Choosing the RIGHT options for your GCSEs

Things to remember:

1. Whatever subjects you choose they need to be ones that you can achieve in as well as enjoy.
2. Even practical subjects have written work too AND all qualifications have an exam as part of the course.
3. You can only choose subjects that you studied in Yr 9 apart from the new four at the bottom of the page.

Compulsory Subjects
(that means you must do all of these)

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science

EBacc Subject Choice

EBacc stands for “English Baccalaureate” and you have to choose one of these subjects. You must choose ONE of these and you may ONLY choose a subject you have been following in Y9 (if you want to do more than one of these you can opt to choose some of these later on as one of your other choices in the section known as the “open basket”)

- Computer Science
- Separate Sciences
- Geography
- History
- German
- French

“Open Basket” Options Choices x 3 (plus 2 reserve choices)

“Open Basket” means these are free choices but for almost all of these choices you still have to choose subjects that you have been following in Y9. Where a choice of pathways are available e.g. Food/Hospitality then your teacher will consider your preference but the final qualification decision will be made by them.

- Dance
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- RPS

If you study the subjects above in Y9 then you may choose them as a GCSE (but please note - you CAN’T choose these subjects if you are NOT already doing them in Y9)

Y9 Art
could choose:
Art OR Graphics OR Photography
You may also take
Art AND Photography
(but not Art & Graphics or Photography & Graphics)

Y9 Food
could choose: Food OR Hospitality (but not both)

Y9 Computing
could choose: Computer Science OR iMedia
You may be able to choose both.

Yr 9 GCSE
could choose: PE GCSE OR Sports Studies Award (not both)

Y9 D&T
could choose: D&T OR Construction
You may be able to choose both.

Completely NEW subjects you could choose are:

- Statistics
- Geology
- Business
- Health & Social Care
Before deciding your options you need to think about:

What is your post-16 progression plan and what college do you want to attend?

What specific GSCE grades do you need for my future learning?

What specific GCSE subjects do you need for what University?

Be aware of how GCSE grades impact on career paths.

What career would you like to experience for your work placement?

You will have to re-sit if you do not achieve Maths and English.

What you choose now and what you attain in August 2022 will impact on your Level 3 education, degree level education and your career.

Remember-Employers will look at your GCSE results.

---

**Level 2**

- Vocational
  - Five GCSEs at grade 3 including English and maths.

**Level 3**

- **A Levels**
  - 8 x 4/5 GCSEs
  - 3 subjects (need 6s in chosen subjects)

- **International Baccalaureate**
  - 8x6s- study 6 subjects

- **Vocational**
  - Five GCSEs at grade 4 including a grade 4 or above in English and mathematics

- **Technical Courses - T levels level 3**
  - six grade 4s including English and mathematics

**What next?**

- Higher Education course (University)
- Apprenticeship at college or university
- A Career.
- Apprenticeships
  - will gain a qualification equivalent to either GCSE

- Apprenticeships
  - will gain a qualification equivalent to either A Levels or university degree

- Apprenticeships or F/T employment

---

Please keep looking at your school emails for career assemblies and other information.
To help your child make the best possible option choices, we have provided a list of potential careers along with the GCSEs they would need to help them along their career path.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>POTENTIAL CAREERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Literature and Language GCSE</td>
<td>librarian, teacher, speech and language therapist, journalist, actor, advertising, editor, administrator, screenwriter, TV/film producer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths GCSE and Statistics GCSE</td>
<td>accountant, pharmacologist, engineer, data analyst statistician, economist, finance officer, insurance underwriter, tax adviser, research scientist, stockbroker, cyber intelligence officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business 9-1 GCSE</td>
<td>financial manager, economist, bank manager, business development manager/project manager, estate agent, investment analyst, pensions adviser, sales and retail manager, social media manager.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science GCSE and Level 1&amp;2 Certificate in Creative Media (Equivalent to 1 GCSE)</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 GCSE and Level 1&amp;2 Award in Construction: Constructing the built environment. (Equivalent to 1 GCSE)</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, Preparation &amp; Nutrition and Level 1&amp;2 Technical Award in Hospitality and Catering (equivalent to 1 GCSE)</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 GCSE, Photography GCSE and Graphic Communication GCSE (Digital Art)</td>
<td>photo journalist, portrait photographer, graphic designer, advertising art director, animator, architect, landscaper, fashion designer, make-up artist, museum curator, tattooist, textile designer, TV/film director, web content manager.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French GCSE and German GCSE</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 GCSE and Geology GCSE</td>
<td>environmental consultant, surveyor, archeologist, countryside manager, drone pilot, estates officer, geo-technician, land surveyor, geochemist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1&amp;2 Health and Social Care BTEC (Equivalent to 1 GCSE)</td>
<td>care worker, occupational therapist, teacher, nurse, police officer, nursery nurse, social worker, child minder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance GCSE</td>
<td>choreographer, dance instructor, circus performer, teacher, events manager, personal trainer, play therapist, TV presenter, video editor, wardrobe assistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama GCSE</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>Course</td>
<td>Potential Careers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music GCSE</td>
<td>composer, musician, therapist, community arts worker, computer games developer, events manager, radio broadcast assistant, studio sound engineer, TV/film director/producer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education GCSE and Level 1&amp;2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies (Equivalent to 1 GCSE)</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 GCSE</td>
<td>missionary, community outreach coordinator, barrister, civil service administrator, editor, legal executive, marketing executive, psychotherapist, solicitor,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science – Biology GCSE</td>
<td>science lab technician, nature conservation officer, zoo keeper, biomedical scientist, botanist, criminologist, dental nurse, environmental scientist, food scientist, GP, podiatrist, gardener, medicine, dentistry, veterinarian,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science – Chemistry GCSE</td>
<td>chemical engineer, environmental consultant, pharmacy, forensic scientist, chemist, dentist, energy engineer, hospital doctor, textile technologist, veterinarian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science – Physics GCSE</td>
<td>meteorologist, research scientist, aerospace engineer, architect, broadcast engineer, electronics engineer, nuclear engineer, physicist.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You must pick at least one Ebacc subject

Your EBACC subject

History GCSE

Geography GCSE

Computing GCSE

French GCSE

German GCSE

Triple Science GCSE

You cannot pick an Ebacc subject if you have not studied it in Year 9

You could pick ‘Triple Science’ as your Ebacc option which will give you three separate science GCSEs ‘Biology’, ‘Chemistry’ & ‘Physics’.
EBACC – you must study double science or you could choose…

Separate Sciences – 3 x GCSEs

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs S Murray
KS4 LEADER: Mrs H Taylor
EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biology</th>
<th>Chemistry</th>
<th>Physics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Cell biology</td>
<td>• Atomic structure and the periodic table</td>
<td>• Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Organisation</td>
<td>• Bonding, structure and the properties of matter</td>
<td>• Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Infection and response</td>
<td>• Quantitative chemistry</td>
<td>• Waves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bioenergetics</td>
<td>• Chemical changes</td>
<td>• Electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Homeostasis and response</td>
<td>• Energy changes</td>
<td>• Magnetism and electromagneticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inheritance, variation and evolution</td>
<td>• The rate and extent of chemical change</td>
<td>• Particle model of matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ecology</td>
<td>• Organic chemistry</td>
<td>• Atomic structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Chemical analysis</td>
<td>• Space physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Chemistry of the atmosphere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Using resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL

• Develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of science
• Develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science
• Develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments
• Develop your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.
YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:

Six papers, two for each science specialism. Each of these papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topics. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes. The questions will consist of: multiple choice, closed, short answers and open response.

At GCSE the exam is broken into the following 3 sections to assess students understanding and application of knowledge:

**AO1** Worth **40%** of the marks. **Demonstrate knowledge & understanding of:** scientific ideas, scientific techniques and procedures.

**AO2** Worth **40%** of the marks. **Apply knowledge & understanding of:** scientific ideas, scientific techniques and procedures. **THIS MEANS taking what you know and applying it to an unfamiliar context.**

**AO3** Worth **20%** of the marks. **Analyse information & ideas to:** interpret & evaluate, make judgements & draw conclusions, develop and improve experimental procedures.

AO is short for "Assessment Objective".

OTHER INFORMATION:

This option will suit those seriously considering post-16 Science studies, as it consists of thorough preparation for pursuing the study of biology, chemistry and physics at A level. It would also suit students who have a passion for science and want to study each individual specialism in more detail.
EBACC – you may only study this subject if you studied this in Year 9

French GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Broadley

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDUQAS

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT
- 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.
- French grammar and how the language works.
- Various aspects of the way of life in French-speaking countries.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:
- Develop your language skills across a number of 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.
- Be encouraged to take part in a school exchange with a French student.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:
You will have a final exam in each of the four skill areas (listening, reading, writing/translation & speaking), which will happen at the end of the course. Each component is worth 25% of the final mark.

OTHER INFORMATION:
- In Years 9 & 10, you will be offered the exciting opportunity to have a penfriend and take part in an exchange to further your knowledge and experience of French culture and language.
EBACC – you may only study this subject if you studied this in Year 9

German GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Broadley

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDUQAS

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

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.
German grammar and how the language works.
Various aspects of the way of life in German-speaking countries.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:

Develop your language skills across a number of 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.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:

You will have a final exam in each of the four skill areas (listening, reading, writing/translation & speaking), which will happen at the end of the course. Each component is worth 25% of the final mark.
EBACC – you may only study this subject if you studied this in Year 9

History GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr D Saunders

EXAMINATION BOARD: Eduqas

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

- Medicine through Time c.500-present day
  Key questions: Why did a lack of understanding lead to so many deaths for so long? Why did change finally happen and lead to lives being saved?
- Germany 1919-1991
  Why did World War One directly lead to World War Two?
  What was life like for ordinary Germans living under the Nazis?
  What was the impact of the war on Germany?
- The Crusades 1095-1149
  What motivated people to take part in a Holy War?
  Why did this dominate life for centuries?
  What impact did this have on the world?
- Empire, Reform and War 1890-1918
  What was the impact of the British Empire?
  How did this bring about a climate for war?
  What was the impact of the Great War?

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:

- Develop the following skills:
  - The ability to research and investigate issues.
  - The ability to interpret and analyse information using a range of sources.
  - The ability to assess evidence and use it to prove a point, argue a case or present a balanced viewpoint.
  - The ability to be able to organise and communicate your ideas.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:

- All Examination
  Four written papers at the end of Year 11

OTHER INFORMATION:

- You need to enjoy History and have studied this subject in Year 9.
- Homework and individual research are key parts of this GCSE.
EBACC – you may only study this subject if you studied this in Year 9

Geography GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Jonathan Wood

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

Understanding contemporary geography is essential in life, and students will take a tour of the world from their classrooms.

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 studying this subject, students will experience fieldwork trips (working out of the classroom) to build on skills of geographical enquiry.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:

Study the core content including:

- Urban Issues and Challenges
- Living World
- Natural Hazards
  (The remainder, set out below, continue in Years 10 and Year 11)
- UK Physical Landscapes
- Changing Economic World
- Resource management
  (Additional areas of study)
- Geographical skills
- Fieldwork techniques
- Geographical Enquiry skills
Topics are revisited through Year 10 Year 11 to keep older knowledge alive and link it to new knowledge being learned. Ultimately, there are three exams: Physical Geography, Human Geography and Geographical Skills. Fieldwork is undertaken and the theory of the geographical enquiry process is assessed through exam. Consequently, the full GCSE is 100% final exam.
Your Open Choices

You need to pick three ‘open’ options. This may include other Ebacc options. You will also need to pick two reserves.
Religious Studies GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr A Nderitu
EXAMINATION BOARD: Eduqas (Route A)
YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT: The GCSE is made up of three components:

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World.
In this unit of the course you will be asked to explore, examine, discuss and critically evaluate religious and non-religious attitudes towards ethical issues. Within this unit there are four themes: Relationships; Life and Death; Good and Evil; Human Rights.

Component 2: Study of Christianity.
In this unit you will be asked to describe, explain and critically evaluate the religious beliefs, teachings and practices of the religion of Christianity.

Component 3: Study of a World Faith (Islam)
In this unit you will be asked to describe, explain and critically evaluate the religious beliefs, teachings and practices of the religion of Islam.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL: Be assessed according to two Assessment objectives.

AO1 = Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practices, the influence they have on individuals and society as well as the similarities and differences between denominations and other religions.

AO2 = Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance, relevance and influence.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY: Completion of three written exams at the end of Y11
Component 1: 2 hours - 50% - 240 marks (+ 6 SPaG)
Component 2: 1 hour - 25% - 60 marks (+ 6 SPaG)
Component 3: 1 hour - 25% - 60 marks

OTHER INFORMATION: This course will challenge you to consider your thoughts, opinions and beliefs about life, death, sex, relationships, morality, crime, punishment, abortion, euthanasia, prejudice, censorship, humanity and even science and atheism – among many other topics. It is a rigorous and challenging course with high expectations of writing and a mature, open and respectful attitude towards moral issues is a must.
You can only study this if you studied Computing in Yr 9.

Certificate in Creative iMedia (equivalent to 1 GCSE)

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr N Hodgson

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:
Production of digital media products. This is a requirement of almost every business so there is a huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce.

How to plan pre-production effectively including understanding client requirements and reviewing pre-production briefs.

The basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:
Gain a qualification which will equip learners with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning and review, and working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:
Exam
Unit 1 25% Pre-production skills (1hr 15 mins)

Controlled Assessment
Unit 2 25% Creating digital graphics
Unit 3 25% Creating 2D and 3D digital characters
Unit 4 25% Creating a multipage website
If you studied art in Year 9 you can choose Art, Graphic Communication or Photography

Art and Design GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss J Bassham
EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:
- The value of creativity!
- Continuing to develop skills in drawing, painting and printing.
- Analysing and understanding visual images.
- Using a variety of materials, techniques and processes.
- The work of other artists, craft workers and designers.
- The important role that art plays in our everyday lives.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:
- Use sketchbooks – students will use sketchbooks throughout the projects just as they did in KS3.
- Students will be using a range of processes such as painting and drawing, printmaking and sculpting and a range of materials, techniques and processes.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:
- Non-Examined Assignment
  Students will produce units of coursework covering a range of materials and processes within different themes. Both will be internally assessed. This will contribute to 60% of the marks.

- Externally Set Assignment
  Preparatory work, developed over a 12-week period, will be used to produce a final outcome. This will be produced during a 10-hour examination, over a few weeks. All work is internally marked and externally moderated. This work contributes to 40% of the marks.
Both of these units will cover the following assessment objectives:

- Generating and developing ideas informed by primary and contextual sources.
- Refining their ideas through experimenting with materials, developing and applying skills.
- Researching, recording, analysing and reviewing their own and others work.
- Selecting, creating, realising and presenting personally developed outcomes.

OTHER INFORMATION:

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 art teacher will guide students in lessons as to which option suits their skills.

There is the possibility of opting for both art and photography.

**If you choose art, you will NOT be able to take graphic communications.**
Art and Design - Graphic Communication GCSE (Digital Art)

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss J Bassham

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:
The value of digital creativity!
How designers use digital technologies together with other art and design techniques to make new and visually exciting work.
How to analyse and understand visual images.
How to successfully and responsibly use equipment (such as computers, digital cameras, scanners and software).
The important role that digital art plays in our everyday lives.
How to create artwork to illustrate, advertise and communicate ideas and products.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:
Design and create artwork for a range of purposes, using a selection of materials and technologies e.g. magazine covers and page layout and design; advertising poster 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 artists and use these as inspiration for your own work.
You will use a sketchbook as part of the creative process.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:
Non External Assignment (Coursework)
We will produce at least two units of non-external assignments (coursework). Both will be internally assessed. This will contribute to 60% of the marks.

Externally Set Assignment
Preparatory work, developed over a 12-week period, will be used to produce a final outcome. This will be produced during a 10-hour examination, over two days. All work is internally marked and externally moderated. This work contributes to 40% of the marks.

Both of these units will cover the following assessment objectives:
Generating and developing ideas informed by primary and contextual sources
Refining their ideas through experimenting with materials, developing and applying skills
Researching, recording, analysing and reviewing their own and other work
Selecting, creating, realising and presenting personally developed outcomes.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Whilst not all of the work will be produced on computers, a significant proportion of the work will need a good level of confidence in ICT.

Students will be guided by their art teacher in lessons as to which art option suits their skills.

If you choose graphic communications, you will NOT be able to take art or photography.
Art and Design - Photography GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER:
Miss J Bassham

EXAMINATION BOARD:
EDEXCEL

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:
Taking successful photographs and using a variety of editing and enhancing techniques. Investigating and developing an understanding of the work of other photographers. Exploring a range of different photography genres (e.g. photojournalism, fashion, street, portrait, still life, landscape photography etc) Thinking, acting and speaking like a film director by understanding the different techniques used in filmmaking. Planning and storyboarding films and capturing video before editing, using different techniques such as trimming and clipping – as well as adding audio, titles and transitions. Sharing projects on the internet and understanding different file sizes and their impact on quality.

DURING THE COURSE 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 magazine and advertising design. Throughout the course, students will spend much of their time using mobile phones, professional digital media equipment (iMacs, digital SLR and HD video cameras, Adobe Creative Suite software etc) to produce work.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:
Non-Examined Assessment
We will produce at least two units of non-examined assessments, or coursework, which will be internally assessed. This will contribute to 60% of the marks.

Externally Set Assignment
Preparatory work, developed over a 12-week period, will be used to produce a final outcome. This will be produced during a 10-hour examination, over a few weeks. All work is internally marked and externally moderated. This work contributes to 40% of the marks.

Both of these units will cover the following assessment objectives:
- Generating and developing ideas informed by primary and contextual sources.
- Refining their ideas through experimenting with materials, developing and applying skills.
- Researching, recording, analysing and reviewing their own and others work.
- Selecting, creating, realising and presenting personally developed outcomes.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Students will produce the majority of their work in class. However, access to a camera or camera phone is an advantage for homework. Whilst not all of the work will be produced on computers, a significant proportion of the work will need a good level of confidence in ICT.

Their art teacher will guide students in lessons as to which art option suits their skills. There is the possibility of opting for both art and photography.

**If you choose photography, you will NOT be able to take graphic communications.**
**Food, Preparation & Nutrition GCSE**

**SUBJECT LEADER**

Mrs K Lethbridge

**YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:**

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a new 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 skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

**YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:**

Scientific investigation – 15%
Food preparation task – 35%
External exam – 50%

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

Studying Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to exciting and well-paid career options. Consumers are becoming increasingly reliant on the food industry to develop solutions for their nutritional needs.

This course could lead you into roles such as a Chef, Food Product Developer, Buyer (who travels the world sourcing new food products for manufacturers), Food Safety Inspectors, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Quality Managers, Teacher, Food Engineer, Food Scientist, Food Technologist, Food Photographer, Food Stylist, Home Economist, Hotel and Restaurant Manager, Microbiologist, working in food magazines, radio and television.
Hospitality and Catering (equivalent to 1 GCSE) 
Level 1/2 Technical Award

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss J Dillon

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT: Level 1/2 Technical Award in Hospitality and Catering is a new exciting and creative course which focuses on an understanding of the catering industry. You will develop an understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers including how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. Issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect hospitality and catering operations. Food preparation and cooking skills. Transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY: EXAM:
Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry (48hrs) - On screen assessment 1 hr 30 mins (90 marks)
Learners need to use their knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry in order to propose new hospitality and catering provision to meet specific needs.

Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action (72hrs)
The purpose of this unit is for learners to safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes linked to a food business

OTHER INFORMATION: Career opportunities: Waiting Staff, Receptionist, Catering Assistant, Chef, Hotel and Bar Manager, Food Technologist in Manufacturing

Their food technology teacher will guide students in lessons as to which option suits their skills.
If you studied D&T in Yr9, you can choose D&T or Construction.

Yr9 D&T could choose: D&T OR Construction
You may be able to choose both.

Design - Design & Technology GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr A Preece

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT: Design & Technology GCSE opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields e.g. medicine, law, fashion design and computer science. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable.

You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management, which are highly prized by employers.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL: Our world is full of products that are made from a wide range of new and modern materials. In this exciting and challenging new course you will learn the techniques that will help you become a creative designer and maker. You will continue to work with a range of materials including wood, plastic, metal, textile, paper and board. Using a variety of systems to turn your designs into high quality products. You will continue to generate a range of products developing skills in Year 10, which will develop into a core portfolio using ICT to achieve a high quality presentation.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY: You will need to demonstrate a quality made product applying all those skills and knowledge from all the projects undertaken in KS3 and KS4. This extended piece of demanding work will represent 50% of your final mark. This will be a resistant material based design. The other 50% is from an external terminal examination in the final year of the course.

OTHER INFORMATION If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of your designing and making work in Year 9, then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 and should choose this course. It is demanding in the extensive amount of knowledge required to complete the written examination. 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.
Design – WJEC Level 1 and 2 Awards in Construction: Constructing the Built Environment (equivalent to 1 GCSE)

SUBJECT LEADER

Mr A Preece

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Constructing the Built Environment is designed to support learners to develop an awareness of construction processes. It supports learners who want to learn about the construction industry from the build perspective. It provides learners with a broad introduction to the different trades involved in the sector, the importance of safety and security, and the types of career opportunities available. It is suitable as a foundation for further study and on completion, learners may wish to start an apprenticeship or continue in full time education.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:

They are designed around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning. This mirrors many work-related activities in the construction industry and allows learning to take place in a range of contexts. This approach enables learners to apply and extend their learning.

Advantages for learners:

- Develop a range of skills both practical and academic, through applied learning that will be useful in the workplace and for future learning
- Provide a foundation of knowledge about the construction industry that will help learners progress to further study or enter the workplace
- Motivate learners through purposeful tasks set in a construction industry context

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:

Guided Assessment learning hours (120 guided learning hours)

Unit 1 Safety and security in construction – 30hrs – external assessment 60 minute on-screen examination featuring short and extended response questions

Unit 2 Practical construction skills – 60hrs – internal assessment

Unit 3 Planning construction projects – 30 hrs – external assessment 120 minute on-screen examination featuring extended contextualised tasks

OTHER INFORMATION

If you have enjoyed and made good progress with every aspect of your designing and making work in Year 9, then you will enjoy and succeed at KS4 and should choose this course. It is demanding in the extensive amount of knowledge required to complete the external examination. 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 only choose Dance, Drama or Music if you studied them in Yr9.

Performance – Dance GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr I Wright
TEACHER IN CHARGE: Mrs N Lane

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

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL: 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
- Dancers have better posture
- Dancers learn the importance of teamwork
- They develop better co-ordination and flexibility

OTHER INFORMATION: This is very practical based course with high demands on physical engagement in order to be successful.

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, professional dance training.

Possible careers in dance – choreographer, community dance practitioner, dance performer, dance/arts officer, dance film maker, dance movement therapist, dance photographer, dance teacher, pilates instructor, youth worker, dance journalist.

To find out if this is the right course for you, speak to Mrs Lane.
Performance - Drama GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr I Wright
TEACHER IN CHARGE:

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:
Development of research skills
- Collaboration skills
- Applying rehearsal process
- Explaining and evidencing ideas
- Developing theatrical skills in performance
- Understanding of play texts
- Understanding and applying drama terminology
- Understanding of theatrical roles
- Analysis of performance
- Critically evaluating performance

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL: Work towards two practical assessments and a written examination paper. You will develop:

Physical Skills
Movement of body, posture, gesture, facial expression, spatial awareness

Vocal Skills
Breathing, tone, pronunciation, accent, intonation, expression of emotion through voice

Performance Skills
Awareness of stage and audience, incorporation of a range of dramatic styles and practitioner influences, sense of timing, pace, dramatic tension, climax, plot, ability to build and sustain a role on stage, ability to work safely and considerately

Technical Skills
Ability to use stage equipment, such as lighting & sound equipment, with confidence and safety, ability to investigate alternative technical areas such as set design, costume, props, masks, sound design and stage management

Written Skills
Ability to analyse practical work via written homework tasks, to analyse performances and to write succinct notes on a range of practical performance elements, to compare styles, themes and dramatic potential of a range of scripts in written work, to plan and write essays in the correct
style, ability to use correct theatrical vocabulary with confidence and understand the various roles and responsibilities of the production team.

Although the work is mainly practical, you will be required to prepare for a written exam and produce a written portfolio of your work – 70% of your mark is through the written exam and portfolio. Homework will usually be set once a week and will be written work, research or rehearsal time.

Commitment to the course is a necessity if you are to succeed. You should be punctual to all sessions and your attendance must be excellent. To gain the full benefits of the course you will be required, at times, to rehearse out of school hours; this is essential for high quality performance work. It is also a course requirement that you see live theatre; again, this will be an extracurricular commitment.
Performance - Music GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr I Wright

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

The Elements of Music to enable you to engage actively in the process of music study.

You will learn to:

• develop performing skills, individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used
• develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources
• recognise links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising and how these inform the development of music
• broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
• develop knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians
• develop awareness of a variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing
• develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
• recognise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop some awareness of musical chronology
• develop as effective and independent learners
• reflect upon and evaluate your own and others’ music

By studying music, you will gain a fuller understanding of the world that surrounds us whilst developing critical learning skills such as communication, creative problem solving and independence.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Taking this opportunity to study the GCSE music course may open doors to further study at A level or vocational Level 3 courses. Studying music at KS5, will provide established pathways to degree level courses and careers as diverse as performing, composing, teaching, business management, studio engineering, event management, law, accounting and many more music related careers from within an industry that generates over £3.5bn of revenue each year in the UK alone, employing over half a million people in full-time music related careers.

To find out if this is the right course for you, speak to Mr Wright.
You can only choose this if you studied PE GCSE in Yr9

Physical Education GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr R Puzey

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT: The course offers students the opportunity to lead, understand and enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle by choosing from a variety of activities in which to participate in physical activity.

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. There will be classroom based, theory work that will both support and reinforce the practical work.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY: Throughout the course, you will be learning and developing new skills and techniques through a range of different activities. Each course will be assessed through both written and practical means as follows:

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

What's assessed
Applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training and Use of data.

How it's assessed
Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (78 marks) which is 30% of GCSE

Questions
A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport
What's assessed
Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being, Use of data.

How it's assessed
Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (78 marks) which is 30% of GCSE

Questions
A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Non-examined assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed
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.

How it's assessed
Assessed by teachers, Moderated by AQA (100 marks), which is 30% of GCSE practical performance. 10% written analysis and evaluation

Questions
For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity).

Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Students will be expected to maintain a very high level of participation, organisation and practical presentation (kit).

Participation in extra-curricular activities will also be expected.

Students can only choose exam PE if they have been studying Exam PE in Year 8.
You can only choose this if you studied PE GCSE in Yr9

Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies (equivalent to 1GCSE)

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr R Puzey

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT: 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. This course allows students to get out and experience first-hand the diverse opportunities available in the world of sport. These experiences help broaden the horizons of the students and help provide vital depth and understanding of the sports studies syllabus. The current cohort of students have recently attended the varsity match at Twickenham and are now preparing for a trip behind the scenes, with the Exeter Chiefs community coaches.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY: Students have to complete three assignments and a 1.5 hour written exam paper, which contains multiple choice, short and extended answer questions.
The ‘New’ Options

Geology GCSE
Statistics GCSE
Business GCSE
Health and Social care

• You only have two years to complete.
• You will need to demonstrate that this is a ‘positive’ choice.
• You will need to complete a short statement about why you want to study this subject on your options application form.
• You may be asked to attend an interview.
Geology GCSE

SUBJECT LEADERS: Mr Dwyer
EXAMINATION BOARD: Eduqas (WJEC)

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

Geology is the study of the Earth, the materials of which it is made, the structure of those materials and the processes acting upon them. It includes the study of the organisms, which inhabit our planet. A very important part of geology is the study of how Earth’s materials, structures, processes and organisms have changed over time.

Over the two-year course, students develop skills of enquiry, analysis and synthesis. Results are consistently very good (in 2017 83% of students received an A*-C grade, and of those 58% gained an A* or A grade), and all students make good or better progress. Although there is no specific requirement for prior learning, students must show an interest in the subject and have a strong academic background in science and geography.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:

The course content can be simply broken down into a number of areas which focus on Processes, Materials, Structures, History and Resources. We also look at how Geology can be applied in a number of professions; all of which are vitally important to the survival and sustainability of our race on Planet Earth.

- The rock cycle
- Weathering and erosion
- Earthquakes
- The Interior of the Earth
- Plate tectonics
- Geological mapwork
- Earth Resources
- Climate Change
- Principles of historical geology
- The fossil record
- Britain in the past
- Applied Geoscience

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:

There are 2 exams at the end of the 2-year course. Other practice assessments take place throughout the course at regular intervals including two mock examinations.

1 x ON-SCREEN EXAM
Component 1: Geological Principles 50% of the qualification (80 marks)

**On-screen examination: 1 hour 15 minutes**

In Component 1, the whole of the content of the specification is assessed in a theoretical way.

**1 x WRITTEN PAPER**

Component 2: Investigative Geology 50% of the qualification (80 marks)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

In Component 2 there is a more practical approach, with the assessment structured to investigate the geology of an area shown on an accompanying simplified geological map. This assessment is wholly based on the area covered by the geological map.
Statistics GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Alsopp

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

- data collection
- processing, representing and analysing data
- probability

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL: be given opportunities to:

- undertake practical work
- recognise the suitability of data for statistical analysis
- interpret statistical information
- become aware of the importance and limitations of statistical information to society

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY: Two written papers which are both 1 hour 30 minutes

OTHER INFORMATION: There are two tiers of entry
Higher Tier 4-9
Foundation 1-5

Your GCSE flightpath in Mathematics should be at least a 4 for this course.
Business 9-1 GCSE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr N Hodgson

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:
Real business issues and how businesses work.
The application of business concepts.
Explore business theories and concepts in the most relevant way, through the context of events in the business and economic world.
- Influences on Business
- Business operations
- Human Resources (HR)
- Marketing
- Finance

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL:
Apply knowledge and understanding to business decision making including:
- The interdependent nature of business activity, influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, and how these interdependencies underpin business decision making
- How different business contexts affect business decisions
- The use and limitation of quantitative and qualitative data in making business decisions.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY:
Examination (2 Papers)

Paper 1 Influences of operations and HRM on Business
Time: 105 minutes - 50% of Marks
Section A – Multiple choice 20 marks
Section B – Case Study with questions 34 marks
Section B – Case Study with questions 36 marks

Paper 2 Influences of marketing and finance on Business
Time: 105 minutes - 50% of Marks
Section A – Multiple choice 20 marks
Section B – Case Study with questions 34 marks
Section B – Case Study with questions 36 marks

OTHER INFORMATION:
Most of the work will be done in lesson time. However, some research will be necessary and carried out in your own time.
Health and Social Care- BTEC Level 1 and 2 (equivalent to 1 GCSE)

About 3 million people work in health and social care. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and administrators. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK.

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs V Castley

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT: BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care is a new and exciting award that gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on three areas, which cover: skills and processes, such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing. Attitudes, namely the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them. Knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED BY: Human Lifespan Development 30% Course Health and Social Care Services and Values 30% Course Health and wellbeing 40% Course – Externally assessed.

OTHER INFORMATION: Demand for both health and social care is likely to rise, so they will continue to play a key role in UK society and the demand for people to carry out these vital roles will increase. Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study. This award prepares learners post 16 to enter A levels; a BTEC level 3 or even apprenticeships which can then lead them to move on to higher education by studying a degree in aspects of health or social care. Some learners may wish to build on an interest in human growth and development but take it in a different direction (at either Level 2 or Level 3) by studying for qualifications in Early Years education.