and a number of focused practical tasks to build the required skills. In Year 11 the controlled assessment is delivered via a major project. The controlled assessment accounts for 60% of the marks and the written examination a further 40%. Please note: the final practical piece accounts for approximately 20% of the total award.

How will it be similar to what I have done in year 9?

KS3 and KS4 Design and Technology are both centred on the Design Process and are therefore fundamentally similar. The KS4 course is more technically demanding and has a greater focus on design. The ability to work independently will be assumed at KS4.

Design and Technology Food Preparation and Nutrition

What will I study?

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and in later life.

Areas of Content:

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation.

How would it help me in the future?

Possible career opportunities:

- Dietician
- Nutritionist
- Food product developer
- Food stylist
- Food writer
- Chef
- Teacher

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment 1 – food investigation – 15% of total qualification. Written report 1500-2000 words.

Assessment 2 – food preparation – 35% of total qualification. Plan, prepare, cook and present a selection of dishes, alongside a folio of evidence of approximately 30 sides of A4.

Written examination – 1 hour 45 mins – 50% total qualification.

A nine point scale from 1 to 9, where 9 is the highest grade. Results not attaining the minimum standard for the award will be reported a 'U' (unclassified).

How will it be similar to what I have done in year 9?

There are no previous learning requirements for this course. However, a strong interest in Food, Science and English would be helpful. The specification builds on subject content which is typically taught at Key Stage 3. It provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who may or may not wish to progress to further study in food-related courses.

French

What will I study?

All lessons contain activities to practise all four skills:

Listening – to practise understanding spoken French in a variety of different contexts.

Speaking - to practise communicating with French speakers, both home and abroad.

Reading - to practise understanding a wide range of texts in French, such as magazine articles and information found on the internet.

Writing – to practise producing your own texts in clear and accurate French and translate paragraphs.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE French

How would it help me in the future?

More and more universities are now requiring that pupils have a language at GCSE level, in order to gain a place on their courses.

Learning a foreign language encompasses a whole range of skills which are essential for your future. Linguists learn how to communicate effectively both in their writing and speaking.

You also train to listen for key details and to read using different techniques such as skim reading, reading for detail and reading for inference. All of these skills make you more employable and show a potential employer you have broad horizons.

How will my work be assessed?

Linear exams at the end of year 11 with an equal weighting of 25%:

- Listening 25%
- Speaking 25%
- Reading 25%
- Writing 25%

Assessment:

Topics include:

- Identity and Culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

You will come across some familiar topic areas but the depth in which you cover them and the way in which you are taught will be very different. There will be an emphasis on using authentic materials such as literature and media extracts to help you understand that learning French is not just about learning a language but also about exploring a culture.

You will also acquire the ability to translate texts to and from the target language.

Geography

What will I Study?

Geography opens the window on the world you live on and the global community you live in! We answer questions such as:

- Is climate change affecting the planet on different scales?
- Which areas of the planet are the most hazardous?
- How can we be more sustainable?
- What are the landscapes of the UK like?
- What are the landscapes and ecosystems of the world like?
- How is urban living changing?
- How are resources such as food and energy managed?
- How is the UK economy changing?

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE Geography - AQA Specification A.

How would it help me in the future?

GCSE Geography is a course open to anyone with a mind that enquires into the world that surrounds us. Geographers are desirable in the workplace not only because of their diverse knowledge but also their well-balanced skill set. During the course you will become better communicators, problem solvers and decision makers and hopefully become more enterprising!

How will my work be assessed?

100% Exam.

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment. (37.5%)

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. (37.5%)

Paper 3: Geography Application. (25%). This will be assessed on an enquiry and an advanced extract received the month before the final exam.

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

The year 9 course is designed to give you a taste of GCSE Geography. Just as in year 9, you will be asked to think as a geographer and to become the skilled decision-makers and managers that this planet needs.

Health and Social Care

What will I Study?

You will study 4 Units of work.

Unit 1 – Human lifespan development (examination)

Unit 2 – Health and Social Care values

Unit 3 – social influences on health and wellbeing

Unit 4 – promoting health and wellbeing.

What qualification will the course lead to?

BTEC Firsts Health and Social Care

How will it help me in the future?

When you are studying Health and Social Care you will develop your knowledge and understanding of Health and Social Care in a vocational context. If you are interested in working in any health care, social care, early years or educational setting you would benefit from studying this course.

It will help you be an understanding, independent, compassionate, confident young person who is prepared to take on a caring role in society.

How will my work be assessed?

In year 10 you will begin with human lifespan and development, the only one that will be assessed by examination. This covers all the fundamentals that are studied in Health and Social Care. For each of the other Units over year 10 and 11 you will complete coursework that is based on looking at work based scenarios and the different impacts on health and development. These are assessed in different ways from leaflets to role play, preparing you for working in the Health and Social Care sector.

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

Health and Social Care is a new subject to you but is something that you will know all about! Everyone changes and develops over the course of their life, have different life experiences and all use health services and this is what you will be studying. You will be introduced to new keywords and terms that you will use when doing your coursework and answering questions in your examination.

History

What will I study?

- A Period Study – America 1920-1973
- A Wider World Depth Study – Conflict and Tension 1918-1939
- A Thematic Study – Britain: Health and the People c1000 to the present day
- A British Depth Study, including the historic environment – Elizabethan England c1568-1603

I will learn to:

- recall, select, organise and use knowledge
- describe, analyse and explain historical events
- comprehend, analyse, evaluate and interpret
- use a range of sources of information of evidence.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE History

How will it help me in the future?

You could take this course to prepare for advanced level courses such as an A/AS Level in History or an intermediate vocational qualification.

With further training, you could go into a job related to history such as a Teacher, Historian or Archaeologist.

You could also go straight into employment and do further training or part-time study with the support of your employer.

Opportunities in employment for people with History qualifications include law (Solicitors and Barristers), journalism, banking and finance, public service (the Police service and military), amongst others.

How will my work be assessed?

By two examination papers, each 1hr 45mins.

- 1) Paper 1 – Understanding the Modern World includes:
America: 1920-1973
Conflict & Tension: 1918-1939
- 2) Paper 2 – Shaping the Nation, which includes:
Britain: Health & People
Elizabethan England

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

You will build on your skills as a historian, developing the ability to question evidence, develop arguments and reach supported conclusions. You will investigate in more detail some topics you have touched upon in year 9.

Information & Communication Technology

What will I study in ICT?

There are two paths to gain an ICT qualification

BTEC Information Technology

In the first unit, pupils explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. They learn about current and emerging digital technologies and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts (learning and earning, leisure, shopping and money management, health and wellbeing and on the move). They develop an awareness of the risks that are inherent in using ICT and the features of safe, secure and responsible practice.

In the second unit pupils broaden and enhance their ICT skills and capability. They work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts. They learn to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice.

Where the course can lead...

With a BTEC Tech Award in Information Technology, pupils will be able to explore, challenge and realise their potential. During the course, pupils can see whether the industry is one they'd like to be in, where they could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps. After completing the course, pupils can continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 3 as well as apprenticeships and traineeships. Furthermore, the practical transferable skills pupils master during their studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support their progress in the present and the future.

How will my work be assessed?

Three units of work;

Component 1 – exploring the uses of Information Technology

Component 2 – Developing a spreadsheet solution to model data

Component 3 – Creating an interactive product

GCSE ECDL

The second path available will be the European Computer Driving Licence which is the world's number one IT user qualification – recognised and valued in workplaces around the globe as proof of competence in IT.

ECDL is regarded by employers across the globe as a benchmark for IT competence and will improve your employment prospects. Productive Units of study include: • Word processing • Spreadsheets • Presentations • Improving productivity using IT

Which path will I take?

This will be down to your final Computing grade in year 9.

Physical Education

What will I Study?

You will learn about:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data for sport and fitness
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Sports psychology
- Solid-cultural influences

You will have a choice of practical activities: The sports that will be covered in school are: football, netball, hockey, basketball, badminton, handball and athletics. There may be an opportunity to participate in dance, rock climbing and swimming.

A full list of Team Activities and Individual Activities which can be used in gaining practical marks will be displayed at the Options Evening.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE PE

How will it help me in the future?

You could take this course to prepare for advanced level courses such as an A/AS Level in Sport and Physical Education or you may need to strengthen your grades by completing a foundation or intermediate vocational qualification.

With further training, you could go into a job related to sport and physical education such as a Physiotherapist or PE Teacher. You could also train further in one or more sports and become a specialist instructor in those areas.

How will my work be assessed?

Two final examinations on the Theory element of the course = 60%
Practical work will count for 30% of the final grade.
10% from a Team Activity
10% from an Individual Activity and
10% from either another individual or team activity.

10% Personal Exercise Programme.
Pupils will need to produce a Personal Exercise Programme demonstrating planning, monitoring, analysis and a final evaluation.

How will it be similar to what I have done in year 9?

You will continue to develop your practical skills in a range of sports. Most of the activities will be familiar to you such as Netball, Football and Badminton. The theory will follow a similar pattern to the six week taster block you studied during your PE lessons this year. Three lessons from five will be classroom based with the other two practical.

You will be expected to bring your kit on a regular basis and have an interest and ability in a range of sporting activities. You must note that this new GCSE has a greater weighting of marks for the theory element of the course therefore the ability to work well in classroom based activities is essential. Even if you do not select this as an option you will still do Core PE.

Spanish

What will I study?

All lessons contain activities to practise all four skills:

Listening – to practise understanding spoken Spanish in a variety of different contexts.

Speaking - to practise communicating with Spanish speakers, both home and abroad.

Reading - to practise understanding a wide range of texts in Spanish, such as magazine articles and information found on the internet.

Writing – to practise producing your own texts in clear and accurate Spanish and translate paragraphs.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE Spanish

How will it help me in the future?

More and more universities are now requiring that pupils have a language at GCSE level, in order to gain a place on their courses.

Languages combine well with virtually any subject for further study, with many universities offering funding for pupils to travel or work abroad during their holidays.

Knowledge of a foreign language sets you apart and enhances your prospect of employment, whatever your career choice. Finally, language learning is a boost to self-confidence and self-esteem and improves your communication skills.

How will my work be assessed?

Linear exams at the end of yr 11 with an equal weighting for each skill:

- Listening 25%
- Speaking 25%
- Reading 25%
- Writing 25%

Assessment topics:

- Identity and culture
- Local area holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

How will it be similar to what I have done in Year 9?

You will come across some familiar topic areas but the depth in which you cover them and the way in which you are taught will be very different. There will be an emphasis on using authentic materials such as literature and media extracts to help you understand that learning Spanish is not just about learning a language but also about exploring a culture.

You will also acquire the ability to translate texts to and from the target language.

Important course requirements

Only pupils who have studied Spanish in year 9 can select this option.

Drama

What will I study?

GCSE Drama helps pupils develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of Drama through performance, creation of their own piece and critical appreciation of theatre. This three component specification enables pupils to:

- Increase their confidence and self-esteem
- Employ the skills of problem solving and creativity.
- Make knowledgeable decisions about performances.

This course is split into three units:

- Understanding Drama
- Devising Drama
- Texts in practice

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE Drama. This course provides a solid foundation for further studies in Drama and Performing Arts.

How will the course help me in the future?

This course gives pupils the opportunity to:

- Develop as effective and independent learners.
- Develop broad skills, knowledge and understanding of the drama and performing arts industry
- Develop practical, technical and communications skills and encourage appreciation of the need for continuous practice and improvement.
- Work as an individual developing your own creativity and ideas, in addition to group projects which will require you to understand and appreciate the contribution of others.

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 – Understanding Drama – 40% (written examination 1hr 45 mins) *Questions on a play studied over the duration of the course and on the work of theatre makers in a live, professional theatre production that the class will have been to watch.*

Unit 2 - Devising Drama – 40% (written log of ideas/process and a practical performance). *Pupils will complete the process of producing and performing their own piece of drama. Both their written devising log and final performance will be marked in this unit.*

Unit 3 – Texts in practice 20% (performance of two extracts from a play). *Pupils will be assessed on their performance of two extracts from one play. Pupils may contribute as a performer or designer.*

Important course advice:

All pupils will have to undertake a short audition if selecting this option.

Dance

What will I study?

GCSE Dance helps pupils develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation of dance.

This four unit specification enables pupils to:

- Increase their confidence and self-esteem
- Employ the skills of problem solving and creativity.
- Make knowledgeable decisions about dances.

The course will allow pupils to explore a range of dance styles through performance, choreography and theoretical understanding.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE Dance.

This course provides a solid foundation for a career in dance or performing arts and/or further studies in dance or performing arts.

How will it help me in the future?

You will engage in the process of dance to:

- Develop as effective and independent learners
- Develop broad skills, knowledge and understanding of the dance and performing arts industry
- Develop practical, technical and communication skills and encourage appreciation of the need for continuous practice and improvement
- Work as an individual developing your own creativity and ideas, in addition to group projects which will require you to understand and appreciate the contributions of others.

How will my work be assessed?

The GCSE allows pupils to actively and physically demonstrate their abilities through controlled assessment which is worth 60% of the qualification and a practical exam worth 20%

Unit 1 – Critical Appreciation of Dance – 20% (written paper)

Unit 2 – Set Dance – 20% (practical examination of a Solo Performance)

Unit 3 – performance in a duo/group – 20% (Controlled Assessment)

Unit 4 – Choreography – 40% (TASK A – solo composition – 15%. TASK B – Choreography – solo/duo/group – 25%)

Important course requirements

All pupils will have to undertake a short audition if selecting this option.

