YEAR 9 OPTIONS BOOKLET 2020

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

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WOLLASTON SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to help students and parents choose the most appropriate combination of courses to follow at Key Stage 4. We are committed to offering students a broad and balanced curriculum that enables them to maximise their chances of success. Each student is considered as an individual and is guided and supported through a structured programme to ensure they make appropriate choices.

The Curriculum

The curriculum at Wollaston contains core subjects which meet the requirements of the compulsory national curriculum.

Core subjects all students will study:

English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)	**Combined Science (2 GCSEs)**
Mathematics (GCSE)	**Physical Education (non-exam course)**

Choices are then made using the Options Selection Guidance Sheet.

Options Selection Guidance Sheet - 2020

(You should have received this document alongside the Options Booklet)

The Options Selection Guidance Sheet should be used in the draft stages of the option selection process. The guidance identifies any requirements or limitations you will need to consider when selecting your subjects.

When selecting your chosen subjects using the Options Selection Guidance Sheet you should allocate the numbers 1-5. This will identify your four options in order of preference as well as a fifth reserve option.

INSIGHT

In order to finalise your options selections you **must** enter your preferences using INSIGHT.

You should select your subjects in order of your preference, starting with your option 1 through to your reserve option 5. In the case of subjects being oversubscribed, we will use order of preference to help us determine which students gain a place as well as—if appropriate—report data and engagement grades.

OPTIONS PROCESS TIMELINE 2020

22 January:	Assembly explaining options process to students.
23 January:	Year 9 Parents' Evening.
24 January to 6 February:	Taster sessions during Year 9 faculty teaching time.
6 February:	Options Evening 6.00pm to 8.30pm.
7 February to 14 February:	Options process live on INSIGHT.
14 February:	**ONLINE OPTIONS SELECTION PROCESS CLOSES AT 4.00PM.**

OPTIONS FOR YOU

NEW GCSE GRADES

How have GCSE grades changed?

The Government introduced a new system of grading at GCSE and these changes came into effect in August 2017. Letter grades have been replaced by a number scale.

There is no exact match between the letters and numbers. The approximate link between numbers and letters is shown in the chart below, which also shows the relationship between GCSE grades and the equivalent grades for BTEC courses.

Comparison of old and new GCSE grades		
Previous GCSE grades	**Current BTEC grades**	**New GCSE grades**
A*	Distinction* Level 2	9
		8
A	Distinction Level 2	7
B	Merit Level 2	6
		5
C	Pass level 2	4
D	Merit Level 1	3
E	Pass Level 1	2
F		1
G		

INFORMING YOUR CHOICE

Your child will receive a paper copy of their latest report which shows their grades so far in most of the options subjects. This should be considered along with the effort grades and enjoyment of a subject and, importantly, the grade distribution tables provided in this document.

Faculty areas will provide opportunities for students to do **Taster sessions** in lessons including being introduced to subjects like psychology and health & social care. These courses are often chosen based on future career aspirations.

When selecting your option preferences consider:

Grade Distribution Tables:

These show how well students have performed in each subject, at Wollaston, over the past two years. They are guides to help you decide where you might have the best chances of academic success.

Personal strengths:

Your skills, strengths, motivational factors and preferred methods of working e.g. are you good at exams, coursework and homework or practical skills? Have you been successful in the subject since year 7?

Engagement and ability:

What grades have you been achieving? What engagement scores have you received throughout Years 7-9? Which subjects do you put most effort into at the moment? It usually follows that the subjects where we are most engaged are the ones we perform best in.

Enjoyment:

Which subjects do you enjoy the most? You are about to embark on two further years of demanding study. It therefore makes sense to pick subjects that you will enjoy.

Progression:

Do you know what career path you want to take and what subject qualifications you are required to study? Have you looked into the GCSE requirements of potential careers?

How is Each Subject Assessed?

Look carefully as there might be some surprises… Did you know, for example, that GCSE PE consists of 60% written exam or that dance has a 40% written exam component?

ACADEMIC PROFILE SHEET

Results data from 2018 and 2019

These two pages show you the number of students entered for each course and the percentage achieving above given thresholds. For GCSE courses these are compared with National figures.

GCSE COURSES			% Results by grade				No. of students
			1+	4+	5+	7+	
ART	2019	Wollaston	98	42	26	2	43
		National	100	73	56	20	
	2018	Wollaston	100	60	45	13	40
		National	100	74	57	21	
COMPUTER SCIENCE	2019	Wollaston	100	51	43	19	37
		National	97	61	48	21	
	2018	Wollaston	97	49	36	5	39
		National	97	61	47	20	
DANCE	2019	Wollaston	100	82	77	64	22
		National	99	71	55	22	
	2018	Wollaston	100	86	73	45	22
		National	99	70	54	22	
DT: PRODUCT DESIGN	2019	Wollaston	97	31	13	0	32
		National	98	61	46	17	
DT: TEXTILES	2019	Wollaston	100	92	75	25	12
		National	98	61	46	17	
DRAMA	2019	Wollaston	100	75	64	25	44
		National	99	72	56	20	
	2018	Wollaston	100	75	64	28	36
		National	99	72	57	21	
ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY	2019	Wollaston	98	61	39	10	41
		National	98	71	59	29	
	2018	Wollaston	99	74	53	14	76
		National	98	71	59	28	
FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION	2019	Wollaston	100	74	65	4	23
		National	99	63	47	16	
	2018	Wollaston	100	78	50	6	18
		National	99	61	45	15	
FRENCH	2019	Wollaston	100	100	72	41	46
		National	98	68	52	22	
	2018	Wollaston	100	95	85	45	20
		National	99	68	52	21	
GERMAN	2019	Wollaston	100	92	77	42	26
		National	99	75	56	22	
	2018	Wollaston	100	100	100	80	10
		National	99	74	56	21	
GEOGRAPHY	2019	Wollaston	100	68	56	20	59
		National	98	63	50	22	
	2018	Wollaston	99	70	59	19	91
		National	98	63	49	22	
HISTORY	2019	Wollaston	97	62	53	27	114
		National	97	63	51	24	
	2018	Wollaston	99	75	61	29	92
		National	97	63	51	24	

GCSE COURSES

			% Results by grade				No. of students
			1+	4+	5+	7+	
MUSIC	2019	Wollaston	100	92	75	42	12
		National	99	73	60	28	
	2018	Wollaston	100	70	50	10	10
		National	99	73	59	28	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	2019	Wollaston	100	54	40	4	72
		National	100	71	55	20	
	2018	Wollaston	100	61	36	3	75
		National	100	69	54	19	
PSYCHOLOGY	2019	Wollaston	100	63	50	15	54
		National	98	63	48	19	
COMBINED SCIENCE	2019	Wollaston	98	67	43	5	172
		National	98	61	39	9	
	2018	Wollaston	97	68	35	8	165
		National	98	61	38	9	
SEPARATE SCIENCES BIOLOGY	2019	Wollaston	100	98	94	49	65
		National	99	90	80	42	
	2018	Wollaston	100	95	76	34	58
		National	99	90	79	42	
SEPARATE SCIENCES CHEMISTRY	2019	Wollaston	98	95	88	48	64
		National	99	90	78	43	
	2018	Wollaston	100	90	69	26	58
		National	99	90	77	42	
SEPARATE SCIENCES PHYSICS	2019	Wollaston	100	98	86	52	64
		National	99	91	79	43	
	2018	Wollaston	98	97	76	29	58
		National	99	91	78	42	

VOCATIONAL COURSES

NO HISTORIC DATA AVAILABLE FOR TECH AWARD ENTERPRISE

		BTEC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE		EDUQAS HOSPITATLITY & CATERING		VRQ VEHICLE ENGINEERING	
		2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Level 1	Pass	3	-	-	6	2	2
	Merit	-	1	-	-	17	7
	Distinction	-	3	2	-	2	-
Level 2	Pass	-	12	5	11	-	1
	Merit	11	10	3	3	-	9
	Distinction	14	2	5	-	-	-
	Distinction*	6	1	2	2	-	-
No. of Students		34	29	17	23	21	19

GCSE OPTION CHOICES

ART (EXAM BOARD EDUQAS)

COURSE CODE C650QS

WHAT IS GCSE ART?

GCSE art allows students to develop a number of key skills whilst building on knowledge they have gained from their time in Key Stage 3. Students will have the opportunity to learn through a wide range of different techniques including teacher led practise to independent learning. Students will need to be creative, imaginative and have the ability to draw to create a sketchbook for each coursework and exam as well as final outcomes. Students will be required to annotate and analyse their work allowing for them to communicate effectively with the viewer, allowing students to create visually exciting sketchbooks, detailed written work and personal final pieces.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Students will explore a total of 2 coursework titles across their time on the course, which will take them up to Christmas of Year 11. From January of Year 11 they will focus on the exam title, sitting the exam in April. Across this length of time they will develop a number of skills in a number of different media, including drawing, painting, printing and sculpture. Students will also have the opportunity to investigate artists, photographers, designers and craft persons that are in relation to their studies. Students will be given weekly homework which will go towards their overall grade and is expected to be completed and handed in when requested. Students will also have a number of opportunities go on visits to help them to provide primary images to develop their work and provide inspiration.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

Previous topics have included Identity, Assembled, Location, Rural and Natural Forms.

Techniques and subtopics:

- Analysing theirs and others work.
- Ability to explore materials and ideas.
- Ability to present neatly.
- Learn to create final piece design ideas.
- How to develop an idea in depth.
- To learn how to refine their work.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - C650QS

Unit 1 - 2 coursework produced across Yr10 and Yr11. Classwork and homework included, 60% of final grade.
Unit 2 - Externally Set Assignment, 40%. Includes prep for the exam in the form of a sketchbook, similar to coursework and the exam is 10 hours.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Students should expect to be engaged in learning and willing to explore and develop skills and use in media that they may not have used before. Students will be able to enjoy developing work that is personal to them as well as seeing coursework through a number of different processes that will lead them to a final outcome. The quality of your drawing skills will allow you to work from life and images. Students will get the opportunity to access computerised technology where appropriate. This subject will allow students the opportunity to develop many personal skills, desirable in working life including time management, organisation skills, problem solving skills, creative mind set, working to a strict theme/ title and working both as a team and independently.

WHAT NEXT?

A good GCSE art grade will see students have the opportunity to further their learning at A Level, College, University as well as straight into apprenticeships and working life. Students can go on to A Level in school if they have achieved level 5 or above at GCSE. Many job opportunities are displayed in the DT corridor but some include – designers (interior, product, car, Jewellery etc.), photographers (fashion, product, science, wedding), teaching/lecturer, psychology, social care, potter, sign painter, theatre, film and TV, web and social media, advertising, magazine industry, travel and tourism, events and PR.

For more information please contact Mrs N Hawkins or Mr J King

COMPUTER SCIENCE (EXAM BOARD OCR)
COURSE CODE J276

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE computer science is not just about computers, rather it is the study of computation and information, and is a subject which involves you in the very make-up of the world, and over the last 30 years it has transformed the way we run our everyday lives.

Computer systems are part of our everyday lives, ranging from embedded systems, controlling a refrigerator to bank systems handling billions of transactions each day. Many of the applications of such systems are familiar yet we take for granted, for example, mobile phones aircraft and medical equipment.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Logic problem solving coding due to the demanding nature of this course, a predicted grade 6 in science and maths by the end of Year 11.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

We study a range of themes relating to computer hardware and software, including how computers and networks work, operating systems, security, hacking, ethical, social and legal aspects of computer use. We also study how sound, images and other data is stored using binary and hexadecimal code.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Unit 1 - Computer Systems—1.5hr exam—50% of the final grade

Introduce learners to the processor, computer memory and storage, networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It is expected that learners will become familiar with the impact of computer science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Unit 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming—1.5hr exam—50% of final grade

Builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in Unit 1, encouraging learners to apply this knowledge and understanding using computational thinking. Learners will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation.

Unit 3 - Programming Project—Form of assessment and percentage is under review by OCR

Students will be given a task by OCR. They will need to create suitable algorithms which will provide a solution to the problems in the task. They will code their solution in Python. The solution is tested at each stage to ensure they solve the problem and must use a suitable test plan with appropriate test data.

For more information please contact Mr S Foster - Subject Leader

DANCE (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE 8263

WHAT IS GCSE DANCE?

GCSE dance promotes fitness, a healthy lifestyle, team work, and creativity and develops students' skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of dance styles through the interrelated processes of **performance**, **choreography** and **dance appreciation**. Dance develops physical, technical and expressive skills through which students are able to; communicate choreographic intention, develop their individual qualities as performers, communicate ideas, thoughts and meaning drawn from a range of dance styles and develop a critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

- Participation in a range of practical work and tasks looking at a wide range of styles.
- Completion of theory tasks and the creation of a GCSE folder.
- Individual and small group work.
- Performance of solo, duo, trios and groups to the class.
- Choreography of your own dance material regularly.

THEMES STUDIED?

Through **performance**, **choreography** and **appreciation** students will explore a range of political, historical, social and cross curricular themes. Students will study six professional works that cover a range of styles and influences that will enable them to fully appreciate how dance has developed.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code 8263

Component 1: Performance and Choreography.

Performance:

- Two set phases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration) **15% of GCSE.**
- Duet/trio performance (maximum of five minutes in duration) **15% of GCSE.**

Choreography:

- Solo or group choreography. **30% of GCSE.**

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills, critical appreciation of own work and critical appreciation of six professional works. 1 hour 30 minute written exam. **40% of GCSE.**

Both components are internally marked in a live setting by the teacher and then externally moderated.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You should have a genuine interest in dance performance, choreography, enjoy working hard physically and be willing to contribute towards a team atmosphere. You must be able to rehearse after school independently and with others to complete homework, coursework and participate in clubs.

WHAT NEXT?

Students who study GCSE dance may go on to study dance or performing arts at either A Level or on one of the vocational style courses. Dance students often demonstrate enhanced communications skills, initiative, working under pressure, leadership and team building. University courses in dance are wide and varied ranging from high level professional performance courses to degrees in dance that can lead to education, arts therapy, theatre based careers, arts journalism, arts management, costume design and choreography.

For more information please contact Mrs Z Bradley and Miss D Stone

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN

(EXAM BOARD AQA) - COURSE CODE 8552

WHAT IS GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY—PRODUCT DESIGN?

The GCSE design & technology-product design course continues to build upon the detailed design work that students completed in Key Stage 3. Students are given the opportunity to investigate topics through a wide range of both teacher led and activity based student work. Students will use creativity and imagination to design and make *prototypes* that solve real and relevant problems. They will learn to use new analysis and designing techniques, equipment, a range of machinery and tools as well as the use of CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture), at the same time as developing existing skills, to further their understanding.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You will investigate the wider world of design, looking at key designers, movements, trends and the wider impact design can have on the environment we live in. Alongside this, you will use primary and secondary research sources to investigate various design tasks where you will design a number of products, using both hand drawn and computer-generated methods. These designs will be developed and improved to create models and prototypes using a range of materials and techniques. You will develop your sketching, presentation techniques and manufacture a variety of products using some or all of the following materials - paper, cardboard, woods, plastics and even limited textiles, metals.

Theory is taught through a combination of focused theory lessons as well as some practical based tasks that develop skills and understanding of materials and processes. This creative *design* course allows students to design and realise innovative, forward thinking products using a variety of materials and is suited to those who can work with creativity and originality. It also gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines including mathematics, science, art and computing.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

GCSE design and technology has a wide and varying subject content and you will study a variety of themes including:

- The analysis of past designers and companies
- The impact of new and emerging technologies
- Developments in modern and smart materials
- The categorisation and properties of Papers & Boards, Timbers, Plastics, Metals & Textiles
- The functions of mechanical devices
- How energy is generated and stored
- How electronic systems and programmable components provide functionality to products and processes
- The main material focus for this specification will be **Timbers** but all material areas will be covered

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8552 - The course is made up of 2 units

Unit 1 - Written exam (50%) which incorporates questions on the core subject content (20%) and paper & board based design questions (30%). The exam paper has 15% of the marks devoted to design related Mathematics calculation questions.

Unit 2 - Non-examined Assessment (50%) which involves the design and manufacture of a working prototype based on a contextual challenge **provided by the examination board**. This is broken down as 40% for the design portfolio and 10% is for the practical.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You should enjoy solving practical problems through **design** using a range of materials and be prepared to work safely with all the equipment in the workshop. Knowledge of computer design packages such as *Techsoft* 2D-Design and *Adobe* Photoshop is an advantage. The quality of your drawing skills are important in GCSE design and technology, supported by the ability to plan and explain how practical processes are used in production. This **academic** subject prepares students for work as a designer in the modern world through links with mathematics, science, business and art and design. In Year 11 students are required to purchase their own materials for the practical element of the course.

WHAT NEXT?

A good grade in GCSE design & technology - product design enables students to progress onto a number of design based courses, including Wollaston School's Sixth Form A Level product design. A wide range of career paths stem from product design. The most common areas include; product design, automotive design, interior design, marketing and advertising, architecture, furniture design, industrial design, a range of engineering fields; civil, automotive and mechanical.

For more information please contact Mr A Klinkenberg and Mr A Gardner

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - TEXTILES

(EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL) - COURSE CODE 8552

WHAT IS GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY—TEXTILES?

The GCSE design and technology - textiles course continues to build upon work that students completed in Key Stage 3. Students will be given the opportunity to investigate topics through a wide range of both teacher led and activity based student work. Students will use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. They will, at the same time as developing existing skills, learn to use some new equipment, a range of machinery and tools as well as use of CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) to further their understanding.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

You will design a number of products, using both hand drawn and computer generated methods, and create, using a range of materials and techniques. You will develop your sketching and presentation techniques and manufacture a variety of products using some or all of the following materials – textiles and even limited woods, plastics, metals, paper, cardboard and electronics. Theory is taught through a combination of focused theory lessons as well as some practical based tasks that develop skills and understanding of materials and processes. This design course allows students to work with a variety of materials and is suited to those who can work creatively and with originality through problem solving. It also gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines including mathematics, science, art & design and computing.

THEMES STUDIED?

GCSE design and technology has a wide and varying subject content and you will study a variety of themes including:

- The categorisation and properties of textiles, metals, timbers, plastics and papers
- Developments in modern and smart materials
- The functions of mechanical devices
- The analysis of past designers and companies
- The impact of new and emerging technologies
- How energy is generated and stored
- How electronic systems and programmable components provide functionality to products and processes
- The main material focus for this specification will be **textiles** but all material areas will be covered

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8552 - The course is made up of 2 units:

Unit 1 - Written exam (50%) which incorporates questions on the core subject content (20%) and Textiles based design questions (30%). The exam paper has 15% marks devoted to mathematics calculation questions.

Unit 2 - Non-examined Assessment (50%) which involves the design and manufacture of a working prototype based on a contextual challenge provided by the examination board. This is broken down as 40% for the design portfolio and 10% is for the practical.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You should enjoy solving practical problems through design using a range of materials and be prepared to work safely with all the equipment in the classroom. The quality of your practical work and skills are important in GCSE design and technology, supported by the ability to design, plan and explain how practical processes are used in production. This is an **academic** subject, which prepares students for design in the modern world through links with both mathematics, science, business, computer science and art & design. In Year 11 students will be expected to purchase the materials for their final prototype.

WHAT NEXT?

A good grade in GCSE design and technology - textiles enables students to progress onto a number of design based courses, including Wollaston School's Sixth Form BTEC level 3 fashion and design and A Level product design. A wide range of career paths stem from textiles, which include; fashion design, costume design, interior designer, retail buyer, retail manager, journalist, pattern cutter, retail manager and assistant, textiles technologist, tailor, production manager, personal stylist, teacher/higher education and project management and textile engineering.

For more information please contact Miss V Ayres, Mrs F Bland, Miss A Chalmers or Mrs D Whitney

DRAMA (EXAM BOARD WJEC)
COURSE CODE 601/84206

WHAT IS GCSE DRAMA?

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE drama specification is designed to give learners a broad and balanced experience of drama. The course has been constructed to integrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed across a range of dramatic activities.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Across the three components learners will study:

- One complete performance text.
- Two extracts from a second contrasting performance text placed within the context of the whole text.
- Either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or the characteristics of a genre of drama.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

- **Devising Theatre:** Study of theatre practitioners and theatrical genres, developing devising, performing and evaluative skills.
- **Performing from a text:** The study of two extracts of a text, developing acting skills.
- **Interpreting Theatre:** Analysing a set text from a choice provided by the exam board and evaluating live theatre.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course comprises of three components:

COMPONENT 1: Devising Theatre - 40% of qualification

Learners must produce:

- A piece of devised theatre.
- A portfolio of supporting evidence.
- An evaluation of the final performance or design.

COMPONENT 2: Performing from a text - 20% of qualification

- Learners will be assessed on **either** acting or design.
- Learners study **two** extracts from the **same** performance text chosen by the centre.
- Learners participate in **one** performance using sections of text from both extracts.

COMPONENT 3: Interpreting Theatre - 40% of qualification

Learners will be required to sit a written exam of 1 hour 30 minutes.

Section A: Set Text

A series of questions on ONE set text from a choice of five chosen by the centre and studied throughout the course.

Section B: Live Theatre Review

One question from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Students wishing to take GCSE drama should be prepared to perform in every lesson, to contribute to discussions and challenge themselves to take on new roles in drama. You will also be required to visit the theatre.

WHAT NEXT?

Students who complete the course can go on to study drama and theatre studies at A Level or BTEC national performing arts. Future opportunities include journalism, media, theatre, arts administration, teaching along with the more obvious career choices for drama students.

For more information please contact

Mrs S Goodge - Faculty Leader for Drama or Mrs C Rose or Mrs V Paltridge

ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY (EXAM BOARD EDUQAS)
COURSE CODE C120P3

WHAT IS GCSE ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY?

GCSE ethics and philosophy encourages students to think and learn about the world around them. We aim to present students with a good understanding of two of the world's major religions and then explore topical moral issues in the world today and ask them to express their opinions and develop informed opinions regardless of moral, social, religious backgrounds. Above all students are given a forum in which to face up to the realities of the world we are preparing them to enter so that they are better equipped to deal with the variety of dilemmas, people and issues they will face as they grow.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

We begin by looking at two religions - Christianity and Islam. We begin by looking at Christian beliefs and teachings. We then look at how Christians follow their religion in practice. This is followed by a similar study on Islam. Once we have established a good understanding of both we can ask the questions we often ignore. When does life begin? Who has the right to take a life? When is it right or wrong to go to war? Should we explore the world of genetic engineering for the advancement of humankind? Is it right to judge others by their actions and beliefs? Should we help those in need and why/why not? Why do some people believe in God?

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

We study four themes 1. Relationships and Families (looking at the purpose of marriage, same sex marriage, cohabitation, divorce, equality and contraception) 2. Life and Death (looking at the origin of the universe, afterlife, environmental sustainability, euthanasia and abortion). 3. Good and Evil (good/evil, forgiveness, free will, morality, punishment and suffering). 4. Human Rights (looking at censorship, discrimination, extremism, prejudice, poverty and social justice).

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - C120P3
The course consists of 3 exam papers.
Paper 1 = 25%, paper 2 = 25% and paper 3 = 50%.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You do not have to be religious to enjoy the course and achieve a top grade GCSE. You need to be willing to engage with moral issues and listen to other points of view.

WHAT NEXT?

It is highly regarded by employers, colleges and universities. It may lead to A level Philosophy or even a degree in Philosophy.

This course also helps students develop marketable skills and aptitudes including:

- analytical and strategic thinking;
- research skills;
- critical judgment;
- the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas;
- an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict;
- problem-solving skills;
- leadership skills;
- understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and
- an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences.

For more information please contact Mrs Z Correa-Humphries

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION (EXAM BOARD AQA)
COURSE CODE 8585

WHAT IS GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION?

The GCSE food preparation & nutrition course continues to build on work that students study at Key Stage 3.

Students will be given the opportunity to investigate topics through a wide range of both teacher led and student activity based work. Students will investigate a range of food topics and will learn to use a range of different equipment and tools to further their understanding.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

By studying this course, you will learn about ingredients and methods used to make nutritious food products. You will learn about the function of ingredients used, the nutritional properties of the foods used, the effects of combining different ingredients during the preparation and cooking of foods. You will need to demonstrate that you are able to use a range of different food preparation skills to produce high quality products.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

The GCSE food preparation & nutrition course has a wide and varying subject content. You will study a variety of topics including:

- Food preparation skills including general practical skills, use of equipment, cooking methods, making sauces, setting mixtures, and making dough mixtures.
- Food, nutrition and health including making informed choices for a varied and balanced diet, energy needs and carrying out nutritional analysis of food products.
- Food science including the cooking of food, heat transfer, the functional and chemical properties of food. Food safety including food spoilage, food contamination and the principles of food safety.
- Food choice including factors affecting food choice, food labelling and marketing influences, British and International cuisines and the sensory evaluation of foods.
- Food provenance including food sources, environmental issues associated with food, sustainability of food, food production and technological developments associated with better health and food production.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8585

There are two components to the assessment for this course.

Unexamined assessment worth 50% comprising of two tasks and a single examination paper worth 50%:

Task 1: The Food Investigation (15%) Recommended time: 10 hours.

An example of the type of task you may do to allow you time to demonstrate your skills is: (a) investigate which type of flour is the best for making bread; or (b) investigate the type of raising agent used to make baked products.

Task 2: The Food Preparation Task (35%) Recommended time: 20 hours.

Is an opportunity to showcase your practical skills and will include an extended 3 hour practical to allow you time to demonstrate your skills. An example of the task you may complete is: (a) plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes, using a variety of skills, from the Mediterranean culinary tradition and present three final dishes or (b) plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes, using a variety of skills, which would be suitable for vegetarians and present three final dishes.

Single examination paper 50%. This will comprise a paper of 1 hour and 45 minutes. Section A is worth 20 marks and will be multiple choice questions and Section B is worth 80 marks and you will have to answer five questions.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You will do practical work each week and you must therefore be prepared to bring ingredients every week. When we do experimental work, school will provide the ingredients for you to do these investigations. You will learn a lot of the theory through practical activities.

WHAT NEXT?

Success in food preparation & nutrition can lead on to a number of varied and interesting careers in, for example, catering, nutrition, teaching and product development. This course leads on to the WJEC Level 3 food science and nutrition course.

For more information please contact Miss V Ayres - Faculty Leader for Art and Design Technology
or Mrs K Worger - Senior Assistant Headteacher

FRENCH (EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

COURSE CODE 1FRO

WHAT IS GCSE FRENCH?

This two year course is designed to develop students' knowledge of French and their ability to use it in a range of contexts and situations. Students are taught the skills to use and understand both spoken and written language with accuracy and confidence. This GCSE forms part of the English Baccalaureate, a measure of achievement in core academic subjects, and an indication of a young person's general potential to study at a higher level (e.g. A-Level, University). A GCSE in French will certainly give you 'the edge'.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course builds on language learnt at Key Stage 3. Students engage in group and individual speaking and comprehension tasks, independent research using authentic materials and online resources, and creative writing assignments. Written and learning homework is set regularly and is central to students' preparation for termly teacher assessments. These are in the style of the real exams and check that at least expected progress is being made. Students are also set weekly vocabulary to learn to support their comprehension.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

The course focuses on issues relating to young people (their interests, future plans, relationships) as well as broader issues relating to the wider world (media and culture, sport and leisure, travel, the environment, business and employment).

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 1FR0

Students are assessed by exam at the end of Year 11 in:

- **Listening (25%)** - candidates listen to a range of short passages in the language relating to GCSE topics, and then answer questions about them. Questions are in English and French.
- **Reading (25%)** - candidates read a range of passages in the language, topic-based and literary, and answer questions about them in both English and French. There is also a short translation into English.
- **Speaking (25%)** - candidates complete a role-play, picture discussion and topic conversation in a 7 - 9 minute exam with their teacher. Tests are based on topics covered during the course. Candidates are given preparation time beforehand and can make notes which they can use during the exam.
- **Writing (25%)** - candidates write a total of 200 - 250 words across a range of tasks e.g. a short letter, a topic essay, a short translation into French.

EXTRA INFORMATION

GCSE students have regular opportunities to work with our French assistant (native speaker) to practise their conversational French and to gain in confidence for their speaking exam. To improve listening skills students have priority access to our Language Lab. Students may be offered the chance to spend some time in France.

Students with languages skills are in high demand in today's society. Linguists are needed in business, the travel and tourism industry, the media, teaching, or indeed in any area of life where the UK is working in co-operation with overseas partners. It is therefore no surprise that colleges, universities and employers have a high regard for candidates with a languages qualification.

WHAT NEXT?

Students with consistently good effort grades and who secure grade 4 or better by the end of Year 9 should cope well with French at GCSE.

If you have any questions about the course, your suitability for it, or the many career paths for students with languages skills, please talk to your French teacher. Further information and sample assessment tasks for the new GCSE can also be found at https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html. For opportunities for those with languages watch the video at www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/teachers/video

For more information please contact Mrs H Berry - Subject Leader for French

GERMAN (EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

COURSE CODE 1GN0

WHAT IS GCSE GERMAN?

This 2 year course is designed to develop students' knowledge of German and their ability to use it in a range of contexts and situations. Students are taught the skills to use and understand both spoken and written language with accuracy and confidence. This GCSE forms part of the English Baccalaureate, a measure of achievement in core academic subjects, and an indication of a young person's general potential to study at a higher level (e.g. A-Level, University). A GCSE in German will certainly give you 'the edge'.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course builds on language learnt at Key Stage 3. Students engage in group and individual speaking and comprehension tasks, independent research using authentic materials and online resources, and creative writing assignments. Written and learning homework is set regularly and is central to students' preparation for termly teacher assessments. These are in the style of the real exams and check that at least expected progress is being made. Students are also set weekly vocabulary to learn to support their comprehension.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

The course focuses on issues relating to young people (their interests, future plans, relationships) as well as broader issues relating to the wider world (media and culture, sport and leisure, travel, the environment, business and employment).

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 1GN0

Students are assessed by exam at the end of Year 11 in:

- **Listening (25%)** - candidates listen to a range of short passages in the language relating to GCSE topics, and then answer questions about them. Questions are in English and German.
- **Reading (25%)** - candidates read a range of passages in the language, topic-based and literary, and answer questions about them in both English and German. There is also a short translation into English.
- **Speaking (25%)** - candidates complete a role-play, picture discussion and topic conversation in a 7 - 9 minute exam with their teacher. Tests are based on topics covered during the course. Candidates are given preparation time beforehand and can make notes which they can use during the exam.
- **Writing (25%)** - candidates write a total of 200 - 250 words across a range of tasks e.g. a short letter, a topic essay, a short translation into German.

EXTRA INFORMATION

GCSE students have regular opportunities to work with our German Assistant (native speaker) to practise their conversational German and to gain in confidence for their speaking exam. To improve listening skills students have priority access to our Language Lab. Students will be offered the chance to spend some time in Germany and be partnered with a student in a German school.

Students with languages skills are in high demand in today's society. Linguists are needed in business, the travel and tourism industry, the media, teaching, or indeed in any area of life where the UK is working in cooperation with overseas partners. It is therefore no surprise that colleges, universities and employers have a high regard for candidates with a languages qualification.

WHAT NEXT?

Students with consistently good effort grades and who secure grade 4 or better by the end of Year 9 should cope well with German at GCSE.

If you have any questions about the course, your suitability for it, or the many career paths for students with languages skills, please talk to your German teacher.

Further information and sample assessment tasks for the new GCSE can also be found at https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html. For more reasons to continue learning German go to www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/wdl.html and for opportunities for those with languages skills watch the video at www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/teachers/video

For more information please contact Mrs H Sumner - Subject Leader for German

GEOGRAPHY (EXAM BOARD AQA)
COURSE CODE 8035

WHAT IS GCSE GEOGRAPHY?

GCSE geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes which shape them and the people that live in them. It helps students to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world.

Geography has a unique position in the curriculum to help students develop up to date knowledge and understanding of current events on a variety of scales. In addition, it gives students the opportunity to understand the complexity of human and physical environments and make connections between natural, economic, social, political and technological systems. Through fieldwork students have the opportunity to develop first-hand investigations of places, environments and human behaviour. All these features can provide a meaningful context for developing transferable skills such as literacy, numeracy, ICT, problem solving, team work, thinking skills and enquiry whilst stimulating an interest in, and a wonder of the world around us.

GCSE geography would be suitable for students keen to continue with academic subjects as it complements science, other humanities and core subjects such as English and maths. Students will need a good level of written English as the exam questions do require students to **write extended paragraphs** in a complex and coherent way. It is a challenging but highly rewarding subject choice.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE AND HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8035

1. Living with the physical environment:

- Exam 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 35% of GCSE
- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world

2. Challenges in the human environment:

- Exam 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 35% of GCSE
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

3. Geographical applications:

- Exam 1 hour 15 minutes, worth 30% of GCSE (based on pre-released material)
- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical skills

WHAT NEXT?

Geography provides students with a range of skills and knowledge which supports progression into a wide range of careers such as cartography, transport, the oil industry, ecology and education.

For more information please contact Mrs R Collins - Subject Leader for Geography

HISTORY (EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

COURSE CODE 1H10

WHAT IS GCSE HISTORY?

This course will appeal to students who are interested in examining historical events that have an impact on all our lives. Students complete a study of the history of medicine, this involves looking at time periods from medieval medicine to modern medicine. Students will find out about the important developments in medicine that have led us to the healthcare we have today. There is also a focus study in the medicine exam on injuries and treatment in the trenches in World War One. For the British History element students will look at Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-88. This will include how the Normans gained and maintained power in England. For the in depth period study, students will learn about the American West, 1835-95, including the way of life for the Plains Indians and early settlement of the West. Students also study Germany 1918-39, this gives an insight into the dramatic rise of Hitler and the Nazis, how they were able to come to power and how they ran Germany. By looking at events that happened in the past we can understand better what is happening today and why things happen.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

Four main themes are covered over the two years:

- Medicine though time, 1250– present. Also includes a focus on medicine in World War One
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-88
- The American West, 1835-95
- Germany, 1918-1939

Course requirements:

Most importantly, you must be interested in history. It is an academic subject and you need to be prepared for the volume of reading and writing you will need to do during each lesson and in the exam.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 1H10

The course is assessed by examination only. All students sit the same exam papers and there is no foundation paper option.

- ***Examination (100%)***:
- Paper 1- Medicine in Britain, also a focus on medicine in World War One, 1 hour and 15 minutes, 30%
- Paper 2 - Anglo-Saxon England and American West, 1 hour and 45 minutes, 40%
- Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1 hour and 20 minutes, 30%

EXTRA INFORMATION

You will develop many skills for example:

1. Source analysis – looking critically at evidence to develop an understanding of historical events.
2. Explaining your answer and forming your own conclusions.

You will be learning to think for yourself, using evidence and applying what you have learnt to draw your own conclusions. These skills will be welcome in any career such as journalism, law, teaching, and also in business and industry.

Specification name and website link: Students will study the Edexcel GCSE History syllabus. More information can be found at https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html

For more information please contact Mrs Z Correa-Humphries

MUSIC (EXAM BOARD OCR)
COURSE CODE J536

WHAT IS GCSE MUSIC?

GCSE music encourages musicians of all interests and range of abilities to further their knowledge and understanding of the subject through performance, composition and listening activities.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Students are required to:

- Perform one solo piece on their chosen instrument.
- Compose a piece which features their chosen instrument from the solo performance.
- Perform one piece as part of an ensemble.
- Compose a piece based on a brief set by the OCR exam board.
- Undertake listening activities throughout the course on a range of styles from the areas of study in preparation for a listening exam at the end of the course.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

- **My Music:** Exploration of your chosen instrument through performance and composition.
- **The Concerto Through Time:** Exploration of the musical styles of the concerto and it's development from 1650 to 1900 through Baroque Solo Concerto, Baroque Concerto Grosso, the Classical Concerto and the Romantic Concerto.
- **Rhythms of the world:** Studying traditional rhythmic roots from four geographical regions of the world:

  India and Punjab, Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, Africa, Central and South America.
- **Film Music:** Explores music which has been specifically composed for a film, music from the Western Classical tradition which is used within a film and sound tracks for video games.
- **Conventions of Pop**: Studying a range of popular music from the 1950s to the present day. The focus being rock'n'roll, rock anthems, pop ballads and solo artists.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - J536

Compositions and Performances = 60% of the final GCSE.

Completed under controlled conditions during class time, assessed by the teacher and moderated by an external examiner.

Listening and appraising = 40% of the final GCSE.

An exam paper lasting 90 minutes where students hear music extracts from the styles studied during the course and identify musical features. This is assessed by an external examiner.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Any student wishing to take GCSE music should be able to play an instrument or sing with a good level of **confidence** and **competence** and will be required to complete a short performance audition to confirm they meet the required standard. Students able to perform to approximately Grade 3 standard or above should achieve well. GCSE music is a challenging but creative GCSE. It allows students to demonstrate and build on existing skills in performance as well as develop composition techniques and critical aural analysis skill. The course is delivered in a very hands-on approach with a focus on doing rather than observing. GCSE music students are also expected to participate in one of the school's many musical ensembles which take place at lunchtimes and after school on a weekly basis.

WHAT NEXT?

Students who complete the course may choose to go on to study music at A Level or BTEC Level 3. The subject can open many doors in performance, music technology, media, theatre, teaching, or the armed forces among many other careers.

For more information please contact Mrs E Hollis-Brown - Subject Leader

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (EXAM BOARD OCR)
COURSE CODE J587

WHAT IS GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

The GCSE PE qualification, is an excellent way of building on the understanding and skills developed at Key Stage 3. It is a great opportunity for learners to become more competent, confident and expert in their sporting techniques, and apply them across different sports and physical activities. GCSE PE also helps students develop important transferable skills for progression to the next level of study. The blend of scientific and practical development, positions candidates well to access a range of qualifications in the future.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

There are two written examinations in GCSE PE, both of which are taken at the end of the course in Year 11. Paper 1 (worth 30% of the final grade) is based on scientific principles of PE including applied anatomy and physical training. Paper 2 is based around socio-cultural issues and sports psychology in PE (worth 30% of the final grade) performance in Practical Activity and Analysis (worth 40% of the final grade)

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

Applied anatomy and physiology: Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and data. **Physical training:** Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of the components of fitness required for physical activities and sports and how each can be measured.

Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology. Learners will develop their knowledge of socio-cultural influences that impact on participation and performance in physical activities and sports.

Practical Activity Assessment: Skills in isolation and skills in competition, from three activity areas (at least one individual sport and one team sport).

Analysing and Evaluating Performance task (AEP): In addition to practical performances, learners will be assessed in an analysing and evaluating performance task (AEP).

PRACTICAL

GCSE PE requires students to be assessed in three practical areas over the two year course. These activities need to come from the approved list of either Individual or team activities. Pupils must select at least one individual activity and one team activity across their three activities.

It is an expectation that students who study GCSE PE are participating in at least one of these activities outside of school to ensure success in the subject. They must demonstrate competence in one team and one individual activity before starting the course. They will be expected to attend at least one extra curricular club in school during year 10 and 11 e.g. badminton, dance, trampolining, athletics or table tennis. Students will be taught a variety of practical activities in GCSE PE to ensure they are fully prepared for the practical requirements of the course.

Sports such as golf, horse-riding, skiing, climbing, can all be assessed from outside school via video evidence which must meet the boards criteria and be submitted at the start of Year 11. Please note: martial arts are **not** accepted as assessed activities.

PROGRESSION ROUTES: Students who study GCSE PE are in an excellent position to transfer the skills learnt on the course across a wide-range of future areas of study. The course not only allows smooth transition into either A Level PE or OCR Sport at Level 3 but to all other academic courses available in the Sixth form. GCSE PE assesses students physically and intellectually and is widely regarded as one of the most enjoyable and rewarding GCSE subjects.

For more information please contact

Mr A Bennett - Faculty Leader for PE or Mr P Bevan - Key Stage Leader

PSYCHOLOGY (EXAM BOARD AQA)
COURSE CODE 8182

WHAT IS GCSE PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the study of the mind and the processes behind behaviour. Throughout psychology GCSE you will:

- Develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society, specifically in terms of mental health.
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of the self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena.
- Develop your reflective thinking skills by developing arguments and drawing conclusions from psychological evidence provided.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- Understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Psychology will teach you to think independently, to challenge concepts and apply theories to real life contexts and behaviours. The course will give you an insight into many things - some key questions answered are; how does perception differ between people? What happens if we don't form bonds with our parents? How can we forget things we have just seen? And, what causes psychiatric illness and how can it be best treated?

Overall psychology teaches you to recall key concepts and details, interpret data and research, analyse studies in terms of their effectiveness and critically evaluate how psychological theories explain behaviour.

The skills you learn in psychology will complement many other GCSE subjects such as; science, maths, English, history, geography, sociology and ethics and philosophy.

In order to study psychology you will need strong literacy skills as there is a lot of extended writing. In addition you will need to have a sound understanding of maths, as data analysis is a required theme throughout the course. If you feel you would struggle with this, psychology may not be for you.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED

Memory, perception, cognitive development, research methods, social influence, language thought and communication, the brain and neuro-psychology and psychological problems such as depression and addiction.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8182

- **50% Cognition and behaviour - 1 hour 45 minutes exam:**

This unit consists of two multiple choice questions, short answer and extended answer questions about memory, perception, development and research methods.

- **50% Social context and behaviour - 1 hour 45 minutes exam**

This unit consists of two multiple choice questions, short answer and extended answer questions about social influence, language, thought and communication, brain and neuropsychology and psychological problems.

PROGESSION ROUTES?

Sixth form, college, university, jobs such as clinical pyschology, forensic pyschology, rehabilitation centres, medicine (psychiatry), business development, accountancy, human resources, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, nursing, teaching, sport psychology.

For more information, please contact

Mrs Z Correa-Humphries - Faculty Leader for Humanities or Miss L Pickwick - Subject Leader

COMBINED SCIENCE TRILOGY (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE: 8464

WHAT IS GCSE SCIENCE TRILOGY?

Science is everywhere. For example, the school bus is a product of many areas of science and technology, including mechanical engineering and innovation. The system of roads, lights, pavements and other infrastructure are carefully designed by civil engineers and planners. The smartphone in your hand is a miracle of modern computer engineering that uses physics and chemistry. Outside the window, trees turn sunlight into stored energy and create the oxygen that we need to survive. Whether natural or man-made every aspect of your life is filled with science - from your own internal biology to the flat-screen TV in the living room.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Studying this course provides an opportunity to develop a firm foundation to go on to study science at level 3 and beyond. It will provide a good background to study other sciences and mathematics and engineering. The course is designed to give a good grounding in the science disciplines and to provide two science GCSE qualifications for students not wishing to take an individual science subject.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES STUDIED?

Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

Chemistry

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes
13. The rate and extent of chemical change
14. Organic chemistry.
15. Chemical analysis.
16. Chemistry of the atmosphere.
17. Using resources.

Physics

18. Energy
19. Electricity
20. Particle model of matter
21. Atomic structure
22. Forces
23. Waves

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

There are six exams and you will gain two GCSE grades as a result of all six papers.

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 70 marks and 16.7% each. All papers have multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

In exam papers a question will assess both topic content as well as required practical skills and maths skills.

For more information please contact Mrs W Pearmain - Faculty Leader for Science

SEPARATE SCIENCE BIOLOGY (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE: 8461

WHAT IS GCSE BIOLOGY?

Biology plays an important role in the understanding of complex forms of life involving humans, animals and plants. Biologists study the structure, function, growth, origin, evolution and distribution of living organisms.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course helps students develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods. It provides the opportunity to gain a good understanding across a broad range of rich and relevant topics in human biology, other living organisms, evolution and the environment.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES STUDIED?

Paper 1 - Topics 1–4

1. Cell biology: cell structure and transport, cell division. 2. Organisation: digestive and circulatory systems. 3. Infection and response: infectious diseases, immune system and non-infectious diseases. 4. Bioenergetics: energy transfer in organisms including photosynthesis and respiration

Paper 2 - Topics 5-7

5. Homeostasis and response: nervous and endocrine systems. 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution: reproduction, genetics and natural selection. 7. Ecology: adaption, interdependence, competition, biodiversity and ecosystems.

In addition to the content, you will also complete Required Practicals (RPs) where you will learn how to use a range of apparatus or techniques while working scientifically (WS). 15% of the marks will cover different aspects of practical work through RPs and WS skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

You will sit two exams: Paper 1 and Paper 2 and the results of both papers will determine your GCSE biology grade.

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks and 50% of GCSE each
- Both papers have multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

In exam papers a question will assess both topic content as well as required practical skills and maths skills.

For more information please contact Mrs W Pearmain - Faculty Leader for Science

SEPARATE SCIENCE CHEMISTRY (EXAM BOARD AQA)
COURSE CODE: 8462

WHAT IS GCSE CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties, how and why substances combine or separate to form other substances, and how substances interact with energy. Chemistry is involved in everything we do, from growing and cooking food to cleaning our homes and bodies to launching a space shuttle. Chemistry is one of the physical sciences that help us to describe and explain our world.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Studying this course provides an opportunity to develop a firm foundation to study chemistry and other Sciences at A-Level and beyond. It helps to develop a critical approach of scientific evidence and methods. You will gain a good understanding of the nature of substances and how they react together, how chemistry is used in business and industry and how our use of fuels and raw materials can affect our environment.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES STUDIED?

Paper 1: Topics 1-5

1. Atomic structure
2. Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes

Paper 2: Topics 6-10

6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

In addition to the content, you will also complete Required Practicals (RPs) where you will learn how to use a range of apparatus or techniques while working scientifically (WS). 15% of the marks will cover different aspects of practical work through the RPs and WS skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

You will sit two exams: Paper 1 and Paper 2 and the results of both papers will determine your GCSE chemistry grade.

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks and 50% of GCSE each
- Both papers have multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

In exam papers a question will assess both topic content as well as required practical skills and maths skills.

For more information please contact Mrs W Pearmain - Faculty Leader for Science

TRIPLE SCIENCE PHYSICS (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE: 8463

WHAT IS GCSE PHYSICS?

Many of the everyday technological inventions that we now take for granted resulted from discoveries in physics. Physics is a natural science based on experiments, measurements and mathematical analysis with the purpose of finding quantitative physical laws for everything from the nanoworld of the microcosmos to the planets, solar systems and galaxies that occupy the macrocosmos.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Studying this course provides an opportunity to develop a firm foundation to go on to study physics at A-level and beyond. It will provide a good background to study other sciences and mathematics and engineering. You will gain a good understanding of use and transfer of energy, waves radiation and space together with a look at some of the applications of physics in our lives today.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES STUDIED?

Paper 1: Topics 1 - 4

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure.

Paper 2: Topics 5 -8

5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics.

In addition to the content, you will also complete Required Practicals (RPs) where you will learn how to use a range of apparatus or techniques while working scientifically (WS). 15% of the marks will cover different aspects of practical work through the RPs and WS skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

You will sit two exams: Paper 1 and Paper 2 and the results of both papers will determine your GCSE physics grade.

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks and 50% of GCSE each
- Both papers have multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

In exam papers a question will assess both topic content as well as required practical skills and maths skills.

For more information please contact Mrs W Pearmain - Faculty Leader for Science

Vocational Qualifications

A maximum of 2 vocational qualifications can be chosen.

INSPIRE MOTIVATE ACHIEVE

BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN ENTERPRISE (EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

WHAT IS BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN ENTERPRISE?

This is a level 2 BTEC Award (equivalent to a GCSE) that is designed to help KS4 14-16 year-old learners in schools develop their business skills through practical, skills-based learning.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is graded on two internally-set assignments on various themes in Enterprise. Much of the work requires independent learning after assignments. Students will need to be consistently motivated to complete work in lessons. The final component focuses on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices through an external exam.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

These are all essential to developing a basis for progression. Learners need to achieve all components in order to achieve the qualification.

Component 1: Exploring Enterprises - This includes examining different enterprises to develop knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs. You will examine the characteristics of enterprises, explore how market research helps enterprises meet customer needs and understand competitor behaviour, investigate the factors that contribute to the success of an enterprise and develop transferable skills, such as research, and data analysis in order to interpret their findings (30%)

Component 2: Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity - This explores ideas and enables students to plan and pitch a micro-enterprise activity to an audience, and use feedback to review their business plan. You will explore ideas and plan for a micro-enterprise activity, pitch a micro-enterprise activity, review their own pitch for a micro-enterprise activity, develop their planning and research, presentation, communication and self-reflection skills (30%).

Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise - This explores the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market. You will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of promotion and financial records, interpret and use promotional and financial information in relation to a given enterprise, make connections between different factors influencing a given enterprise, advise and provide recommendations to a given enterprise on ways to improve its performance.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Component 1 (36 Guided Learning Hours) is an INTERNALLY assessed unit and will account for 30% of their final grade.

Component 2 (36 Guided Learning Hours) is an INTERNALLY assessed unit and will account for 30% of their final grade.

Component 3 (48 Guided Learning Hours) is an EXTERNALLY assessed unit and will account for 40% of their final grade.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WILL THE STUDENT DEVELOP AS PART OF THIS QUALIFICATION AND HOW MIGHT THESE BE OF USE AND VALUE IN FURTHER STUDIES?

Each assessment draws on real-life scenarios so students can demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the course applying them in context. Additional skills include independent research, development of ICT skills and self-reflection, the personal attributes essential in working live.

EXTRA INFORMATION

The award complements the learning of other GCSE programmes such as geography.

All coursework is completed in lessons under direct supervision of staff to ensure quality control over delivery and accessibility for all students. Students are expected to attend additional catch up sessions after school to prevent students falling behind with workload and to meet the 36 hours guided learning requirements.

For more information please contact Mrs Z Correa-Humphries - Faculty Leader for Humanities

BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

COURSE CODE W404A

WHAT IS BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

The BTEC Tech Award in health & social care at level 1/2 is designed for those who may wish to enter a caring profession or work with children. It allows students to gain an understanding of the health and social care sector and builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you learn in your GCSEs, such as English. It will complement the more theoretical aspects covered by GCSE biology or GCSE psychology by allowing you to apply your knowledge and skills practically in a vocational context.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

To achieve the Level 2 Award students must achieve 120 credits over the two years. The credits are obtained through three components that all students must complete in order to gain the BTEC qualification. The components provide a variety of teaching and learning methods designed to meet the needs of all students'.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

- **Component 1 Human Lifespan Development** (*Within this unit students will explore how people grow and develop throughout their lives and the factors which affect this growth and development)* **36 credits.**
- **Component 2 Health and Social Care Services and Values** (*Within this unit students look at the different services and care values that contribute to the delivery of effective health and social care practice)* **36 credits.**
- **Component 3 Health and Wellbeing** (*This exam will allow students to build on prior knowledge learnt for component 1 and 2 in order to answer short questions and create a person-centred health and wellbeing improvement plan)* **48 credits.**

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - W404a, QAN code 603/0395/5

The qualification consists of three components that give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of health and social care at Levels 1 and 2.

- **Components 1 and 2** are internally assessed by the teacher in year 10.
- **Component 3** is an external assessment where students will receive a task set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions. The task will be completed in 3 hours within the period timetabled by Pearson and is available in either the February or May of year 11. There are 60 marks available for this component.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Students are required to have an interest in the health and social care sector and should be prepared to look at a range of service users during the two years. The course is exciting and rewarding and will allow any student interested in this area to fully understand and appreciate all aspects of health care.

WHAT NEXT?

College - a natural progression onto a Level 3 health and social care course in this area.

Sixth Form - Level 3 BTEC National in health and social care.

Employment in a variety of health care settings with training and qualifications to be continued whilst working.

For more information please contact Mrs Z Bradley - Subject Leader

EDUQAS LEVEL 1/2 AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

COURSE CODE - 601/7703/2

WHAT IS EDUQAS LEVEL 1/2 AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING?

This course concentrates on the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. You will have the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, you will also develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Students will be expected to make a range of food products and develop skills related to commercial food preparation including food hygiene, food presentation and considering production in quantity. They will be expected to apply technical and practical expertise to ensure that food meets customer needs and preferences and is appropriate for a given occasion. They will have the opportunity to use a wide range of practical skills and techniques, gaining an understanding of catering and an awareness of related career paths.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry

In this unit students will learn about different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry, the legislation which needs to be adhered to and the personal safety of all those involved in the business, whether staff or customers. They will learn about the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success. The knowledge and understanding they gain will enable them to respond to issues relating to all factors within the hospitality and catering section and provide them with the ability to propose a new provision that could be opened in a given location to benefit the owner and the local community.

Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action

In this unit students will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for them to plan nutritional dishes to go onto a menu. They will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course Code - 601/7703/2

The course is made up of 2 units:

- **Unit 1 (40%): The Hospitality and Catering Industry** will be externally assessed with an online examination that lasts 90 minutes.
- **Unit 2 (60%): Hospitality and Catering in Action** is internally assessed: This involves you completing a 9 hour piece of controlled assessment in school under examination conditions. You will be set a task by EDUQAS and will have to safely plan, prepare, cook and present dishes to satisfy the task.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You will do practical work each week and you must therefore be prepared to bring ingredients every week. When we do experimental work, school will provide the ingredients for you to do these investigations. You will learn a lot of the theory through practical activities. The quality of your practical work and skills are important in this Technical Award, supported by the ability to plan and explain how practical processes are used in production. Also you should be aware that regular theory work is set to support your classroom experience.

WHAT NEXT?

After completing the Level 1/2 Award in hospitality and catering, students have a range of skills which lead them to a number of options. Students have the option to stay at school and study for a new course, WJEC food science and nutrition (Level 3) or go to college and study a range of Level 3 qualifications, such as professional cookery and public services. Equally the qualification sets them up for an apprenticeship within the hospitality sector itself where students can study for a Level 3 qualification or just gain more practical experience.

For more information please contact Miss V Ayres - Faculty Leader for Art, Design & Technology

VRQ VEHICLE ENGINEERING (EXAM BOARD - INSTITUTE OF THE MOTOR INDUSTRY AWARDS)

COURSE CODE 603/3089/2/ (LEVEL 2)

WHAT IS VEHICLE ENGINEERING?

It is a Vocational Related Qualification (VRQ) designed to engage and motivate 14 - 16 year olds who are interested in learning about the automotive and engineering industries. This course is open to all students, both girls and boys, who are keen to study a practical based course.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE COVER?

The course covers workshop safety, introduction to the automotive maintenance and repair industry, workshop tools and engineering processes and equipment. Further aspects cover principles of vehicle components, mechanisms and routine maintenance.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

This course suits students who enjoy practical methods of learning and enjoy basic problem solving tasks. Basic safety clothing and footwear is needed. Lessons will be taught mainly in a workshop environment using the Vehicle Engineering Centre on the school site. It is envisaged that students will study this course for 3 periods a week. A relevant two week work experience placement makes up part of the course for all students studying this subject.

THEMES STUDIED?

Students work through a series of tasks linked to different main concepts of vehicle mechanics and linked engineering concepts. Key areas such as engines, suspension and braking are all covered in detail. Basic engineering machining is taught and students will use a centre lathe and other machines. The facilities provided in the Vehicle Engineering Centre are similar to that in a commercial garage or engineering workshop and can be fully used by students.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 603/3089/2 (Level 2)

Assessment is aimed at learners who prefer and respond to 'hands-on' learning. There is a practical approach to most assessments and this includes many visual questioning techniques which stimulate and interest learners. Assessment is divided into key units. Some units are assessed through observations and questioning of key tasks. Others require a written response which is graded. Computer based online assessments are also used. There is a content of theory to cover to aid the understanding of the key principles.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Students will need to purchase appropriate footwear, work trousers, polo shirt and jumper. More information will be given about this by Mr Hollis-Brown.

Specification name and website link: IMI Award Level 2 Automotive Maintenance VRQ.

http://awarding.theimi.org.uk

WHAT NEXT?

The course directly links to other Level 2 or 3 qualifications in most areas of the automotive and engineering industry and can create career opportunities in automotive retail, maintenance, engineering and development. It is an ideal route to progress onto employment, apprenticeships and further job related training.

For more information please contact Mr R Hollis-Brown - Course Leader