



CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL



KS4

Options Evening

2026

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INTEGRITY

TEAMWORK

RESPONSIBILITY

EXCELLENCE

RESILIENCE



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Welcome

Choosing what subjects to study at GCSE is a major decision and provides students with the exciting opportunity to start to refine their curriculum. This should only be done after careful consideration, taking into account learning strengths, interests and potential future career pathways. Some subjects are, of course, compulsory at Key Stage 4 and so have to be taken. However, there is also the opportunity to select from a wide range of optional courses to suit our students' needs whilst crucially equipping them with the knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve as highly as possible throughout their school life and to prepare them for their life beyond. Parents/ carers play an invaluable role in this process and in helping students to choose the most appropriate courses.

The options' process is designed so that students, parents/carers and the school can work together, using as much information as possible, so that the best choices are made. Contained in this booklet is information about each subject to help with this process. Students can talk to subject teachers and get careers' advice by asking their tutors or by arranging to meet with our Careers' Information and Guidance Manager, Mrs Allen. Parents have opportunities at Options' Evening to formally discuss subject preferences. All students will have an interview with a member of Leadership Team or their Director of Year after they have made their choices to make sure they have chosen subjects that are appropriate and suit their needs.

Students will study all of the compulsory core curriculum subjects and one choice from each option block: Option A, Option B and Option C (see table below).

One subject from Option A, B or C must include one or more of the following **EBacc subjects: Geography, History, French or Computer Science.**

Students must select a **second choice option** from option A, B and C in the event of a course not running due to low numbers.

GCSE Curriculum*

Core Curriculum	Option A*	Option B*	Option C*
ALL Compulsory	One Compulsory	One Compulsory	One Compulsory
English Language	Art	Art	Business & Enterprise (GCSE)
English Literature	Business Studies (vocational)	Child Development	Food Technology
Mathematics	Computer Science	Creative iMedia	French
Physical Education	Food Technology	Drama	Geography
Combined Science	Geography	Geography	Health and Social Care
PSHE	History	History	History
	Music	Photography	Sociology
	Photography	Physical Education (GCSE)	
	Religious Studies	Statistics	

Again, please note that one option subject from Option A, B or C must include one or more of the following **EBacc subjects: Geography, History, French or Computer Science.**



What does it mean for you?

All GCSEs are graded 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade in the following subjects:

- Art
- Business Studies (GCSE)
- Combined Science
- Computer Science
- English Language
- English Literature
- Food Technology
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education (GCSE)
- Sociology
- Religious Studies
- Statistics

BTECs, Vocational Certificates (V Certs) and other vocational subjects have a 4 grade system – Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. Distinction* is the highest grade.

Vocational courses include: Business and Enterprise (Vocational Certificate), Btec Drama, Health & Social Care, Creative iMedia, Food Technology and Child Development.

I hope you find the information useful and if you want any further support or discussion please feel free to contact either me, Mrs Sieradzki or subject teachers.

Mrs G McAuley



English

Phase 1

By the end of Year 9, you will have studied a unit on Gothic Literature; analysed a range of Unseen Texts; studied the Shakespearean play 'The Taming of the Shrew' and will have read the novel 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman.



You will have developed your awareness of English Language through studying both fiction and non-fiction texts and exploring a range of grammatical concepts and how to apply them in your writing.

You will have continued to foster an appreciation for reading and we will have interacted closely with the school library over the course of the year.

Areas of study

Eduqas English Language

You will explore writing for different purposes. This will cover both formal writing and creative writing. We also ensure that we cover key grammatical principles to make sure that your knowledge is at the required level in preparation for GCSE.

During Years 10 and 11, we build upon these key language skills by also looking at how writers use techniques within your work to ensure that they attract an audience. This will mean that we cover a variety of texts which includes 19th Century writing through to 20th and 21st Century writing.

Writing skills continue to be developed in Years 10 and Year 11 as you will look at different ways of writing and how we can use this for effect. We look at writing stories as well as formal pieces of writing.

Eduqas English Literature

In Literature, over the course of Years 10 and 11, we also study more prose texts and drama texts. We will also study an anthology of poetry which will allow you to analyse a number of different poetic forms. You will also develop your analytical skills to ensure that you can analyse extracts in the exam as well as referring to the whole text.

Where it will take you

Qualifications in English are crucial to your future. Both English Language and English Literature can help to further your options beyond GCSE. Career paths include teaching, law, media and publishing as well as being helpful to support other career choices.



Mathematics

As a compulsory qualification, GCSE Mathematics is vitally important for your future development, whether that be to progress beyond GCSE to a job or apprenticeship, or to progress onto A Levels and University.



What we will do

KS4 will enable you to start to develop the following skills required for the new GCSE:

- Improving knowledge retention of key facts and formulae;
- Improving reading and comprehension skills so that you can decipher what a question is asking;
- Problem solving skills.

Areas of study

You will build upon topics you have previously learnt in Years 7 and 8 as well as covering brand new content. Some new topics covered will include:

- Standard form;
- Factorising and solving quadratic equations;
- Solving simultaneous equations graphically and algebraically;
- Reverse percentages;
- Compound interest;
- Solving probability problems including tree diagrams;
- Direct and inverse proportion problems;
- Trigonometry in right-angled triangles (including knowing the exact values of the trigonometric ratios at 30, 45, 60 and 90 degrees);
- Growth/decay problems.

Where it will take you

The GCSE Mathematics qualification will include four and a half hours of examinations spread over three papers (one non-calculator and two calculator papers). Getting GCSE Mathematics opens up doors to jobs, apprenticeships and A Levels.



Combined Science

GCSE study in Combined Science provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. All students will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.



What we will do

Year 10 will form the first year of GCSE study. We will cover an even distribution of the three disciplines of Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) through both theoretical content based learning and practical application of knowledge. GCSE study builds on the knowledge and skills developed through key stage 3 and will take a more critical approach to the role of science in society.

Areas of study

The exam board that we study with is Edexcel. Areas of study across the full course include:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cell biology	Atomic structure	Energy
Transport systems	Structure, bonding and properties	Forces
Health, disease and medicines	Chemical changes	Forces and Motion
Coordination and control	Energy changes	Waves in matter
Photosynthesis	Rate and extent of chemical changes	Light and electromagnetic waves
Ecosystems	Chemical analysis	Electricity
Inheritance, variation	Chemical and allied industries	Magnetism and electromagnetism
Evolution	Earth and atmospheric science	Particle model of matter

Where it will take you

Studying science opens up the world to you whether it is a science based route or not. It will provide you with a wide range of skills applicable to any role, such as analysis, collaboration, independence and interpreting data.



Physical Education



All students will take part in Physical Education in Year 9 as is a compulsory subject. They will continue to participate in a variety of sporting activities throughout the year, which will also involve an element of fitness training. During these lessons, students will develop the skills and techniques of a variety of sports delivered, and demonstrate effective use of them within a game or competitive situation, whilst also carrying out a range of activities to improve or develop their fitness. Students will improve their ability to understand and use the tactics of the sports resulting in having a positive influence over their opponents. They will also develop techniques to analyse their fitness and knowledge on how to improve a variety of fitness components and understand the theory behind why physical activity is required to ensure positive health and well-being.

What we will do

Students will be directed to GCSE PE depending on their sporting ability and attitude towards their learning demonstrated in Year 7, 8 and 9 and within sporting clubs outside of school. Within this qualification, students will learn how the body systems work during exercise and how they help sporting performers in their ability to perform at their best within a game or event. Students will understand the impact that exercise has on our sporting performance and general health and fitness, looking at the benefits and ways that health can be improved physically and psychologically. Students will increase their understanding of different ways to maintain or improve their health, fitness and well-being and why it is important to include physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle.

During all lessons students will also learn a variety of personal skills such as communication and teamwork, helping them to develop confidence. A range of sporting activities will broaden their skill range and will develop their performance within different competitive situations.

Areas of study will be assessed through both internal and external assessments.

Where will it take you

Both the practical and theory elements will prepare students for 6th Form or college if they choose to study PE, sport and sports science. Potential career opportunities could be in the fitness industry, sports coaching or teaching, physiotherapy or can lead to studying sport science at university.

We also offer Physical Education (GCSE) as an option, please see page 23.



Art

We tend to think of Art and Design as 'painting and drawing'. However, we are surrounded in our everyday lives by products designed and created by former art students: the illustrations in your books, pattern designs on wallpaper and clothes, advertising in magazines or shop fronts, photography, jewellery design and pottery to name just a few. Art is the creativity behind all design, an element of life which should enhance and be enjoyed.



What we will do

Our aim is to create a warm and exciting atmosphere to stimulate the creativity that so many of you already possess. We strive for personalised learning through individual tasks, to create independent thinkers and most of all for students of all abilities to push the boundaries of what they think they are capable of.

We will be there to support you before the transition into GCSE, offering additional after-school sessions for extended skills-based learning and extension tasks. Above all, we promise to engage and inspire you through innovative and exciting areas of study.

Areas of study

- Induction programme to key skills: Line, tone, colour, shape and form, which will lead into a wide range of topics to study and develop.
- Observational Studies: How to build structure; apply defining tone and refinement of detail.
- Artist Influences: Exploring modern day Art works. Widening our understanding of Art through both research and practical studies.
- Development of Media: You will explore a range of materials, including watercolours, acrylic, mixed media, printmaking, stencilling and, for those with greater control, the option to use oil paints.
- Personalised Outcome: You will be working towards a final outcome, which will bring together influences from Artists, and your strengths with media.

Where it will take you

Students who study Art tend to go onto either foundation courses in Further Education or direct entry to University. It is considered valuable to a wide range of careers ranging from architecture through to web-design.

Other career opportunities include: Animation, Graphic Design, Photography, Fashion, Architecture, Design, Fine Art, Painting/Illustration, Art Historian, Tattoo Artist, Art Therapy, Jewellery Design, Medical Illustration, Video Game Design, Cartooning and Textile Artist.

Further information can be found at www.theartcareerproject.com.



Business (GCSE)



The Edexcel (Pearson) GCSE (9 – 1) Business is suitable for anyone who has an interest in setting up their own business, wants to move into employment or progress onto further study. This is a high-quality, industry-recognised qualification designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise.

What we will do

The study of business involves understanding the functions of business and data analysis, the importance of other influences in the external environment and the characteristics of being an entrepreneur and gives a real insight into running your own business. Through engaging and interactive lessons, you will understand the processes an entrepreneur will go through to get their business idea up and running and operating successfully, followed by factors they need to consider when expanding.

You will explore the importance of areas such as market research, promotion and pricing in business, learn how businesses are organised, consider the different methods of production and quality control a business can use. Other areas focussed on are the importance of customer service and the recruitment, training and motivation of staff. By the end of the qualification you will be able to produce and use financial data that appears in a business plan.

Areas of study

The Edexcel (Pearson) specification is structured into two themes, taking students from how entrepreneurs start businesses (Theme 1) through to growing and global businesses (Theme 2).

There are two equally weighted exam papers, focusing on each specification theme which are taken at the end of Y11.

Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business

Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

Where it will take you

A business qualification can open the door to literally hundreds of careers. Whatever route you choose to follow throughout your career, your business qualification will provide relevant knowledge, whether it is marketing, management, customer services or accounting. In addition to developing business and entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, you will acquire a number of essential transferable skills such as: team working, communication skills, presentation skills, using initiative, working independently – all of which are relevant to work or going on to further study.



Business & Enterprise (Vocational Certificate)



The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise is suitable for anyone who has an interest in setting up their own business, wants to move into employment or progress onto further study. This is a vocationally related, high-quality, industry-recognised qualification designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise which includes a vocational and hands-on element.

What we will do

The study of business and enterprise involves understanding the functions of business and data analysis, the importance of other influences in the external environment and the characteristics of being an entrepreneur and gives a real insight into running your own business. It encourages you to use the concepts and theories to develop your enterprise skills. Through engaging and interactive lessons, you will understand what needs to be included in documents such as a business plan, a marketing plan, a human resource plan, etc. You will explore the importance and analysis of market research, the marketing mix, learn how businesses are organised and how people are recruited and employed. By the end of the qualification, you will be able to produce and use financial data that appears in a business plan.

Areas of study

Examined Assessment (EA) - this is assessed through a written examination, marked externally and is worth 40% of the overall qualification.

The exam will be sat in the May / June of Year 11.

Non-exam Assessment (NEA) - this is a piece of coursework completed under controlled conditions and is worth 60% of the overall qualification.

The non-exam assessment will be based on a case study that is released in the September of Year 11. Students will then complete the non-exam assessment over a period of 21 hours during Year 11.

Both the examined assessment the non-exam assessment assesses learning from all content areas of the specification.

Where it will take you

A business qualification can open the door to literally hundreds of careers. Whatever route you choose to follow throughout your career, your business qualification will provide relevant knowledge, whether it is marketing, management, customer services or accounting. In addition to developing business and entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, you will acquire a number of essential transferable skills such as: team working, communication skills, presentation skills, using initiative, working independently – all of which are relevant to work or going on to further study.



Child Development

In your lifetime, you will undoubtedly be involved in some aspect of child development. You might already have started babysitting. You might choose to do work experience in a child care setting. You might want a career working with children or you might become parents or carers, uncles or aunts.



What we will do

In lessons the students will develop their knowledge and understanding of how children develop holistically, identifying factors that may influence this development. Students will look into the role and responsibilities of an Early Years Practitioner, understanding the expectations and the importance of promoting care routines and activities to support the children whilst explaining the purpose of planning and legislation to support development and safety of the children and early childcare practitioner.

Areas of study

Students will look at understanding the development of a child at a range of ages from new born to 5 years, learning how they grow and the factors that may influence development in a positive or negative way. Key strategies such as observation are delivered through the specification so students understand the importance and different ways that observation and strategies can be used to support development of children and students will learn and understand how many different activities and care routines can influence the development of a child in a specific way and support each individual need that the child may have.

The course is designed to investigate different types of settings and local provisions that are available to children from new born to 5 years. Students will research how the setting is set up, how it operates day-to-day and how they support the learning, growth and development of the children. This helps students to understand each different setting and help them to prepare for work settings and responsibilities of early year workers if they choose to work within the child development sector.

Areas of study will be examined as internal and external assessments.

Where it will take you

This course could lead you to choosing Child Development as an option for post-16 studies. You may then wish to continue to Further or Higher Education. There is a wide range of options available at Colleges and Universities for which qualifications in Child Development are extremely useful. Examples of these would be courses which lead to you becoming a qualified practitioner in early years, a nursery teacher, primary or secondary teacher, play therapist, child psychologist, speech and language therapist, health care worker, nurse and many more.



Computer Science

This course has real relevance in our modern world with technological advancements, it is an ever-growing area. Whilst learners may already have some knowledge of computers and related areas, the course provides an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on behind the scenes: including the opportunity to write computer programs using object orientated and textual code.



Computer Science continues to grow in importance, meaning there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If learners want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science, they will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone. Learners who have taken a Computer Science GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this subject area.

This is a challenging and engaging course that requires a lot of hard work and commitment from students and offers a rewarding experience and a qualification that will be valued by future employers.

What we will do

This is an exciting subject where you can actively learn and create the future. Lessons will be exciting and challenging with a combination of theory, practical application as well as independent study allowing you to explore the potential in programming. Staff will be able to advise you, monitor your progress and help ensure that you reach your potential.

Each of the options will involve some extended writing so it is essential that you have appropriate literacy skills. A National Expected grade of a 6 at GCSE Maths is a minimum requirement for this option.

Areas of study

- **Computer systems:** Systems Architecture • Memory & Storage • Computer Networks, Connections & Protocols • Network Security • System software • Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Impacts of Digital Technology
- **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:** Algorithms • Programming Fundamentals • Producing Robust Programs • Boolean Logic • Programming Languages & Integrated Development Environments

Where it will take you

This option can help lead you to further academic study at university and A level. It is useful in a variety of careers such as Games Developer, Information Systems Manager, IT Consultant, Network Engineer, Systems Analyst/Developer, IT trainer, IT Sales Professional. Employers are interested in the transferable skills that Computer Science offers.



Creative iMedia

Creative iMedia is suitable for anyone who is passionate about the creative aspects of ICT. This is a vocationally-related, high quality, industry recognised qualification that develops skills and techniques for using digital media. The qualification enables learners to gain relevant workplace skills and techniques, keeping them one step ahead in a highly competitive market. Learners need good existing ICT skills, creative thinking and above all a passion for digital media. You can choose to specialise in exciting and engaging digital and interactive media areas such as web authoring, digital graphics, digital animation or interactive multimedia design.



What we will do

You can expect lessons to be engaging and give you the opportunity to explore your creative side. You will learn how to use a design brief to research, plan, create and review a range of digital products, all of which allow you to show off your digital talent. You will have access to the monitoring system, which is a key assessment tool for this course, this enables you to identify and improve your progress.

Each of the units will involve some extended writing so it is essential that you have appropriate literacy skills.

Areas of study

- R093 – Creative iMedia in the Media Industry [external exam]
- R094 Visual Identity & Digital Graphics [internal assessment]
- R095 Characters & Comics [internal assessment]

Where it will take you

The hands-on approach of this qualification has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media in today's society. In addition to developing creative media digital skills and knowledge, you will acquire a number of essential transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis, working with other people and communicating creative concepts effectively, all of which are relevant to work or going on to further study.



Drama

Drama is a powerful communication tool that enables us to grow both personally as individuals but also as responsible members of society. The course will rely on you working closely with other members of the class in a professional and mature manner, developing the ability to be open and honest, while recognising the importance of creative collaboration and compromise.



What we will do

Throughout the course, we will explore thought-provoking material through practical and theoretical exploration where you will be given the opportunity to form your own interpretation. You will be assessed through both your practical contributions and three extended pieces of written evidence which will require self-management and independent learning. You will focus on developing skills of both exploration through Drama and Drama performance.

Programme of study

The course followed is the BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Acting).

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

- In this unit you will examine live and recorded performances to develop your understanding of the work of theatre practitioners. Scenes are analysed in depth to gain understanding of creative intentions as well as building your knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of theatre professionals. Assessment evidence for this unit is an assessed piece of extended writing.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

- In this unit you will firstly participate in workshops and classes to develop your performance skills leading to the performance of 2 pieces of existing repertoire. Alongside your practical work you will be required to reflect on your development of acting skills through a written Actor's Log. Assessment evidence for this unit is rehearsal footage, footage of your final performance and your written logs.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief

- In this unit you will work as part of a group to develop an original performance in response to a stimulus. You have a limited time to create your piece of original theatre, and you are also required a written response, documenting the creative process. The assessment evidence for this unit is footage of your final performance and three written log entries which are completed under controlled conditions.

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Where it will take you

Through a keen interest in how theatre is made, you will gain knowledge from the perspective of actor, designer, director, writer, and audience member.

You may wish to develop these skills at level 3 and University level. Some past students have been accepted at some of the most prestigious Drama Schools in the country. The skills gained are transferable to any job, as an ability to be yourself and feel confident when expressing your views will be essential qualities in the world of work.



Food Technology

Food and cookery is a life skill that individuals will use to provide for themselves and their friends and family. Food and cookery will teach you how to prepare and cook nutritional meals in a safe and hygienic way and allow you to develop skills that you will use consistently in your day-to-day life.



What will we do

Students will complete the NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery. As part of the course, they will study the importance of health and safety within the cooking environment, explaining the importance of the requirement within food industries and the environment that they are working in.

They will learn the main food groups that are required as part of a balanced diet, identifying factors that may affect individual's food choices and preparing food to cater for individuals with specific dietary requirements. Whilst preparing food, students will develop a variety of practical skills and techniques to ensure that dishes are completed effectively.

Areas of study

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the legislation that governs the food industry allowing them to understand the policies and procedures that must be in place to ensure health and safety within the cooking environment. Student will focus on the safety and hygiene precautions that are required within a kitchen to ensure safety of the food that is being stored, prepared and cooked.

They will research where food can be sourced and the availability of specific foods within seasons and how these food groups provide key nutrients to maintain a healthy, balanced diet, but also demonstrate knowledge of how foods can have an impact on individuals.

Students will learn a variety of cooking techniques and skills that will allow them to prepare and cook food to achieve a consistent standard and how to present the food in different ways to showcase their creations in an aesthetically pleasing way. Whilst developing their time management skills in the kitchen they will also develop the skill of recipe development and amendment so they are planning and catering for different dietary needs.

Where it will take you

Learners may progress to a level 3 qualification depending on the grade they achieve at Level 2. Securing a grade at level 2 will provide more opportunities for further education in this subject. Students can also progress into employment or onto apprenticeships in the food industry through a variety of occupations within the sector, such as kitchen assistant, catering assistant, chef and sous chef.



French

Learning and having knowledge of a foreign language is a concrete life skill, and is highly valued by colleges, universities and employers. English is not enough considering the fact that 94% of the world's population do not speak English as your first language. A little language makes a lot of difference!



- 300 languages are spoken in London alone.
- People with additional languages can earn up to 20% more.
- 20,000 English words come from French.
- 74% of the world speaks no English at all.

What we will do

If you have laid the foundations for learning French already, we will build on these and strengthen your skills to be successful at the next level. You will broaden your range of vocabulary, extend your grammar skills to progress to GCSE level.

Areas of study

You will study topics such as healthy living, the media, home and family life, town and local environment, sports and hobbies, school, holidays and celebrity culture. You will develop your skills to respond to different types of language with regard to listening and reading, including authentic materials such as poems, songs and magazine articles, to be able to talk about various topics, to read and respond to different types of written language and to develop your writing skills by using a range of vocabulary and structures. You will be examined in listening, reading, writing and speaking, each worth 25% of the final grade. You will gain many transferable skills studying a language:

- Cultural awareness
- Open mindedness
- Dedication
- Group work
- Communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Social skills
- Confidence

Where it will take you

Competition to gain a place at University or to obtain a job means that organisations now require or desire you to have a language qualification. Languages are academic subjects which combine well with virtually any other subject and can lead to a variety of careers such as tourism, business, accountancy, law, education, public services, media or medical professions.



Geography

Without Geography you would go nowhere and know very little. Whether it is driving a car, visiting a friend or taking holiday, Geography is involved. The news on the television, the earth we live on, the weather outside, the town we live in, the things we see out of our window, the clothes we buy and the food we eat; it's all Geography. In fact, you are all already experts in Geography!



What we will do

As a team, we promise to constantly challenge your mind and deliver engaging and exciting lessons. We will broaden your knowledge about the world we live in and give you the skills to be able to watch the news and understand it. There are also a few exciting fieldtrips for good measure.

Areas of study

The GCSE course is split into an equal weighting of physical and human units. The variety of topics means that there are elements of the course to suit all tastes.

- Physical Geography: hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms, extreme weather and climate change) tropical rainforests and cold environments, coasts and rivers.
- Human Geography: population, development, global economies, global inequalities of food, water and/or energy.
- Fieldwork: You are required to attend two compulsory fieldwork days which will be examined in Paper 3. One will be human based and the other physical based.

Assessment

The content of the course will be examined by written examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Physical Geography (35%)

Paper 2: Human Geography (35%)

Paper 3: Skills including fieldwork (30%)

The course and examination will involve some extended writing and it is essential that you have good English skills.

Where it will take you

This qualification can lead to further academic study at any university. It is useful in a variety of careers linked with tourism, nature conservancy, surveying, accountancy, law, education, engineering, public services and media. A recent survey of employers showed that after Maths and English, Geography is rated as one of the most useful subjects because of the number of different skills used to study the subject.



Health & Social Care

In a lifetime, everyone faces at some time, health or social care issues. This might be on a small scale or for some on a larger scale. Some people like to take a helping role and support others in their time of need by choosing jobs within health and social care or you may simply wish to learn how to lead a healthier lifestyle.



What we will do

We will study a range of topic areas that focus on providing an understanding of health and social care provision and services, identifying job roles and values that underpin professional practice. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of human development and understand the variety of care needs that individuals may have and learn how these can be met through working with different professionals whilst supporting the needs of the individual.

Areas of study

Students will learn and investigate a variety of aspects that are relevant to how we develop and grow over time and understand factors that may affect us within different stages of our lives. With this knowledge students will develop the understanding of how care is planned and delivered effectively to a range of individuals with different needs within society and learn the policies and procedures that are in place to enable an individual to live a happy, safe and comfortable life with many opportunities to develop and grow in themselves.

In health and social care there are many factors that can have a positive and negative influence on a person's health and well-being. Students will gain knowledge of how these affect individuals physically and psychologically and understand how to support to ensure that health and well-being is improved by learning different strategies, that are creative, and therapeutic activities to overcome challenging barriers and difficulties that prevent an individual from being healthy in mind and body.

Areas of study will be examined as internal and external assessments.

Where it will take you

This course could lead you to choosing Health and Social Care as an option for post-16 studies. Many students who opt for this course are interested in working within the care system. This may be as a care worker, dental nurse, working within schools, working within mental health or social work. You may also wish to continue to Further or Higher education. There is a wide range of options available at Colleges and Universities for which qualifications in Health and Social Care are extremely useful.



History

If you are interested in people, you will enjoy History. Learn about the world around you; everything and everyone has a past.

Understand your family, your town, your country and the world.

We will encourage you to investigate, to argue, to judge and to question.



What we will do

During Years 10 and 11 we build upon your skills and knowledge from Years 7, 8 and 9.

Throughout your GCSE course you will study:

- Conflict and tension, 1918-1939: An in-depth study of how countries interacted in the interwar years and the causes of the Second World War: Was Hitler really to blame?
- Germany 1890-1945: The collapse of democracy, the rise of the Nazi Party and Hitler, and life in Nazi Germany;
- Medicine Through Time: An overview of key people and periods. Judge how much progress was made during the Middle Ages through to the Twentieth Century and in the key areas of disease and infection, surgery and public health;
- Life in Norman England after the conquest, 1066-1100: Includes a Historic environment site study.

Assessment

The content of the course will be examined by written examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World (50%) – Germany, 1890-1945 and Conflict and tension, 1918-1939.

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation (50%) – Britain: health and the people: c1000 to the present day and Norman England, 1066-1100 (including Historic environment site study).

Areas of study

You will be taught about some of the most interesting events from history and we will teach you a range of skills including causation, source evaluation, interpretation and significance to help you bring it to life.

The course and examination will involve extended writing. It is essential that your English skills are of a high level.

Where it will take you

History will provide many opportunities for you. It is an academic qualification that is well respected by employers and Universities. It is one of the key subjects required for the EBacc. When taken with the right combination of subjects it can lead to a wide range of careers in law, teaching, the media, politics, the armed forces, architecture, the civil service, theatre, libraries, museums and many, many more.



Music

Music could be a great choice for you if you play an instrument or sing, if you like practical activities and if you have a keen interest in different types of music and want music to be a part of your life. You need to already be able to play an instrument or be a singer.



What we will do

GCSE Music is all about learning to be a musician. The most crucial aspect of this is playing an instrument (or singing). The first part of the course will therefore be focused on improving skills and technique, learning pieces of music and recording them, as well as developing your analytical listening skills. Practising at home is essential. There will then be a study of composing and you will compose music for your own instrument. This is not a course for beginner (classroom) musicians. You need to already play an instrument (or sing) to be able to study music at KS4.

Areas of study

- You will study a range of different styles of music, from rhythms of the world such as African drumming and Calypso, through to film music and modern pop music such as classic rock and solo pop stars;
- You will learn to play (or sing) pieces of music;
- You will compose your own music;
- You will develop the ability to listen analytically to music, describing what you can hear in detail;
- You will have the opportunity to experiment with a range of music technology, looking at recording and sequencing techniques.

Crucially, you will be able to use and develop your own instrumental skills and will need to practice on your instrument every week.

Where it will take you

This qualification can lead to further study at either school or college. It could lead to a traditional music course for instrumentalists, who read music notation and want to study A Level. It could also lead to a practical course, such as BTEC Music, for students who just want to be performers and play their own gigs or it could lead to courses for students who are interested in the more technical aspects of the music business such as studio work.



Photography

GCSE Photography is an incredible way to capture the world through your own unique lens. It is not just about taking pictures; it is about freezing moments in time, telling powerful stories, and expressing creativity in ways words can't. We are surrounded by screens and images, as it is a huge part of our day-to-day life. A lot of students ask if you need your own camera for this course? The answer is: no you don't; we have plenty for you to use.



What we will do

In this course, you will get hands-on experience with professional cameras, lenses, and editing software, learning how to capture stunning images in a variety of styles. You will take part in exciting photo shoots, experimenting with lighting, angles, and creative techniques to bring your ideas to life. Whether you prefer portrait photography, action shots, or abstract compositions, you will be able to explore different ways to tell a story through images. On this course you will also learn how to edit and enhance your photos using software such as Photoshop, giving them a professional finish. By the end of the course, you will have built your own portfolio that showcases your skills and creativity, perfect for future studies or even a career in photography.

Areas of study

- Induction programme to photography: how to use a camera, mastering key settings such as aperture, shutter speed and ISO. You will develop your understanding on composition and lighting.
- Photographer Influences: Exploring modern and historical photographers that you choose to help develop your knowledge and understanding.
- Experiment: As you gain confidence, you will dive into creative techniques, experimenting with depth of field, motion blur, and composition to make your images stand out. Once you have captured your shots, the next step is bringing them to life through digital editing in Photoshop, where you'll learn how to enhance colours, retouch images, and even create surreal effects. You will also get hands-on with hand manipulation techniques, pushing the boundaries of photography through collage, layering, and mixed media.
- Personalised Outcome: The course is built around your own personal interests, so whether you love fashion, nature, sports, or street photography, you will be able to explore what excites you and develop a portfolio that reflects your unique style.

Where it will take you

This GCSE Photography course can open the door to a world of exciting opportunities. With a highly developed portfolio showcasing your skills, you could go on to study A Level photography or at college level, kick starting you on your path towards University. If you prefer to dive straight into the industry, you could even start your own photography business whether that is capturing stunning portraits, wedding photography, or working with brands to create eye-catching images. Product photography is also a booming market, with small businesses and independent sellers on platforms like Etsy and Instagram needing high-quality images to sell their products. By the end of this course you will have the right skills, giving you the tools and experience to make it happen.



Physical Education (GCSE)

GCSE PE is a qualification that includes practical and theory elements to wider the understanding of sport, the body systems and how sport and physical activity impact an individual's health and well-being.



What we will do

Students will learn how the body systems work during exercise and how they help sporting performers in their ability to perform at their best within a game or event. Students will understand the impact that exercise has on our sporting performance and general health and fitness, looking at the benefits and ways that health can be improved physically and psychologically. Students will increase their understanding of different ways to maintain or improve their health, fitness and well-being and why it is important to include physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle.

A variety of sports will be delivered where students will demonstrate skills both in isolation and in a competitive situation, whilst also developing their knowledge of the rules and tactics to enhance performance. Students will have the opportunity to analyse their own performance in their chosen sport, creating a training plan to develop the areas required to improve performance level.

Areas of study

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the body systems, how they help develop performance and the impact that exercise has on them. Lifestyle factors and how they impact health and well-being will engage students to understand the roles that performance enhancing drugs play on a performer and within the sport. Students will discover the different fitness components that are required in a variety of sports, learning the different training methods that can be applied to develop them further and improve performance. Using this knowledge the students will apply these methods to develop their own fitness to have a positive impact on their performance in their chosen sport.

Where will it take you

Both the practical and theory elements will prepare students for 6th Form or college if they choose to study PE, sport and sports science. Potential career opportunities could be in the fitness industry, sports coaching or teaching, physiotherapy or can lead to studying sport science at university.



Religious Studies

Would it surprise you to learn that more students now take RE GCSE and A Level than at any other time in the past? Why do you think the subject has become so popular? Maybe it's because our society has become so multi-cultural that issues of religion are headline news. What people believe and how they behave has become a fascinating area for study. From your knowledge of both these religious traditions you will gain a better understanding of world events. You will also develop a tolerance towards others that will be a key skill for the rest of your life.



What we will do

Within GCSE RE we examine different ethical issues and give responses from Christianity and one other religion. The course is designed for all students whether they are religious believers or not. It focuses on finding out about other people's beliefs. We encourage you to think deeply about thought-provoking issues. RE will challenge you academically and personally. You will learn the skills needed in higher education, balancing arguments, giving reasons for your opinion and for later in life when you will work and live with people from all sorts of different backgrounds and beliefs. RE is a great subject if you are interested in the world around you and having different views about it.

Areas of study

Beliefs & Teachings and Practices: Students are required to study **two** major world religions. The focus of study for each religion is on 'Beliefs and Teachings' and 'Practices'.

Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective:

Relationships and Families, Religious teachings about the nature and purpose of families in the 21st Century, sex, marriage, cohabitation and divorce. Religion and Life, looking at where the universe came from, and how did humanity come about. Religion, Peace and conflict; violence, war, pacifism, terrorism, just war theory and holy war. Religion Crime and Punishment, looking at whether suffering can ever be good, what causes crimes to happen, and what punishments should be morally allowed

Assessment: The course will be assessed through exams at the end of Year 11.

Where it will take you

RE is useful in a variety of careers as it provides solid grounding in ethics which is highly useful in the following professions: accountancy, banking, business, law, teaching, travel and tourism, medicine, police and politics. These are just a few of these career options, although it would be reasonable to say that most careers would welcome understanding of other people's beliefs.



Sociology



GCSE Sociology is the study of social life, groups and society. The course examines the world around us and explains why individuals and groups behave the way they do. Students learn to apply sociological ideas to everyday life, for example, they will study criminal and deviant behaviour and explain why some groups such as criminal gangs behave in this way.

GCSE Sociology is an exciting and engaging course that broadens students' minds and helps them to see the world from a different perspective. By studying sociology students can better understand themselves as well as the world around them helping them to understand that they can contribute to the improvement of society.

What we will do

You will examine the different institutions in society that control and shape our lives and apply contemporary examples to topics such as the family, education and crime. Sociologists use different research methods to discover patterns in behaviour, as part of the course you will examine and evaluate the various methods available to sociologist and carry out some of your own research. Sociology is a challenging academic course that requires good communication both verbally and written. Each topic requires extended writing, so it is essential that you have appropriate literacy skills.

Areas of study

- **Families:** roles within the family and how the family has changed
- **Education:** the role of education, achievement of different groups according to class, gender and ethnicity, processes in school including labelling and subcultures
- **Crime and deviance:** Factors affecting criminal and deviant behaviour and the dark figure of crime
- **Social stratification:** class, power, poverty and life chances
- **Social theory:** different sociological perspectives e.g. Marxism and Feminism
- **Research methods:** types of research e.g. questionnaires and interviews

Where it will take you

Sociology can lead you to further academic study at A level and at university. It is useful in a variety of careers such as social researcher, counsellor, police, social worker, probation worker, lecturer, charity fundraiser, primary school teacher, secondary school teacher, youth worker, housing manager, public administration and prison governor.



Statistics

For those students who enjoy Mathematics, Statistics could be the qualification for you! Delivered over two years, GCSE Statistics will include familiar techniques from GCSE Mathematics, as well as new statistical methods linking together several different curriculum areas. For this reason, students should feel secure in their Mathematical ability if they opt to take GCSE Statistics.



What we will do

GCSE Statistics will be examined at the end of Year 10, and will include two examination papers at Higher or Foundation Tier – each worth 80 marks and lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. There will be no coursework element to the qualification. Students will study a variety of topics predominantly encouraging students to:

- Develop statistical techniques, specifically looking at real-life problems;
- Apply their knowledge to a wide variety of curriculum areas, for example Science, Business Studies, Economics and Technology.

Areas of Study

Students will be expected to answer short, medium and extended response questions. Students will be able to:

- Collect and represent data, including methods used in GCSE Mathematics and new methods such as population pyramids;
- Calculate summary statistics, including using standard deviation and the geometric mean;
- Use probability to discuss real-life problems;
- Interpret information, including the retail price index and GDP for real-life problems;
- Look at the appropriateness of statistical techniques, and where sometimes statistics don't always tell the truth!

Where will it take you?

GCSE Statistics is a highly regarded qualification which is a precursor to further study. GCSE Statistics would be particularly useful for those students who are looking to move into a scientific field, as well as those who are contemplating studying Mathematics, Sociology or Psychology at A Level or degree level. If at this stage, you are not sure what career you may go into, but enjoy your Mathematics lessons, GCSE Statistics could be the option for you!