



The Charter School
East Dulwich

GCSE OPTIONS 2023

Name _____

The
Charter
School
East
Dulwich



The Choice is Yours

In the coming weeks you will make important decisions about the subjects you will study in Key Stage 4 (KS4).

This is exciting. The choices you make will determine what you learn and how you develop over the next two years. They will influence the paths you take throughout your education and working life.

We encourage you to recognise your strengths, pursue your interests and to develop your passion for learning. Explore new subjects and think boldly about what you will enjoy and where your learning at KS4 could take you.

Information about the GCSE subjects and vocational qualifications on offer at The Charter School East Dulwich (TCSED) and the support available is included in this booklet.

Year 9 Achievement Evening and Options Briefing is an opportunity for you and your parents or carers to find out more about the subjects on offer and to speak with teachers.

We will also be offering taster sessions for the new subjects available to you at KS4 so you can experience what these courses will involve.

Finally you'll discuss your final choices along with your reserve options with your teachers at an options interview.

The subjects you study at KS4 are your decision. Talk to your teachers, share this booklet with your parents and carers and speak with your friends. But remember that you are the person who will attend classes, study hard, prepare for exams and achieve these qualifications.

So read on, think big and get excited about where these options and your choices will take you!



Alison Harbottle

Alison Harbottle
Head of School



Maria Chalcraft

Maria Chalcraft
Assistant Headteacher
Key Stage 4

Note to parents and carers

We believe that students will succeed and thrive when they are supported to make independent choices. Please read this booklet together with your child and discuss the options available to them. Ask questions and support them to be ambitious in approaching these choices and to speak with their teachers if they need additional information to make their decisions.

Students will discuss their subject choices at an options interview with teachers in March. Parents will receive further information on this over the coming weeks and we encourage you to attend on 28th February for further information.

We will email all parents and carers to confirm their child's chosen options and will be happy to answer any queries before these are finalised and timetabling is completed.



YOUR KEY
STAGE 4
OPTIONS

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Your Key Stage 4 options

As you prepare to enter Key Stage 4, you have the opportunity to make decisions about your education and your future.

All students will study four core subjects at GCSE and complete an hour of PE per week. These are English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. You will study either Double Science (equivalent to two GCSEs) or Triple Science (equivalent to three GCSEs).

In addition to this core curriculum, you will choose another four subjects to study. These can be a mix of GCSEs and vocational subjects. Vocational courses are equivalent to GCSEs

and will be considered as the same by sixth form and further education colleges. Vocational courses typically include coursework as part of the assessment, while most GCSEs place greater emphasis on examinations.

You must choose one subject from each of the humanities, modern foreign language and active, creative and exploratory blocks. The fourth subject you choose is an entirely free choice.

1 Core subjects

- ☒ GCSE English Literature
- ☒ GCSE English Language
- ☒ GCSE Mathematics
- ☒ GCSE Science – Double Science (2 GCSEs) or Triple Science (3 GCSEs)
- ☒ PE (does not lead to qualification)



Students who are certain that they want to pursue a career in Science and who are averaging a grade 6 or higher in Science will be offered the opportunity to study GCSE Triple Science (equivalent to three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

If you are offered the choice to study either GCSE Double Science or Triple Science think carefully about what you want to do. Information about each option is included on page 15 and 16.

- ☐ GCSE Double Science
- ☐ GCSE Triple Science

2 Your options

HUMANITIES

- ☒ *Tick one*
- ☐ Geography GCSE
- ☐ History GCSE

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL)

- ☒ *Tick one*
- ☐ French GCSE
- ☐ Spanish GCSE

ACTIVE, CREATIVE, EXPLORATORY (ACE)

- ☒ *Tick one*
- ☐ Art & Design: Fine Art GCSE
- ☐ Art & Design: Photography GCSE
- ☐ BTEC Sport
- ☐ Computer Science GCSE
- ☐ Design and Technology: Graphic Design GCSE
- ☐ Design and Technology: Product Design GCSE
- ☐ Drama GCSE
- ☐ Economics GCSE
- ☐ Enterprise and Marketing (Cambridge National)
- ☐ Engineering (WJEC)
- ☐ Information Technologies (Cambridge National)
- ☐ Music GCSE
- ☐ Physical Education GCSE
- ☐ Religious Studies GCSE
- ☐ Sociology GCSE

Your reserve choices

It's important that you select two reserve choices. We want to be able to offer all of our students all of their choices, but this isn't always possible. If courses are undersubscribed, we will not be able to run them and sometimes we are unable to offer all students all of their choices due to timetabling restrictions.

This is rare but it does happen. Last year 98% of students were offered all their choices and all students were offered their first or reserve choices.

Make sure that you would be happy and interested to study the subjects you choose as reserve choices, just in case.

3 Your reserve choices – Choose any free choice subject

Reserve choice 1

Reserve choice 2

Important information

The following subjects cannot be studied together:

Design and Technology: Graphic Design GCSE, Design and Technology: Product Design GCSE and/or Engineering

Economics GCSE and Enterprise and Marketing (Cambridge National)

Physical Education GCSE and BTEC Sport

4 And finally, a free choice from any subject below.

☒ Tick one

☐ Art & Design: Fine Art GCSE

☐ Art & Design: Photography GCSE

☐ BTEC Sport

☐ Computer Science GCSE

☐ Design and Technology: Graphic Design GCSE

☐ Design and Technology: Product Design GCSE

☐ Drama GCSE

☐ Economics GCSE

☐ Enterprise & Marketing (Cambridge National)

☐ Engineering (WJEC)

☐ Information Technologies (Cambridge National)

☐ Music GCSE

☐ Physical Education GCSE

☐ Sociology GCSE



How to make your choices

What do you enjoy? What do you love? Where do you thrive?

When you make your choices for KS4, it's important to think about what you enjoy and what you're good at.

You'll be studying these subjects for two years – so make sure they offer variety and a good balance. You should be challenged and excited at the prospect of starting your KS4 studies.

You should also think about what you want to do in the future. Whether you plan to complete further education, go to university, or go straight into the workplace, many courses, apprenticeships or career paths may require you to have particular qualifications.

Choosing your subjects may feel like a daunting prospect. We're here to help and to support you throughout the process. Speak to your teachers, your parents or carers and to your peers, but remember that this decision is yours.

Exploring new subjects

At KS4 you'll have the opportunity to study new subjects and complete qualifications in:

- Economics
- Engineering
- Enterprise and Marketing
- Sociology

We'll be delivering taster sessions for these new subjects as part of your normal timetable. These sessions will give you an opportunity to experience what these new subjects involve and what the courses will involve. Enjoy!





Bespoke curriculum and additional support

We want to support all of our students to make excellent progress in their learning and personal development.

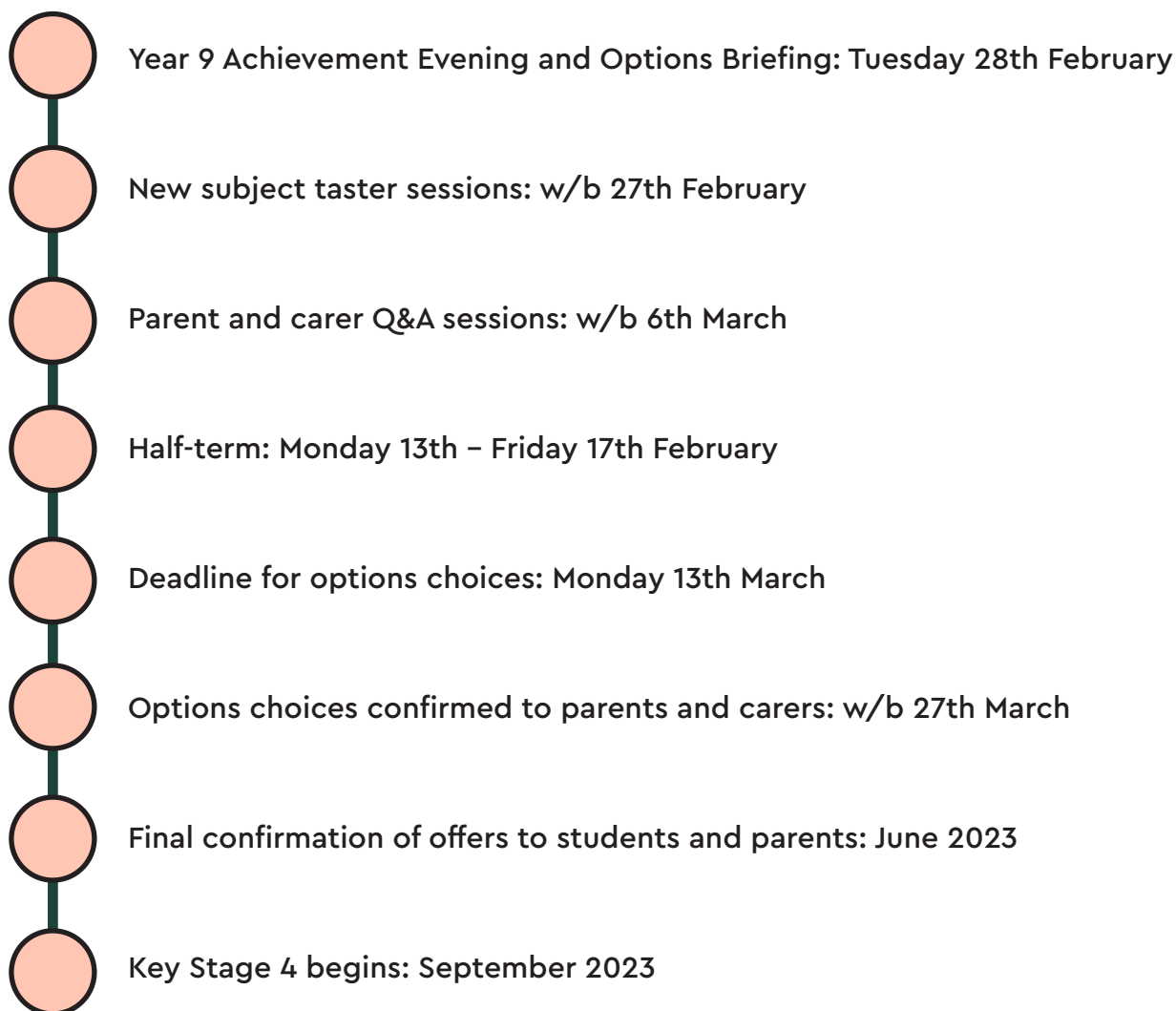
Where there is an education need, we will work with students to ensure the correct balance of subjects. Our SEND and pastoral team will work closely with those students and families throughout the options process.

Students can also register for additional subjects where they will learn and prepare for exams independently. We encourage students to explore additional GCSEs in their home languages.

If you need additional support to understand which courses are most suitable for you, we are here to help. Please speak to your tutors and attend our options briefing at the Achievement Evening.

Options timeline

Make the most of the time, information and support you have available before making your choices. Ask questions, get advice, and reflect on your choices.



Notes



YOUR
SUBJECT
OPTIONS

English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)

GCSE



Course overview:

In GCSE English you will be taught English literature and English language and will earn qualifications in each subject. Your studies will include an anthology of poetry (Power and Conflict), *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestly, *Jekyll and Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson and *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare.

You will develop your fiction and non-fiction writing skills, and you will complete a speaking and listening component.

In studying GCSE English, you will develop into a curious, thoughtful and critical thinker. You will be confident in your ability to engage in a wide range of texts and explore how language creates meaning, while also recognising the significance of how contextual information shapes our understanding.

As well as enjoying a wide range of diverse texts, you will develop your critical thinking skills and understanding of the world around you, exploring different viewpoints and ideas.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

When you study English literature you'll develop skills to:

- identify and interpret implicit and explicit information from texts
- analyse how writers use language and structure for effect
- compare the ideas and perspectives of different texts
- evaluate texts critically
- communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively.

When you study English language you will:

- develop skills in exploring non-fiction and fictional texts, creative writing and writing for purpose
- learn how to read, understand and respond to texts and to analyse language, form and culture
- show an understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

You will develop and use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for effect with accurate spelling and punctuation in both subjects.





✓ **Assessment**

Assessment is 100% exam based.

- English language – two written papers (one hour 45 minutes each)
- English literature – two written papers (one hour 45 minutes and two hours 15 minutes)



Where can this subject take me?

Your English GCSEs could help you in almost any career and is needed to progress in your post 16 education – it is part of your core curriculum.

The skills acquired in your English GCSEs are highly transferable and will equip you with the skills to effectively communicate with others.

The skills acquired in studying English will enable you to interpret, deploy and explore language effectively; a skill that is key to your success in any path you choose.

GCSE English will open up opportunities for you in a variety of careers, as English is attractive to all universities and employers.

Mathematics

GCSE



Course overview:

Mathematics is a fundamental part of everyday life.

A high quality mathematics education provides a basis for understanding the world.

When you study mathematics at GCSE you will continue to improve your ability to reason mathematically, to solve problems and to apply skills to a diverse range of contexts.

You will have the opportunity to approach mathematics inquisitively and creatively, whilst also developing your ability to communicate mathematically.

In studying GCSE Mathematics you will develop into a curious, thoughtful and critical thinker who relishes the opportunity to be challenged and is open to learning from their mistakes.

Exam Board: EdExcel



What will I learn?

When you study mathematics at GCSE you will develop learning across six key strands of content. These are:

- number
- algebra
- ratio, proportion and rates of change
- geometry and measure
- probability
- statistics.

GCSE Mathematics is taught at two tiers – foundation (grade 1–5) and higher (grade 3–9). The weighting for each of the six strands of content differs slightly at foundation and higher tier.



Where can this subject take me?

GCSE Mathematics is a stepping stone and requirement for virtually all post 16 qualifications and careers.

The skills you acquire in your maths GCSE, for example problem solving or reason, will be transferable to many other subject areas at Key Stage 5 (KS5), further education and employment. Mathematics provides a good foundation for many areas of study and career paths including science, technology and engineering.



Assessment

Assessment is 100% exam based.

- Two written papers with calculator (One hour 30 minutes each)
- One written paper without a calculator (One hour 30 minutes)
- You will sit either the higher tier or the foundation tier papers.

GCSE Further Mathematics

The highest attaining mathematicians who are working consistently at a mastery level and who have shown sufficient mathematical fluency, commitment to learning and a desire for challenge will be selected to study further mathematics. This is a demanding qualification and results in two qualifications – GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics.

Further mathematics is taught during and alongside the mathematics course.

Science (Double)

GCSE



Course overview:

This course started in year 9 and continues onto topics that further explore the world of science.

In year 10 we aim to enthuse and engage your interest with new never taught topics, and by the end of year 10 you will have covered the majority of the GCSE content.

You will have the opportunity to explore and understand theories at more depth and be able to answer more challenging questions.

You will also have the chance to complete practical investigations that last longer, using new equipment and involving new techniques.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

- You will learn new topics such as organic chemistry, bioenergetics, waves, cell division and resources management.
- You will deepen your understanding of topics like cell biology, atoms, chemical reactions, forces and energy
- You will complete over 26 required practicals that strengthen your understanding of key concepts in science
- You will learn how to write practical methods that lead to the production of valid results



Assessment

Assessment is 100% exam based.

- Two written papers – biology (one hour 15 minutes each)
- Two written papers – chemistry (one hour 15 minutes each)
- Two written papers – physics (one hour 15 minutes each)



Where can this subject take me?

Your GCSE Science will help you to develop essential key skills that will serve you well in many A Level subjects and as the foundation for a wide range of careers. These skills include analysing data, evaluating information, conducting fair research and the ability to recall and apply facts to new situations.

This course leads well onto all science A level courses and careers in a wide range of sectors including medicine, engineering, psychology and research.

Science (Triple)

GCSE



Course overview:

Students who are attaining a grade 6 average in science by the end of year 9 will be offered the opportunity to study GCSE Triple Science.

Both qualifications cover biology, chemistry and physics. Substantially more content is covered in triple science and some content is more challenging than the GCSE Double Science.

Assessment for double and triple science include the same number of exams, but triple science exams are longer, reflecting the additional content learned.

Students who choose to study triple science will have an additional two lessons per week.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

- You will learn new topics such as space, organic chemistry, bioenergetics, waves, cell division and resources management.
- You will deepen your understanding of topics like cell biology, atoms, chemical reactions, forces and energy.
- You will complete over 30 required practicals that strengthen your understanding of key concepts in science.
- You will learn how to write practical methods that lead to the production of valid results.



Assessment

Assessment is 100% exam based.

- Two written papers – biology (one hour 45 minutes each)
- Two written papers – chemistry (one hour 45 minutes each)
- Two written papers – physics (one hour 45 minutes each)



Where can this subject take me?

GCSE Triple Science will help you to develop essential skills that will serve you well in many A Level subjects and careers.

These include analysing data, evaluating information, conducting fair research and the ability to recall and apply facts to new situations.

Studying triple science at GCSE will provide you with a deeper knowledge of biology, chemistry and physics.

If you intend to study sciences at A Level, consider triple science to be best prepared for study at KS5.

Art & Design: Photography

GCSE



Course overview:

In Year 10 you will experiment with a wide range of photographic and film making techniques and processes. You will develop, experiment and refine your skills whilst being challenged both practically and theoretically. You will gain skills in how to analyse and learn from fine artists working in a range of media.

In Year 11 you will complete an independent project and play to your practical strengths. You will receive an exam paper in February which will encourage you to research and develop work in response to a given starting point and produce a practical outcome during a 10 hour exam.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

You will learn about the value and power of the visual arts, understanding that they embody diverse individual, cultural and philosophical expression, have the power to change the way in which we perceive things, and they are the most direct way to vicariously transfer meaning and experience.

You will also:

- develop skills in digital photography, film photography, darkroom processes, film making, graphic design and animation
- learn Adobe programmes including Photoshop and Premier
- develop independent learning skills while creating original work
- become confident in writing about and discussing the technical skill and conceptual thinking of artists' work.



Assessment

- 60% of your qualification is assessed by coursework and projects.
- 40% of your qualification is assessed by a practical exam (10 hours).



Where can this subject take me?

Photography is a well-respected GCSE with academic rigour for a wide range of potential courses at post 16 and a good foundation for a career in the creative sector.

You could pursue creative arts by studying photography, media studies, film, digital media courses, apprenticeships. We also offer A Level Photography in the school sixth form.



Art & Design: Fine Art

GCSE



Course overview:

In Year 10 you will begin by experimenting with a range of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional techniques and processes. You will develop, experiment and refine your skills whilst being challenged practically and theoretically. You will gain skills in how to analyse and learn from fine artists who work in a range of media.

In Year 11 you will complete an independent project and play to your practical strengths. You will receive an exam paper in February which will encourage you to research and develop work in response to a given starting point and produce a practical outcome during a 10 hour exam.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

You will learn about the value and power of the visual arts, understanding that they embody diverse individual, cultural and philosophical expression, have the power to change the way in which we perceive things, and they are the most direct way to vicariously transfer meaning and experience.

You will also:

- develop skills in painting, drawing, printing, textiles, sculpture and photography
- develop independent learning skills while creating original work
- become confident in writing about and discussing the technical skill and conceptual ideas behind of artists' work.



Where can this subject take me?

Fine art is a well-respected GCSE with academic rigour for a wide range of potential courses at post 16 and a good foundation for careers in the design and creative sectors.

In the creative arts, you could go on to study fine art, media studies, fashion and textiles, photography, film, digital media courses and apprenticeships. We also offer A Level Fine Art and A Level Photography in the school Sixth Form.



Assessment

- 60% of your qualification is assessed by coursework and projects.
- 40% of your qualification is assessed by a practical exam (10 hours).

Sport

BTEC Level 1/2 certificate



Course overview:

This is a fantastic vocational course, which covers a wide range of skills, knowledge and understanding across a range of sporting topics.

You will gain greater understanding and appreciation of health related fitness, sports and exercise through a selection of optional specialist units.

You will develop your people, communication, planning and team working skills by having the opportunity to design training plans and take on sports leadership roles.

If you enjoy participating in physical activities and have a keen interest in both the theory and methods of how to improve your personal performance, this course is for you.

Exam Board: Pearson's Edexcel



What will I learn?

This course includes a range of theoretical and practical areas of study and requires a genuine interest and passion for sport. It is recommended that students represent or volunteer in a minimum of one school sport.

Areas of learning will include:

- fitness for sport and exercise
- practical performance in sport
- applying the principles of personal training
- leading sports activities.



Where can this subject take me?

This course is an excellent foundation for those who wish to study sport at post 16 or for entry level roles within the sector.

Achievement at Level 2 provides a suitable foundation for further study, such as BTEC Level 3 in Sport in the school sixth form.

Many of the skills you will develop as part of this course are highly transferrable, including teamwork, people and communication skills.



Assessment

This qualification is assessed by a combination of coursework and a practical skills based assessment on one team and one individual sport.

- 75% Coursework
- 25% Practical assessment (One hour 15 minutes)

Computer Science

GCSE



Course overview:

The tech industry is growing at a fast rate and there are currently not enough computer scientists to meet demand.

If you have good maths and logical thinking skills, enjoying solving problems and love using tech, then GCSE Computer Science is for you!

You will learn how computers work, including the central processing unit (CPU), memory and storage, and explore modern networks and cyber security.

The course will develop your comprehension of how computers and computing affect ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues. You will also create programs and explore different computing algorithms and Boolean logic.

Exam Board: OCR



What will I learn?

- You will learn about computer systems and develop your understanding and skills in computational thinking, algorithms and programming. This will include:
- processors, computer memory and storage
- networks, cyber security, software and computer systems
- ethical, legal, cultural and environmental considerations
- algorithms and programming techniques
- Boolean algebra, data and binary form.

Students will also learn and develop programming skills in an independent coding project by solving a real-world problem. This programming project will be completed in the classroom over 20 hours.



Assessment

Assessment is 100% exam based.

- Two written papers (One hour 30 minutes each) and projects.



Where can this subject take me?

A GCSE in computer science enables you to progress either directly to employment with apprenticeships in technology, or to proceed to further qualifications, such as A Level Computer Science.

Computer science gives you the opportunity to consider many career paths, including, game designer, software architect, data analyst and network manager.

This course provides you with a lot of problem-solving, computational thinking and programming challenges. Ideal for anyone who enjoys solving problems, mathematics and computing.

Information Technologies

Cambridge National



Course overview:

This course will give you the opportunity to learn practical tools to design, create and evaluate IT solutions and products. This includes manipulating data and creating Augmented Reality (AR) prototypes. You will select the best tools to solve problems and explore different software applications.

This course will complement other learning that you're completing at KS4.

Exam Board: OCR



What will I learn?

IT in the digital world

- Design Tools
- Human Computer Interface (HCI) in everyday life
- Data and testing
- Cyber-security and legislation
- Digital Communications
- Internet of Everything (IoE).

Planning and designing the spreadsheet solution

- Creating the spreadsheet solution
- Testing the spreadsheet solution
- Evaluating the spreadsheet solution.

Augmented Reality (AR)

- Designing an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype
- Creating an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype
- Testing and reviewing



Where can this subject take me?

By developing applied knowledge and practical skills, this course will help give you the opportunity to progress on to A Levels, a Cambridge Technical in Information Technologies, an apprenticeship or university. Information Technology is constantly evolving, and new jobs are developing all the time – you could work for tech giants or create your own products.



Assessment

Supply breakdown of exam and coursework split

- Detail exam format
- Exam (40%) and NEA (60%)



Design and Technology : Graphic Design

GCSE



Course overview:

Your GCSE in Design and Technology: Graphic Design will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

You will learn about how technology and other things in society can affect how and why products are designed and as a young graphic designer, you will be learning high level creative and technical skills.

Our course teaches you about a wide range of materials and techniques, with the main focus on paper and boards, but for year 11 you can select which materials will be the most suitable for making the product that you have designed.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

Students will:

- how to use research, designing, testing and evaluation to design a product based on the needs, wants and values of the end user
- how to work accurately and efficiently with a range of different tools equipment and machinery
- how to design both digitally using CAD including Adobe Photoshop, as well as by hand using a range of quick and technical styles.
- In year 10, alongside your theory lessons, you will be learning a range of skills including making 3D prototypes, lino printing, using Adobe Photoshop, spray painting and theory based practical tasks.
- In year 11, you will complete a research, design, make and evaluate task based on 2D graphics and/or a 3D graphic product which will include making a final prototype and an accompanying written portfolio.



Assessment

This qualification is assessed by a combination of coursework and an exam.

- 50% Coursework (40 hours of work)
- 50% Written exam (2 hours)



Where can this subject take me?

A GCSE in Design and Technology: Graphic Design will provide a good foundation for A Level courses in Graphic design or Product Design, engineering or other design-based subjects or apprenticeships in design.

The course will develop highly transferrable skills including creativity, problem solving, teamwork, communication, planning and evaluation. You will end up with a professional and impressive folder of coursework.

Students interested in pursuing design related careers including graphic design, marketing, branding, editorial design, illustration, gaming design, interior design, fashion, architecture, product design, civil engineering will benefit from a GCSE and further study in Design and Technology.

Design and Technology : Product Design

GCSE



Course overview:

Your GCSE in Design and Technology: Product Design will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

You will learn about how technology and other things in society can affect how and why products are designed, and as a young product designer, you will be learning high level creative and technical skills. Our course teaches you about a wide range of materials and techniques, with the main focus on woods and plastics, but for year 11 you can select which materials will be the most suitable for making the product that you have designed

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

Students will:

- how to design a product based on the needs, wants and values of the end user
- how to use research, designing, testing and evaluation to improve your design until they will be successful.
- how to work accurately and efficiently with a range of different power tools equipment and machinery including laser cutting and moulding and forming of plastics.
- how to design both digitally using CAD including Adobe Illustrator and SketchUp, as well as by hand using a range of quick and technical styles.
- how to develop your own design ideas that are shaped by imagination and experimentation
- In year 11, you will learn how to complete a research, design, make and evaluate project based on product which meets the needs of end users, that will include making a final prototype and an accompanying written portfolio.



Assessment

This qualification is assessed by a combination of coursework and an exam.

- 50% Coursework (40 hours of work)
- 50% Written exam (2 hours)



Where can this subject take me?

A GCSE in Design and Technology: Product Design will provide a good foundation for A Level courses in Product Design, engineering or other design-based subjects or apprenticeships in design.

The course will help you to develop highly transferrable skills including creativity, problem solving, teamwork, communication, planning and evaluation. You will end up with a professional and impressive folder of coursework.

Students interested in pursuing design related careers including product design, interior design, architecture, civil engineering and many more, will benefit from a GCSE and further study in Design and Technology.

Drama

GCSE



Course overview:

GCSE Drama is an exciting, fun and active course where you will learn about a variety of different styles of theatre both practically and theoretically. If you like to work with others and learn practically then drama is for you.

As well as working in school we also visit the theatre to watch professional productions and work with practitioners in the performing arts.

By the end of the course you will be confident when performing in front of a live audience and you will be used to working with others in a practical setting.

Exam Board: Eduqas



What will I learn?

Students will:

- learn about the performance and group skills needed to create exciting and imaginative theatre
- learn how to review and evaluate theatre as a member of an audience.
- learn how to create your original piece of theatre to perform to an audience
- perform an extract of published play to an audience
- study and learn about the play 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman as an actor, director and designer.



Assessment

This qualification is assessed by a combination of practical assessment and examination.

- 40% Performance and portfolio
- 20% Performance
- 40% Written paper (1 hour 30 minutes)



Where can this subject take me?

GCSE Drama is an exciting and practical course which then can lead you to study drama at A Level or further at university or drama school.

However... drama can take you anywhere!

The skills you learn in drama – group work, communication, presenting your work to others – is key to almost all employment.

Specifically drama can lead you into careers within the performing arts, media, TV and film, publishing, teaching, journalism to name a few.

Economics

GCSE



Course overview:

Economics is about people and their economic choices.

You will learn that we are all part of the economy, and that economics relates to every aspect of our lives – from the decisions of individuals or families to the structures created by governments and producers.

It will develop your understanding of how economic issues affect choices about resources and markets and vice versa. Economics equips learners with the skills and confidence to explore how consumers, producers and governments interact in markets nationally and internationally.

It provides a good introduction to this subject and an excellent foundation for advanced study in economics.

Exam Board: OCR



What will I learn?

Students will study both macro and micro economic principles and learn how to use these to explain and evaluate real-life issues and events, as well as make policy recommendations.

Economics introduces students to basic economic concepts and helps them to develop the appropriate range of analytical, critical and reasoning skills to enable them to think as economists. They learn how consumers, producers and governments interact in markets nationally and internationally.

Topics include: the role of money, competition, productivity, employment and the labour market



Assessment

GCSE Economics is 100% exam based.

- Two written papers (1 hour 30 minutes each)



Where can this subject take me?

Universities and employers love candidates who have studied economics because they know they have strong analytical and evaluative skills!

You will need a grade 6 or above in maths, English language and economics to progress to study A Level Economics in the school sixth form.

Economics links closely to subjects including sociology, geography, maths, politics and history.

If you're interested in a career in banking and finance, accountancy, stockbroking, journalism or the civil service, economics will provide a strong foundation.

Enterprise and Marketing (Business Studies)

Cambridge National Level 1/2 Certificate



Course overview:

Enterprise and marketing will show you how to set up your own business. It's a practical course that will help with life skills such as money management and will also help students to understand the job market.

You will learn how to market and develop products, understand your customers, and win business.

Students will develop skills that are essential for the modern workplace including team working, presentation skills, independent working, working to deadlines and efficient use of resources.

Pupils will visit organisations and meet entrepreneurs and business people and have the chance to design and market their own products.

Exam Board: OCR



What will I learn?

When you study this course you will study a range of enterprise and marketing concepts, have the opportunity to design a business proposal and pitch this idea. Learning will include:

- the techniques business use to understand their markets, develop viable products and to attract and retain customers
- design of a business proposal including market research, data, idea generation and costing
- develop a brand identity and pitch a business proposal.
- Students will develop self-assessment, collaborative working, creativity, numeracy, research and evaluative skills as well as presentation skills.



Assessment

This course is assessed by a combination of coursework and examination.

- 40% written paper (One hour 30 minutes)
- 30% Coursework – Design a business proposal (15-20 hours)
- 30% Coursework – Market and pitch a business proposal (12-15 hours)



Where can this subject take me?

Enterprise and marketing is a really good subject to showcase practical skills such as problem solving, interpersonal skills and communication

Pupils with a Level 2 pass or above are eligible to study BTEC Business in the school sixth form.

Careers could include advertising and marketing, accounting, entrepreneurship, recruitment and human resources (HR).



Engineering

WJEC Level 1/2 Award (vocational)



Course overview:

Engineers apply maths and science to problems that they face to create solutions.

If you enjoy the practical side of design and technology but prefer to follow a given plan than to come up with their own ideas, this course is for you.

If you choose this course, you will be challenged with high level, accurate making skills, particularly with different types of metals.

You will also learn about how the world around you has been designed and manufactured to suit the needs of its users and to last for future generations.

Exam Board: WJEC



What will I Learn?

You will learn how to work accurately with engineering tools and equipment, focussing on working with metals including learning how to solder and braze using a blow torch and turn detailed parts using an engineer's lathe.

Students will develop their design and technical drawing skills and accurately follow dimensioned drawing. The course will develop your ability to identify problems and find solutions.

Previous year 10 projects include bottle openers, candle holders and ping pong ball launchers.



Where can this subject take me?

This course gives a real hands-on experience of using materials for those who want to study engineering further at university, or another vocational course such as mechanical engineering at college.

Higher grading students will also be able to study A Level Design Technology.

Studying engineering at KS4 will give you the practical and thinking skills to go further into design or engineering studies at sixth form and general skills for other future careers.



Assessment

This qualification is assessed by a combination of coursework and examination.

- 40% Coursework (20 hours)
- 20% Coursework (10 hours)
- 40% Examination (One hour 30 minutes)

French

GCSE



Course overview:

In GCSE French, you will learn how to express more ideas in greater detail.

You will continue to develop and become more confident in listening, reading, writing and speaking skills.

You will enjoy discovering more about many aspects of life in France and learn to appreciate the differences between English and French languages and cultures.

By the end of the course, you will be able to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. Learning a language at GCSE is great as it helps your memory, creativity, listening skills and self-confidence.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

You will develop your French listening, reading, writing and speaking skills and study a range of topics across three themes. These include:

- Identity and culture – me, my family and friends, technology in everyday life, free time activities, customs and festivals in French-speaking countries.
- Local, national, international areas of interest – home, town, neighbourhood and region, social issues, global issues and travel and tourism.
- Current and future study and employment – my studies, life at school or college, education post 16, jobs, career choices and ambitions.



Assessment

GCSE French is taught at two tiers – foundation (grade 1–5) and higher (grade 3–9). Students will learn the same content but examinations for higher tier students are longer and the format for the writing assessment is different.

GCSE French is assessed by examination.

- Listening paper (35 minutes – foundation tier (FT), 45 minutes – higher tier (HT))
- Speaking assessment (7–9 minutes – FT, 10–12 minutes – HT)
- Reading paper (45 minutes – FT, One hour – HT)
- Writing paper (One hour – FT, One hour 15 minutes – HT)



Where can this subject take me?

Learning a language at GCSE will help you in almost any career and open up opportunities at home and abroad. A Level French is available in the school sixth form.

If you continue to study it further, you may be able to become an interpreter, a translator or a teacher. Or you could use your language skills alongside other subjects and this may allow you to pursue your chosen career in a different country.

Geography

GCSE



Course overview:

Geography is the study of the world around us and examines the complex relationships between people and the planet.

You will investigate human, physical and environmental issues at a local and global scale.

GCSE Geography will allow you to develop critical thinking skills as you evaluate causes, impacts and management strategies for current world problems!

Through enquiry questions and field visits you will expand your fieldwork skills, collecting data that will enable you to answer big geographical questions.

Studying geography will allow you to understand the past, present and future of the planet we call home.

Exam Board: Edexcel B



What will I learn?

- Global geographical issues – physical and human geography including global issues such as climate change, tectonic hazards, causes of global inequality and rapid urban growth.
- UK geographical issues – the human and physical geography of the UK. You'll look at local case studies, such as migration and urbanisation in London. You will also learn more about coastal and river processes and pressures.
- People and the environment issues – focused on how people interact with the planet. The topic includes people and the biosphere, forests under threat and consuming energy.



Assessment

GCSE Geography is 100% assessment based.

- Three examinations (One hour 30 minutes each)



Where can this subject take me?

Studying GCSE Geography is very beneficial as it allows you to gain good transferable skills which will prepare you well for A Level geography and a large variety of A Level courses.

Those who progress further with geography end up in a wide range of careers including disaster response, charity sector, town planning, tourism, business and banking, law, international aid, teaching, renewable energy engineering, architecture and more!

History

GCSE



Course overview:

History is the study of past events. Continuing your study to GCSE will equip you with skills to interpret the world, understand cause and effect and to develop persuasive and informed written argument.

You will study a range of European and British history, all with relevance and impact to the lives we live today.

Throughout the course you'll develop an understanding of the key features and characteristics of the periods studied and gain a deeper understanding of the issues we face today.

Study includes a residential trip in year 10 or 11.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

- Germany 1840–1945: Democracy and dictatorship - the collapse of democracy in Germany and development of the Nazi state.
- Conflict and tension 1894–1918: The First World War – one of the most catastrophic conflicts in human history.
- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day – the story of health and disease over the last thousand years.
- Restoration England: 1660–1685 – the restoration of the monarchy after the English Civil War.



Assessment

GCSE History is 100% assessed by examination.

- Two written papers (Two hours each)



Where can this subject take me?

GCSE History is the best foundation for students who wish to study A Level History. It also develops a range of key skills that will serve you well in future study, work and life in general.

Students who complete this course will develop their skills of research, evaluation, interpretation, and analysis.

History is well regarded by colleges, universities and employers. The topics studied and analytical skills gained make it a great choice for anyone interested in law, politics or social sciences.

Music

GCSE



Course overview:

This is a great course if you enjoy listening to and learning about a broad range of musical styles. GCSE Music will develop your skills in performing, composing and appraising pieces of music.

You will need to work independently and perform within an ensemble (a group of musicians). You must be able to play an instrument or sing and have lessons during the course and perform a piece to grade 3 standard.

If you are a beginner musician this will take practice, but if you are committed and have lessons (in or outside of school) it is achievable!

Exam Board: Eduqas



What will I learn?

You will perform on your own and in a group. This could be in any style, on any instrument or voice, including singing, band and orchestral instruments.

You will compose your own music. You'll explore how great pieces of music were put together and use some of the techniques to compose your own music. This could involve using computer software, writing for a specific purpose or writing songs etc.

You will listen to a variety of music and learn how to identify the musical elements that you hear.



Where can this subject take me?

The possibilities are endless. Music is an academic subject and will develop skills which employers, colleges and universities are looking for.

You will develop creativity, reflection and resilience, and grow your confidence and presentation skills. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and learn a skill for life.

Music GCSE can open doors to a range of education and employment pathways in the music industry, community music, creative sectors and professions including medicine, law and accountancy.



Assessment

GCSE Music is assessed through a combination of performance, composition and examination.

- 30% Performance
- 30% Composition
- 40% Written paper (One hour and 15 minutes)

Physical Education

GCSE



Course overview:

GCSE PE will help you to feel inspired, motivated and challenged and help you to explore potential career pathways.

If you are passionate and enjoy participating in challenging and competitive physical activities, and you have a keen interest in both the theory and methods of improving your personal performance this course is for you.

To study GCSE PE, you must play a sport outside of school and represent the school. We also recommend that students volunteer to support KS3 sports clubs.

Exam Board: Eduqas



What will I learn?

You'll have the opportunity to build theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport, and use this knowledge to improve your performance and understand the benefits to health, fitness and wellbeing.

You'll learn how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport and understand the socio-cultural influences which affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

Learning will include the human body and movement in physical activity and sport and socio-cultural influence and wellbeing in physical activity and sport.



Where can this subject take me?

This course will best prepare and enable you to continue a pathway into other higher-level sports courses; including A Level PE and Level 3 BTEC Sport.

GCSE PE is a good foundation and preparation for further study at university, an apprenticeship or internship in preparation for a range of careers in the sports industry from hands-on fitness, to administration and management and PE teaching or sport coaching.



Assessment

GCSE PE is assessed by a combination of practical work and examination.

- 40% Practical assessment
- 60% Two written papers (One hour and 15 minutes each)

Religious Studies

GCSE



Course overview:

GCSE Religious Studies plays a key role in developing an understanding of the increasingly diverse and globalised world around us. The course will equip pupils with a sound knowledge and understanding of people's values, beliefs and cultures as well as the most pressing and important ethical issues of our time. From the morality of cloning to the ethics of marriage and divorce, the course covers numerous issues concerning both religious and secular society.

Exam Board: AQA (A)



What will I learn?

The KS4 curriculum covers the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam. There are four Themes taught as well, selected to allow students to explore socially relevant ethical and philosophical questions. The units are interleaved, to enable students to link key concepts together and strengthen their understanding by revisiting concepts across the years.

- Christian beliefs and teachings
- Christian practices
- Muslim beliefs and teachings
- Muslim practices
- Relationships and family
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion and life
- Religion, human rights and social justice



Assessment

Specification A: Christianity and Islam

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

- Beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity
- Beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes
50% of GCSE

Component 2: Thematic studies

- Relationships and family
- Religion and life
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, human rights and social justice

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes
50% of GCSE



Where can this subject take me?

With Religious Studies GCSE you will develop valuable skills such as; critical thinking, debating, ethical decision making and analytical skills which will help you to study a wide range of A levels. The combination of logical critical thinking and a comprehensive understanding of the world means that you will be equipped and prepared to enter a society that is increasingly globalised and multicultural. Popular career routes include careers in law, government, theology and medicine.



HOME GUESTS
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Sociology

GCSE



Course overview:

Sociology is the study of society and human behaviour.

You will learn to understand the world around you and see society and social issues from different viewpoints. You will get the chance to discuss how people are influenced by their families, friends and wider culture. You'll question how schools are run and the different influences on student achievement. You'll consider why individuals commit crime and how society controls behaviour.

Students will explore social inequalities such as class, gender and ethnicity and the variety of methods used by sociologists to collect evidence and data. You'll also learn about how our society is changing.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

Sociology will introduce you to big ideas and encourage you to become critical thinkers. You'll learn how to develop arguments and analyse data and cover topics including:

- Family – Why do women do more housework than men? What different types of family are there?
- Education – Does gender affect subject choice? Why are you having to take so many exams?
- Stratification – What does it mean to have power? Is society fair?
- Crime – Why do people commit crimes? How should we punish people?
- Research methods – How should we measure change in society?



Assessment

GCSE Sociology is 100% exam based.

- Two written papers (One hour 45 minutes each)



Where can this subject take me?

Following a GCSE in Sociology, you can progress to study the subject at A Level and could go on to study for a degree in sociology, social policy or criminology.

GCSE Sociology is useful for a range of careers including journalism, health care, law, teaching, social work, politics, criminal justice, social research and marketing.

You will develop an understanding of the world and society and key skills in research, analysis and critical thinking.

Spanish

GCSE



Course overview:

In Spanish GCSE, you will learn how to express more ideas in greater detail.

You will continue to develop and become more confident in listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. You will enjoy discovering more about many aspects of life in Spain and learn to appreciate the differences between English and Spanish languages and cultures.

By the end of the course, you will be able to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. Learning a language at GCSE is great as it helps your memory, creativity, listening skills and self-confidence.

Exam Board: AQA



What will I learn?

You will develop your Spanish listening, reading, writing and speaking skills and study a range of topics across three themes. These include:

- Identity and culture – me, my family and friends, technology in everyday life, free time activities, customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries.
- Local, national, international areas of interest – home, town, neighbourhood and region, social issues, global issues and travel and tourism.
- Current and future study and employment – my studies, life at school or college, education post 16, jobs, career choices and ambitions.



Assessment

GCSE Spanish is taught at two tiers – foundation (grade 1–5) and higher (grade 3–9). Students will learn the same content but examinations for higher tier students are longer and the format for the writing assessment is different.

GCSE Spanish is assessed by examination.

- Listening paper (35 minutes – foundation tier (FT), 45 minutes – higher tier (HT))
- Speaking assessment (7–9 minutes – FT, 10–12 minutes – HT)
- Reading paper (45 minutes – FT, One hour – HT)
- Writing paper (One hour – FT, One hour 15 minutes – HT)



Where can this subject take me?

Learning a language at GCSE will help you in almost any career and open up opportunities at home and abroad. Spanish A Level is available in the school sixth form.

If you continue to study it further, you may be able to become an interpreter, a translator or a teacher. Or you could use your language skills alongside other subjects and this may allow you to pursue your chosen career in a different country.



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