Year 8 Options Booklet 2020
Choosing the RIGHT options for Year 9

Things to remember:

1. The choices which you are about to make WILL affect the options you can choose for your GCSE/qualification courses in Year 10 and 11. This is because you cannot choose a GCSE/qualification route if you drop it now.

2. Next year, when you do make your final options choices for your GCSE/qualifications, you will only have the chance to drop ONE of these choices. All of the rest of your choices you will be continuing during Year 10/11. However you will be able to pick up 4 new courses.

3. Remember that even practical subjects have written work too AND all qualifications have an exam as part of the course.

4. Parents PLEASE NOTE - the Parental Approval section has been disabled (so this does NOT need to be ticked).

### Core Subjects (compulsory)

These are NOT included in the options process because you must do all of these.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Maths</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Religious &amp; Philosophical Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Humanities Subject Choice x 1

Choose either Geography or History here.

(If you want to do both then you can choose one here and choose the other one in the section known as the “Open basket”)

### Modern Foreign Language (M.F.L.) Subject Choice x 1

Choose either French or German here.

REMEMBER – if you want to take a language as a GCSE then you MUST choose that language NOW.

### Physical Education (P.E.) Subject Choice x 1

Choose either the qualification or non-qualification route here.

REMEMBER – if you want to take P.E. or Sports Studies as a GCSE/qualification then you MUST choose the qualification route NOW.

### Performing Arts and Design (P.A.D.) Subject Choice x 1

Choose only 1 subject here.

(If you want to make two choices here then don’t worry! You DO get a chance to choose one here and then choose the other one in the section known as the “Open basket”)

Choose Computing, Art, Food, D&T, Dance, Drama, Music

### “Open Basket” Options Choices x 1 (+ 2 Reserve)

“Open Basket” means this is a free choice. You may choose a second Humanities subject here if you wanted to or a second P.A.D. subject. However, you may only choose a single subject in this section plus a reserve choice.

Choose Computing, Art, Food, D&T, Geography, History, Dance, Drama, Music

Help!

If you need help making any of these choices then please speak to your subject teacher or to your Tutor who will be able to help you.
Please look at your GO! Page to access your flight path grades, B4L, RAG (Red, Amber, Green) and targets to help your understand your progress.

To help your child make the best possible option choices, we have provided a list of potential careers along with the GCSE’s they would need to help them along their career path.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>POTENTIAL CARRIERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Librarian, Teacher, Speech and Language Therapist, Journalist, Actor, Advertising, Editor, Teacher, Librarian, screenwriter, TV/ Film producer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Accountant, Pharmacologist, Engineer, Data analyst statistician, Economist, Finance officer, insurance underwriter, Tax advisor, Research scientist, stockbroker, Meteorologist, Cyber intelligence officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>Database Administrator, Web Designer, Animator, app developer, Automotive engineer, Data intelligence analyst, IT security, IT support technician, IT project manager, Technical architect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and Technology</td>
<td>Engineer, Product Design, Surveyor, Architect, Bricklayer, Plasterer, Electrical engineer, Carpenter, Plumber, Civil engineer, Ergonomist, furniture designer, Interior designer, Planning and developing surveyor, Robotics engineer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Catering, Hospitality, Food Industries, Catering Manager, Chef, Baker, Food manufacturing inspector, Food scientist, Hotel manager, Nutritionist, Packaging technologist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Photo Journalist, Portrait Photographer, Graphic Designer, Advertising art director, Animator, Architect, Landscaper, Fashion designer, Make-up artist, Museum creator, Tattooist, textile designer, TV/Film director, Web content manager.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French &amp; German</td>
<td>Translator, Legal Careers, Working abroad, Air cabin crew, Airline pilot, Broadcast journalist, civil service administrator, Teacher, Hotel manager, Immigration officer, Public relations officer, Transport planner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Environmental Consultant, Surveyor, Archeologist, countryside manager, Drone pilot, Estates officer, Geo-technician, Land surveyor, Geochemist, Environmental Consultant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Choreographer, Dance Instructor, circus performer, dance teacher, events manager, PE teacher, personal trainer, Play therapist, Primary school teacher, TV presenter, video editor, Wardrobe assistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>Theatre Technician, Actor, community arts worker, Events manager, image consultant, Lighting technician, screen writer, set designer, social media manager, Vlogger,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Composer, Musician, Therapist, Community arts worker, Computer games develop, Events manager, Radio broadcast assistant, Studio sound engineer, TV/Film director/producer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Outdoor Activities Manager, Sports Therapist, Personal Trainer, Events manager, health trainer, Lifeguard, Physiotherapist, Sports coach, Sports scientist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>Missicnary, Community Outreach Coordinator, Barrister, Civil Service administrator, Editor, Legal Executive, Marketing executive, psychotherapist, Solicitor,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science Lab Technician, Nature Conservation Officer, Zoo Keeper, Biomedical scientist, Botanist, criminologist, Dental nurse, Environmental scientist, food scientist, GP, Vet, Podiatrist, Gardener, Medicine, Chemical Engineer, Environmental Consultant, Pharmacy, Forensic Scientist, Chemist, Dentist, Energy Engineer, Hospital doctor, Textile technologist, Meteorologist, Research Scientist, Aerospace engineer, architect, Broadcast engineer, Electronics engineer, Nuclear engineer, physicist.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teacher RAG information

RAG stands for Red, Amber and Green

**Red** will mean ‘We have reservations about you taking this option’

**Amber** will mean ‘We have no concerns about you taking this option choice. This is a good choice for you.’

**Green** will mean ‘We strongly recommend you take this option choice’

If you do receive a ‘Red’ it does not mean that you will not do this option – but it is something that will be looked at seriously and discussed with you and your parents and if other subjects are more positive then you will be directed towards those courses instead.
How do I decide on what options to choose?

Please read this guidance to help you choose your options. Also, speak to your teachers and tutors to help you make these important decisions. Parents evening is being held on Tuesday 21st April which will give you the opportunity to talk through the options with your teacher.

Do speak to your parents/carer

Do speak to other students

Do make decisions based on interest, strengths and enjoyment

Do research subjects, careers & university

Do read your Options Booklet carefully

Do continue to work hard in Year 9

Do choose a balanced group of subjects

Be informed: Use the options booklet to help you with the following questions

How is the course assessed?

How is the course delivered?

What are the topics?

Don’t choose a subject because you like the teacher

Don’t choose a subject because your friends are

Don’t choose a subject because you think it will be easy

Possible Pathways for Post 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>What next?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A Levels  
8 x 4/5 GCSEs  
3 subjects (need 6s in chosen subjects) |
| Vocational  
Five GCSEs at grade 3 including English and math's. |
| Technical Courses  
T levels level 3  
six grade 4s including English and math's |
| Apprenticeships will gain a qualification equivalent to GCSE |

| Vocational  
Five GCSEs at grade 4 including a grade 4 or above in English and math's |
| Technical Courses  
T levels level 3  
six grade 4s including English and math's |
| Apprenticeships will gain a qualification equivalent to either A Levels or university degree |

| International Baccalaureate  
8x6s- study 6 subjects |
| Apprenticeships |
| Apprenticeships |
| Apprenticeships or F/T employment |

Higher Education course (University)  
Apprenticeship at college or university  
A Career.

Please keep looking at your school emails for career assemblies and other information.
Help sheet – Year 8 Options Process

What do my child and I need to do?

1. Together, you need to log in to their Office365 account (they use their school email address and password)
2. They need to go to their school email inbox. The icon looks like this: 📧
3. Find the email which they have received from the email address: noreply@sims.co.uk. You can only use this link once.
4. Please make sure that you/they check the SPAM/Junk folder if the email isn’t in their email inbox.
5. At the top of the email is a link to the Options software. It says “click this link”.

They will then be taken to the SIMs Options Online webpage and a logon screen will appear. It will look like this:

They must use the Microsoft log on which looks like this

They will then be logged in to the Options choices webpage. They must then register for the service as follows:

- They must click on their name/email account
- They will then be taken to a registration page. Click the blue “Register” button
- A “Permissions requested” page will appear. Click on “Accept”
- A security question will appear. They must input their date of birth in the format dd/mm/yyyy
- You will then be logged in to the SIMs Options Online system

If you need to return to the website again to revisit your option choices, then you will need to log in using the following web address www.sims-options.co.uk

- You will need to sign in with Office 365 (see above)
### Humanities Subject Choice x 1
Choose either Geography or History here.

If you want to do both then don't worry! You do get a chance to choose one here and then choose the other one in the section known as the 'Open basket'.

**How to make your selections:**
Click on the subject name if you want to make it a firm choice. This will colour the subject blue. Click it again if you want to unselect it.

- **Geography** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open
- **History** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses from this list.

### Modern Foreign Language (M.F.L.) Subject Choice x 1
Choose either French or German here.

**REMEMBER** – if you want to take a language as a GCSE then you MUST choose that language NOW.

- **French** Key Stage 3
- **German** Key Stage 3

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses from this list.

### Performing Arts and Design (P.A.D.) Subject Choice x 1
Choose only 1 subject here.

If you want to make two choices here then don't worry! You do get a chance to choose one here and then choose the other one in the section known as the 'Open basket'.

- **Art & Design** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open
- **Computing** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open
- **Dance** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open
- **Drama** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open
- **Design and Technology** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open
- **Food Preparation & Nutrition** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open
- **Music** Key Stage 3
  - This course is also available in Open

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses from this list.

### Physical Education (P.E.) Subject Choice x 1
Choose either qualification or non-qualification here.

**REMEMBER** – if you want to take P.E. as a GCSE/qualification then you MUST choose the qualification pathway NOW.

- **PE Non Qualification Pathway** Key Stage 3
- **PE Qualification Pathway** Key Stage 3

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses from this list.

### “Open Basket” Options Choices x 1 (+ 2 Reserve)
“Open Basket” means this is a free choice. You may choose a second Humanities subject here if you wanted to or a second P.A.D. subject. However, you may only choose a single subject in this section plus 2 reserve choices.

**How to make your selections:**
Click on the subject name if you want to make it a firm choice. This will colour the subject blue. Click it again if you want to unselect it.

Click on the word “reserve” next to the subject name if you want it to be a reserve choice. This will colour the subject orange. Click the word “reserve” again to unselect it.

Firm choice is BLUE

- **Art & Design** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in P.A.D.
- **Computing** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in P.A.D.
- **Dance** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in P.A.D.
- **Drama** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in P.A.D.
- **Design and Technology** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in P.A.D.
- **Food Preparation & Nutrition** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in P.A.D.
- **Geography** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in Humanities
- **History** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in Humanities
- **Music** Key Stage 3 Reserve
  - This course is also available in Humanities
- **Religion and Philosophy** Key Stage 3 Reserve

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 2 of 2 reserves from this list.

Reserve choice is ORANGE
Core Subjects

These subjects are compulsory.

You will study:-

- English:
  
  You will be working towards taking BOTH English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE in Year 11.

- Mathematics:
  
  You will be working towards taking Maths GCSE at either Higher or Foundation tier in Year 11.

- Science:
  
  You will be working towards taking either Combined Science (Trilogy) GCSE (a double award so equivalent to 2 x GCSEs) or the 3 x separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in Year 11.

- Religious & Philosophical Studies:
  
  You will be working towards a greater understanding of world faiths. In Year 9 you may opt to take a GCSE in Religious & Philosophical Studies.
All students will study Science through to Year 11. In Year 9 you will begin studying for the Combined Science (Trilogy) course.

Topics covered are split between 2 papers for each science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biology Paper 1</th>
<th>Chemistry Paper 1</th>
<th>Physics Paper 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
<td>Atomic structure and periodic table</td>
<td>Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Bonding structure and the properties of matter</td>
<td>Electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection and response</td>
<td>Quantitative chemistry</td>
<td>Particle model of matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioenergetics</td>
<td>Chemical changes</td>
<td>Atomic structure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biology Paper 2</th>
<th>Chemistry Paper 2</th>
<th>Physics Paper 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeostasis and response</td>
<td>The rate and extent of chemical change</td>
<td>Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inheritance, variation and</td>
<td>Organic chemistry</td>
<td>Waves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evolution</td>
<td>Chemical analysis</td>
<td>Magnetism and electromagnetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Chemistry of the atmosphere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this course, you will develop a scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of science, alongside an understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science. You will also learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments as well as develop your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

At the end of this course, you will be able to gain 2 GCSEs.

Assessment
40% Demonstrate knowledge & understanding of scientific ideas, scientific techniques and procedures.
40% Apply knowledge & understanding of scientific ideas, scientific techniques and procedures.
20% Analyse information & ideas to interpret & evaluate, make judgements & draw conclusions, develop and improve experimental procedures.

You will sit 6 papers in total (2 for each science)
Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
Foundation and Higher tier
70 marks
16.7% of GCSE
The questions consist of multiple choice, structure, closed short answer and open response.

At the end of Year 9 you will be given the opportunity to take separate science or continue with the Trilogy, after discussions with your teacher about the best route to take. Separate science allows you to study all 3 as individual subjects and achieving 3 GCSE’s at the end of Year 11. If you enjoy science and are thinking about a career in the sciences this is a route you should consider at the end of Year 9.
Humanities Subjects

Choose either:

- Geography:
  
  You will be working towards taking Geography GCSE in Year 11.

- History:
  
  You will be working towards taking History GCSE in Year 11.

If you want to do both then you can choose one subject here and choose the other one in the section known as the "Open basket".
Learning in Year 9:

You will build on knowledge and skills gained in geography during Years 7 & 8, as well as learn about a variety of topics that are part of the AQA specification including: urban issues and challenges, natural hazards and the living world.

Understanding contemporary geography is essential in life. Our students will take a tour of the world from their classrooms learning about environments, people and economics. Employability skills of data analysis, literacy and numeracy are as core as the subject content.

ONLY by choosing Geography in Y9 will you be able to study for

- Geography GCSE (Exam board: AQA)

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

Our planet can seem to be a complicated place, facing much change and many challenges that lie ahead in the near future. Studying the natural and human world around you and making sense of it, is nothing short of inspirational; it sets you up with a good understanding of our diverse world – for life. This course investigates modern issues and the sustainable strategies being used today to adapt and plan for the world of tomorrow.

Geography students have long been regarded as some of the most employable people available as a result of the key skills of thinking, communicating and investigating acquired whilst studying the subject. By doing this EBACC subject, students will experience fieldwork trips (working out of the classroom) to build on research and employability skills of geographical enquiry.

Remaining core content in years 10 and 11 includes: UK physical landscapes, changing economic world, resource management and geographical skills (fieldwork and analytical skills).

Assessment:

All topics are revisited in Year 11 as distributed practise in preparation for the final three exams. Fieldwork is undertaken and enquiry based projects are included – although these are assessed through terminal examination.

The full GCSE is 100% exam. (3 papers)

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of geography at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 should you choose this course.

If you wish to take the history option as well as geography in Year 10 and 11 – you will need to select it in your ‘Open Option’.
Learning in Year 9:

You will build on knowledge gained in history during Years 7 & 8 as well as learn to undertake research, interpret information, assess evidence and communicate your ideas.

For your GCSE, you will study four units. The largest unit, Medicine Through Time, is a breadth study from the end of the Roman Times to present day.

The Empire, Reform and War unit focuses on the build up to World War One, the war itself and the impact of the war. This sets the scene for Germany 1919-1991, covering the rise of the Nazis, World War Two and Germany after the war. The final stand-alone unit is a depth study of the Crusades.

ONLY by choosing History in Y9 will you be able to study for

- History GCSE (Exam board: Eduqas)

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

During the course you will develop the ability to research and investigate issues, interpret and analyse information using a range of sources, assess evidence and use it to prove a point, argue a case or present a balanced viewpoint and organise and communicate your ideas.

You need to enjoy history and have shown a commitment to the study of this subject. Homework and individual research are key parts of the GCSE in years 10 and 11. You will be expected to do additional reading around the topics to support your understanding of the context. This will help you to fully immerse yourself in the subject.

Once you have embedded the knowledge required you will need to be able to write at a high level in order to meet the requirements of the exam.

Assessment

All topics are revisited in Year 11 as distributed practice in preparation for the final exams. You will be assessed in four terminal exams at the end of Year 11.

The full GCSE is 100% exam. (4 papers in 2 sittings)

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of history at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 should you choose this course.

If you wish to take the geography option as well, in Year 10 and 11 – you will need to select it in your ‘Open Option’.
MFL Subjects

Choose either:

- French:
  You will be working towards taking French GCSE in Year 11.

- German:
  You will be working towards taking German GCSE in Year 11.

Please bear in mind that if you want to take a language at GCSE then you MUST choose that language NOW.

*You cannot swap your language choice when you choose your GCSE course.*
Learning in Year 9:

You will build on knowledge and skills gained in French during Year 7 as well as learning about a variety of topics including:
  - How to use French for practical communication in a variety of everyday situations.
  - How to use French to put forward your views and arguments on a broad range of engaging topics.
  - To be able to speak confidently and spontaneously in the language.
  - Correct use and understanding of French grammar and how the language works.
  - Various aspects of the way of life in French-speaking countries.

Only by choosing French in Y9 will you be able to study for

- French GCSE (Exam board: Eduqas)

Learning in Years 10 and 11:
Develop your language skills. (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Translation)

Use a range of authentic materials to help you to get to grips with how the language is really used.
Read literature, listen to music and watch TV programmes and films in French to help embed your skills.

In Year 10, you will be offered the exciting opportunity to have a penfriend and possibly take part in an exchange to further your knowledge and experience of French culture and language.

Assessment:

All topics are revisited in Year 11 as distributed practise in preparation for the final three exams.

The full GCSE is 100% exam.
Exams in listening, reading, writing and a speaking assessment
Each skill is worth 25% of the final grade.
Students are entered at either Foundation (Grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grades 4-9).

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of French at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 should you choose this course.

If you wish to take the history option as well, in Year 10 and 11 – you will need to select it in your ‘Open Option’.
Learning in Year 9:
You will build on knowledge and skills gained in German during Year 8, as well as learn about a variety of topics including:
- How to use German for practical communication in a variety of everyday situations.
- How to use German to put forward your views and arguments on a broad range of engaging topics.
- To be able to speak confidently and spontaneously in the language.
- Correct understanding and use of German grammar and how the language works.
- Various aspects of the way of life in German-speaking countries.

ONLY by choosing German in Y9 will you be able to study for
- German GCSE (Exam board: Eduqas)

Learning in Years 10 and 11:
Develop your language skills. (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Translation)

Use a range of authentic materials to help you to get to grips with how the language is really used. Read literature, listen to music and watch TV programmes and films in German to help embed your skills.

Assessment:
All topics are revisited in Year 11 as distributed practise in preparation for the final exams.

The full GCSE is 100% exam.
Exams in listening, reading, writing and a speaking assessment
Each skill is worth 25% of the final grade.
Students are entered at either Foundation (Grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grades 4-9).

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of German at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 should you choose this course.

If you wish to take the history option as well, in Year 10 and 11 – you will need to select it in your ‘Open Option’.
Performing Arts and Design Subjects

Choose ONE subject from this section:

- Computing
- Design – Art
- Design – Food
- Design – Design and Technology
- Performing Arts – Dance
- Performing Arts – Drama
- Performing Arts – Music

If you want to do two subjects from here then don’t worry!

You DO get a chance to choose one subject here and then choose another one in the section known as the “Open basket”.
Learning in Year 9:

We all use computers, mobile devices, networks and the internet in our everyday lives. This foundation course allows students to delve into how this technology works and how it may be applied across a wide range of contexts.

You will continue to build on the computing skills you have developed in Years 7 & 8. You will also learn more about programming, digital media, graphics, networking, html, compression,

PLEASE NOTE:-
Towards the end of Year 9 your teacher will be recommending the qualification that they feel is best suited to your child's skills and needs as they move in to Year 10

ONLY by choosing Computing in Y9 will you be able to study for

- Computer Science GCSE and/or
- OCR Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia.

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

Computer Science GCSE

Computer science looks at how computer technology works; what goes on 'inside the box', how to break problems down and solve them logically and how to create computer programs.

We look at how digital devices are connected together to form networks and the internet, learning about different kinds of networks, communication protocols and cyber security issues.

We plan and create programs using computational thinking: decomposing problems into smaller, solvable parts and producing algorithms that show how to solve them, before writing and testing program our code.

Assessment

Exam

50% Computer systems (1hr 30mins)

50% Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (1hr 30mins)

Creative iMedia Cambridge Nationals

Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is a huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce.

This qualification will equip learners with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

You will learn about how to plan pre-production effectively including understanding client requirements and reviewing pre-production briefs. You will also learn the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector.

Assessment

Exam

Unit 1 25% Pre-production skills (1hr 15mins)

Controlled assessment

Unit 2 25% Creating digital graphics

Unit 3 25% To be agreed

Unit 4 25% Creating a multipage website

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of French at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 should you choose this course.

If you wish to take the history option as well, in Year 10 and 11 – you will need to select it in your ‘Open Option’.
Learning in Year 9:
The value of creativity! You will continue to develop skills in drawing, painting and printing as well as how designers use digital technologies, together with other techniques, to make new and visually exciting work. You will also analyse and understand different visual images, explore a variety of materials, techniques and processes and how to successfully and responsibly use equipment (such as computers, digital cameras, scanners and software).

PLEASE NOTE:- towards the end of Year 9, your teacher will be recommending the qualification that they feel is best suited to your child’s skills and needs as they move in to Year 10

ONLY by choosing Art will you be able to study for

- Art, Craft and Design GCSE
- Graphic Communication GCSE
- Photography GCSE

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

Art, Craft and Design GCSE
You will be inspired by the work of other artists, craft workers and designers. You will understand the important role that art plays in our everyday lives. You will learn how to create artwork to illustrate your ideas. You will explore a range of techniques and media and develop your ideas. Finally you will learn how to create a final outcome. You will use a sketchbook as part of the creative process.

Assessment
60% controlled assessment, which consists of sketchbooks and final outcomes
40% will be a controlled assessment in exam conditions.

Graphic Communication GCSE
You will create artwork for a range of purposes, using a selection of materials and technologies e.g. magazine covers design, advertising posters and flyer design. Complete visual research and record observations and experiences in an appropriate way, using a variety of technologies (e.g. Digital SLR cameras). Look at the work of other designers, photographers and other artists and use these as inspiration for your own work. You will use a sketchbook as part of the creative process.

Assessment
60% controlled assessment, which consists of ibooks and final outcomes
40% will be a controlled assessment in exam conditions.

Photography GCSE
You will show your ability to express your ideas by working from stimulating themes. The course will allow students to apply their photographic skills to specific outcomes such as Still Life, Portraiture and Street Photography. Throughout the course, students will spend much of their time using professional digital media equipment (iMacs, digital SLR and Adobe Creative Suite software etc) to produce their work.

Assessment
60% controlled assessment, which consists of ibooks and final outcomes
40% will be a controlled assessment in exam conditions.

You will be encouraged to purchase a sketchbook, which will be used to record your supporting studies. This course is open to all students. Commitment, enthusiasm and good attendance are needed to succeed. The creative industries are a big employer with lots of different routes into careers such as photographers, graphic designers, fine artists, art therapists, architects, fashion designers, product designers...the list goes on and on. Another skill studying an art option develops is thinking creatively, this skill is sort after whatever career you pursue.

You will NOT be able to take any other performance or design option in Year 10 and 11 – unless you choose it in your ‘Open Option’.
Learning in Year 9:
Food is an exciting and creative course, which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. This pathway focuses on nurturing students’ practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

PLEASE NOTE:-
Towards the end of Year 9, your teacher will be recommending the qualification that they feel is best suited to your child’s skills and needs as they move in to Year 10.

ONLY by choosing Food will you be able to study for

- GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
- BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

**GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition**

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE is an exciting and creative course, which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students’ practical cookery skill to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

**Assessment**
Scientific investigation (written) – 15%
Food preparation task (practical) – 35%
1 hour 45mins exam – 50%

**BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles**

The Hospitality and Catering course covers two units which are unit 1 – The Hospitality and Catering industry and unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in action. The aim is to enable students to have a good foundation of knowledge, understanding and skills, required by the industry.

You will have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills, including food preparation and cooking skills, organisation, time management, planning, communication and problem solving.

**Assessment**
Unit 1 – External assessment: (online e-assessment) – 40%
Unit 2 – Internal assessment: (Controlled Assessment task) with practical – 60%

Studying food can lead to exciting and well-paid career options. These courses could lead you into roles such as a Chef, Food Product Developer, Buyer, Food Safety Inspectors, Nutritonists, Dieticians, Quality Managers, Teacher, Food Engineer, Food Scientist, Food Technologist, Food Photographer, Food Stylist, Home Economist, and Microbiologist, working in food magazines, radio and television.

You will NOT be able to take any other performance or design option in Year 10 and 11 – unless you choose it in your ‘Open Option’.
Learning in Year 9:

You will learn how to cut, shape, form, join and finish a range of materials using a wide range of hand and machine tools. You will work with a range of materials including wood, plastic, metal, textile, composite and smart materials to turn your designs into high quality products. You will develop skills in producing a core portfolio using ICT to achieve a high quality presentation to demonstrate a quality made product applying skills and knowledge from all the projects undertaken in KS3 and KS4.

PLEASE NOTE:-
Towards the end of Year 9 your teacher will be recommending the qualification that they feel is best suited to your child's skills and needs as they move in to Year 10.

ONLY by choosing Design and Technology will you be able to study for

- Design and Technology GCSE: Resistant Materials
- WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Construction: Constructing the Built Environment

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

Design and Technology GCSE: Resistant Materials

Our world is full of products that are made from a wide range of new and modern materials. In this exciting and challenging course you will continue to develop your knowledge of the techniques that will help you become a creative designer and maker. You will continue to develop your skills learnt in a range of materials using a wide range of hand and machine tools. You will work with a range of materials including wood, plastic, metal, composite and smart materials to turn your designs into high quality products.

Assessment
50% Portfolio and making of product
50% external terminal exam in year 11 – 2hours

WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Construction: Planning and Maintaining the Built Environment

This course explores how buildings are designed, constructed and maintained. This award is made up of three units, each having an applied purpose which acts as a focus. This encourages students to consider how the use and application of their knowledge, understanding and skills impacts on individuals, employers, society and the environment. They are designed around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning.

Assessment
Unit 1 25% Safety and Security in construction – Exam 1 hour.
Unit 2 50% Developing construction projects – internal assessment
Unit 3 25% Planning construction projects – Exam 1 hour

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of your designing and making work at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 and should choose this course. The school will provide the majority of the materials appropriate for you to design and make a high quality product to achieve a high grade. You may need to supply alternative materials to suit your own design ambitions.

You will NOT be able to take any other performance or design option in Year 10 and 11 – unless you choose it in your 'Open Option'.
Performing Arts – Dance

Learning in Year 9

You will develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation of dance. Dance teaches discipline, a desire for excellence and an appreciation of both teamwork and self-expression.

ONLY by choosing Dance in Y9 will you be able to study for

- Performing Arts: Dance GCSE

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

Performing Arts: Dance

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject, which will encourage you to develop your creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity.

Studying dance has many benefits. Students learn to be more aware of themselves, they learn to control their bodies, they learn to discipline both mind and body, have better posture, learn the importance of teamwork and develop better co-ordination and flexibility.

This course provides a solid foundation for a career or further studies in dance or performing arts including ‘A’ level dance, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in dance and professional dance training.

Possible careers in dance include choreographer, community dance practitioner, dance performer, dance/arts officer, dance filmmaker, dance movement therapist, dance photographer, dance teacher, Pilates instructor, youth worker and dance journalist.

Assessment
C1 – 30% Performing
C1 – 30% Choreography
C2 – 40% Exam (1.5hrs)

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of dance work at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 and should choose this course.

You will NOT be able to take any other performance or design option in Years 10 and 11 – unless you choose it in your ‘Open Option’. 
Performing Arts – Drama
SUBJECT LEADER
Mr I Wright
Teacher
Miss Large

Learning in Year 9

In studying drama in Year 9 you will be able to build on the key constructs and skills learnt this year whilst being able to study in more depth the practical, collaborative elements of drama you enjoyed in Year 8.

In Year 9 you will learn how to analyse and critically evaluate performances whilst starting to explore some of the key works delivered within Years 10 and 11.

The course will help build transferable skills such as team work and problem solving and most of all create a solid foundation for you to succeed through the GCSE drama course.

ONLY by choosing Drama in Y9 will you be able to study for

- Performing Arts: Drama GCSE

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

Performing Arts: Drama

Studying drama is demanding and teaches students that success only comes from hard work, collaborative practise and independent focus.

The skills that are learnt by studying drama are invaluable in later life. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people and the skill of planning that is required in any production are useful in many careers.

Drama plays a major role in our lives. We all experience ‘real life’ drama in the form our own personal experiences as well as ‘real life’ drama in the news and current affairs. We are also exposed to fictional drama in film, on television and in the theatre.

By studying drama’s impact on our culture we can start to look more critically at what the media offer us and we can choose whether or not to accept the messages that they give. By studying drama we become intelligent spectators. Drama can be a good basis for a career not only in the theatre but in advertising, the film industry and even in events planning, amongst many others.

The drama GCSE course is exciting and varied.

Assessment
C1 – 40% Exam (1hr 45mins)
C2 – 40% Devising – internal assessment
   (consists of 30% written and 10% practical)
C3 – 20% Texts in practice – practical – externally assessed

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of drama work at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 and should choose this course.

You will NOT be able to take any other performance or design option in Years 10 and 11 – unless you choose it in your ‘Open Option’.
Learning in Year 9

Building on the work covered in Years 7 & 8, you will learn in more detail about how the elements of music are used to manipulate music and develop skills to help you become proficient in composing and performing. Understanding music from different cultures and genres across different periods of time will support you in developing your own creativity and musicality.

Year 9 music course helps lay a foundation for deeper study at Years 10 and 11 where you will study in-depth music from the world of classical music, world music and popular music. There will be opportunities to study in greater depth set works in Year 10 by Haydn and the Beatles.

This course will broader your understanding and enjoyment of music whilst also fine-tuning key analytical skills, creativity, independence and resilience.

ONLY by choosing Music in Y9 will you be able to study for

- Performing Arts: Music GCSE

Learning in Years 10 and 11:

Performing Arts: Music

You will learn to perform and compose in small groups as well as on your own. However, although we encourage public performances, there is no requirement for you to perform in public if you choose not to. You will have the opportunity to develop your skills on a chosen instrument or voice through the course and by studying music, you will gain a fuller understanding of the world that surrounds us whilst developing critical learning skills so much in demand post 16.

Taking this opportunity to study music in Year 9 will help prepare you for studying the GCSE music course in full, which itself will open doors to further study at A level or vocational level 3 courses. Studying music will provide established pathways to degree courses and a variety of diverse careers.

It is an advantage to be able to read music but not essential as we will guide you through the course to help you learn or become more proficient. You will also not have to perform in public, unless you want to, although we will encourage you to.

You do not have to be able to play a musical instrument at this stage, as you only need basic classroom instrumental skills.

However, if you wish to study music through to GCSE, you will need to be developing, with support, vocal and instrumental skills from an instrument or vocal teacher.

Assessment
C1 – 40% Exam (1.5hrs)
C2 – 30% Performing
C3 – 30% Composing

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of music work at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 and should choose this course.

You will NOT be able to take any other performance or design option in Years 10 and 11 – unless you choose it in your ‘Open Option’.
PE Subjects

You must choose one of two routes:

- Non-qualification:
  You will be working towards staying fit and healthy.

- Qualification:
  You will be working towards taking either the PE GCSE or the Sports Studies Award in Year 11.

Please bear in mind that if you want to take a PE or Sport qualification then you MUST choose the qualification route NOW.

You cannot swap to the qualification route if you choose the non-qualification route for Year 9.
Students need to choose whether to follow a qualification or non-qualification pathway in Year 9. If students choose the qualification pathway their teacher will recommend the qualification that they feel is best suited to your child’s skills and needs.

### AQA GCSE Physical Education

This is an interesting and challenging learning experience. In it we introduce key sporting ideas and show how these interact with practical performance, you will gain insights into the relationships they have with each other throughout the course.

**DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:** Participate in a range of physical activities as Player/Performer, developing the ability to make effective plans to improve performance. You will develop the analytical skills necessary to look at and improve your own and others performance.

**Assessment**
- 2 x Written exams:
  - Paper 1 = 1 hour 15 minutes (78 marks) which is 30%.
  - Paper 2 = 1 hour 15 minutes (78 marks) which is 30%.
- Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third either in a team or in an individual activity).
- Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.
- Assessed by teachers. Moderated by AQA (100 marks), which is 30% of GCSE practical performance. 10% written analysis and evaluation.

### Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies

This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The new Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies reflect this and provide students with a broad knowledge and understanding of different aspects of sports studies, from looking at contemporary issues in sport and the relationship between sport and the media to developing the practical skills essential for progression into the sports industry.

**DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:** Continue to pursue sporting excellence in both individual and team sports, taking responsibility for our own personal development plan; part of your development will involve performing in additional roles such as an official/umpire.

**Assessment**
- Students have to complete three assignments and a 1.5 hour written exam paper, which contains multiple choice, short and extended answer questions.

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of your physical education work at KS3 then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 and should choose this course.

**You will NOT be able to take any other physical education or sport studies option in Years 10 and 11 – unless you choose it in your ‘Open Option’**.
Open Option

Choose ONE option from this section.

- Computing
- Design – Art
- Design – Food
- Design – Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Performing Arts – Dance
- Performing Arts – Drama
- Performing Arts – Music

These are the options available in the “Open” Option block. You must choose one from this block PLUS two reserve choices.

For details on these courses, please see the relevant pages in the previous sections.