Crispin School

Aspiration - Compassion - Excellence

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS BOOKLET - 2026

Wessex Learning Trust
We Learn Together!

Crispin School

Aspiration - Compassion - Excellence

26 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Key Stage 4 Options

This booklet is designed to support you and your child as they begin the GCSE options process.

As students move into Upper School, they will continue to study a core set of compulsory subjects alongside a number of GCSE option choices. These decisions are important, and we recognise that they require careful thought, discussion, and guidance. Our aim is to ensure that students are supported to make informed choices that reflect their strengths, interests, and future aspirations.

Students are more likely to be successful when they are studying subjects they enjoy and are motivated to pursue. Alongside the core curriculum, students will choose four additional GCSE subjects. This allows the curriculum to be tailored to individual needs while maintaining a strong academic foundation.

This booklet sets out:

- The subjects available to students
- How the options process works
- How choices are allocated
- The support and guidance available throughout the process

To support families further, we invite you to attend the **Year 9 Options Evening**, where you will receive a clear overview of the process and have the opportunity to speak directly with subject staff. Teachers will be available throughout the evening to discuss course content, expectations, and progression routes.
We strongly encourage parents and carers to read this booklet carefully with their child and to use it as a basis for discussion at home. Staff are available to provide advice and guidance, and students are encouraged to ask questions before finalising their choices.

We look forward to working closely with you and your child as they take this important next step in their education.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs E Maude
Assistant Headteacher

Crispin School
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FOREWORD

At Crispin School, we have **high aspirations and high expectations for every student**. Our curriculum is deliberately designed to be ambitious, rigorous and inclusive, ensuring that all students are challenged to achieve their very best and are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Our GCSE offer is broad and academically strong, providing students with opportunities to succeed across the **languages, humanities, sciences and creative subjects**. These qualifications establish a secure foundation of knowledge and skills and enable students to progress confidently to **Level 3 courses**, including A Levels and vocational pathways, at colleges and sixth forms across the region. Our current Year 11 students are progressing to a wide range of providers, including Sexey's, King's, Richard Huish and Strode College, reflecting both the strength of their outcomes and the ambition of their next steps.

Alongside GCSEs, we also offer a carefully selected range of **vocational and technical qualifications**. These courses are demanding in their own right and require commitment, independence and sustained effort. Success in these pathways enables students to progress confidently and to be **well prepared for competitive post-16 applications**, including both A Levels and Level 3 vocational courses.

Choosing GCSE options is an important moment in a student's educational journey. At Crispin, we expect students to approach this process thoughtfully and with ambition. With the right choices, a strong work ethic and high expectations, our students are well equipped to achieve success and to move forward with confidence into their future.

TIMELINE AND CHECKLIST

Keep track of events/deadlines here to help you complete the options process.

Monday 02 February 2026	Options Evening
Thursday 26 February 2026	Year 9 Parents' Evening (virtual)
Monday 02 March 2026	Deadline for options Form (online)
Summer Term	Option choices confirmed

Year 9 will also have an assembly to explain the option process to them and will have opportunities to ask questions with their tutors during the process.

INTRODUCTION

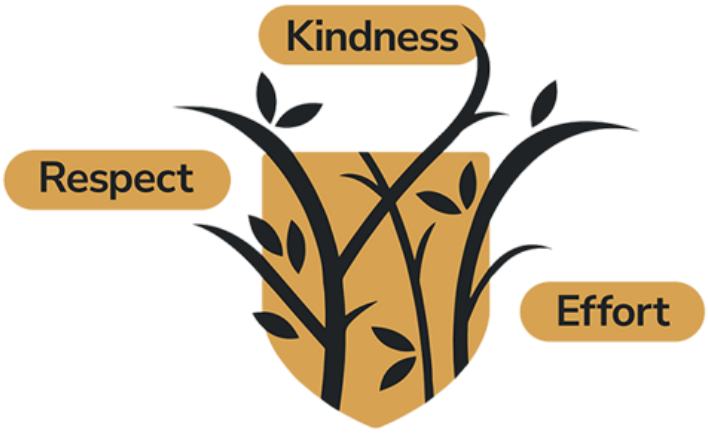
At Crispin the curriculum is divided into 3 parts: the core examined subjects, the core non-examined subjects and the option subjects.

Core Examined Subjects
- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined Award or Separate Sciences)

These subjects provide students with the opportunity to achieve **at least five GCSE qualifications.**

Core Non-examined Subjects
All students will continue to study a core set of compulsory subjects in Upper School:
- Curriculum for Life
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

In addition to the core subjects, students will choose **four further GCSE option subjects**.



All students must choose 1 subject from Group A and a further 3 from Group B.

Group A	Group B
History (GCSE)	History (GCSE)
Geography (GCSE)	Geography (GCSE)
French (GCSE)	French (GCSE)
Spanish (GCSE)	Spanish (GCSE)
Computer Science (GCSE)	Computer Science (GCSE)
	Fine Art (GCSE)
	Graphic Communication (GCSE)
	Photography (GCSE)
	Digital Information Technology (OCR Cambridge National)
	Engineering (Technical Award)
	Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)
	Design Technology: Product Design (GCSE)
	Drama (GCSE)
	Health and Social Care (BTEC)
	Music (GCSE)
	Music Technology (NCFE)
	Religious Studies (GCSE)
	Sociology (GCSE)
	Triple Science (GCSE)
	Business Studies (GCSE)
	Sports Studies (OCR Cambridge National)

All young people are required to remain in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18. Selecting appropriate GCSE subjects and achieving strong outcomes is therefore important in supporting future study, training, or employment.

The Government encourages students to study a core of academic subjects known as the **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)**. Nationally, there is an ambition for a high proportion of students to follow this pathway.

EBacc subjects include:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined Award or Separate Sciences)
- History or Geography
- A Modern Foreign Language

Studying EBacc subjects can support a wide range of future pathways. However, EBacc entry is not compulsory, and students should choose subjects that best suit their strengths, interests, and aspirations.

QUALIFICATIONS AVAILABLE

GCSE COURSES

GCSEs are academic qualifications that are assessed primarily through examinations taken at the end of the course. In some subjects, including **Art and Design & Technology**, coursework or practical assessment also contributes to the final grade.
GCSEs are graded on a scale from **9 to 1**:

- **Grades 9–4** are recognised as a **Level 2 qualification**
- **Grades 3–1** are recognised as a **Level 1 qualification**

GCSEs provide a strong foundation for progression to **Level 3 courses**, including A Levels and other academic pathways, particularly where higher grades are achieved.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COURSES

Vocational qualifications, such as **BTECs, NCFE and OCR Cambridge Nationals**, combine practical learning with academic study. These courses typically include:

- Ongoing assessment through project or coursework tasks
- An examined component

Vocational courses are designed to develop applied knowledge and practical skills through work-related contexts. They are awarded at **Level 1/Level 2** (equivalent to GCSE grades 9–1) and are graded as **Pass, Merit or Distinction**.

These qualifications can support progression to a wide range of **post-16 pathways**, including vocational and technical courses, and, in some cases, further academic study.

HOW TO MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE

When selecting GCSE options, students should consider:

- **Course demands** – assessment methods, coursework, and practical elements
- **Workload and organisation** – ability to manage deadlines and independent study
- **Progression** – how the subject develops from Key Stage 3 to GCSE
- **New subjects** – content and expectations of unfamiliar courses
- **Future pathways** – suitability for post-16 courses, training, or apprenticeships

In most cases, students are most successful in subjects they **enjoy**, are **motivated to study**, and can **sustain effort in over two years**.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE OPTIONS FORM

All students will automatically be entered for the **core examined subjects** listed above.

When completing the Options Form, students must:

- Choose **one subject from Group A**
- Choose **three subjects from Group B**
- Select **two reserve choices**
- Ensure each subject is selected **only once**
- Reserve choices are required to support subject allocation where courses are oversubscribed.
- **Only choose one from Fine Art and Graphic Communication.**

HOW OPTIONS ARE ALLOCATED

Subject Viability (Undersubscription)
Some subjects require a minimum number of students to run. If a subject does not attract sufficient interest, it may not be offered.

Students will **not be disadvantaged** if a chosen subject does not run. In such cases, reserve choices will be considered fairly, and students will not be placed at the bottom of an allocation list due to subject withdrawal.

Students may be disadvantaged if they **do not complete all required choices**, including reserve options.

Oversubscription
We make every effort to allocate students to their preferred subjects. However, this is not always possible due to constraints such as:

- Specialist teaching rooms
- Health and safety requirements
- Class size limits

Where subjects are oversubscribed, allocations will be made in a fair and consistent manner.

If First Choices Cannot Be Met
If it is not possible to allocate a student their first four choices:

- The student will be contacted
- The situation will be discussed
- Additional time will be provided to review and amend choices if needed

LATE SUBMISSION OF FORMS

Options Forms submitted after the published deadline may limit our ability to allocate first-choice subjects, particularly where courses are oversubscribed.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

A range of support is available throughout the options process.
Students may:

- Speak to **Heads of Department** during lunchtime
- Request a **careers appointment with Mrs Creed**, Careers Advisor
- Request a meeting with **Mrs Maude, Mrs Creed, or Mr Horner**

Parents and carers with queries are welcome to contact the school on **01458 442714** or via email at **office@crispinschool.co.uk**

THE CORE CURRICULUM

The subjects on the following pages are studied by all students.

ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course Title	GCSE English Language & English Literature
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8700 and 8702
What you will study	You will study two GCSE courses of English Language and Literature which will both be taught at the same time by your English teacher. For both qualifications, you will study how writers create meaning and communicate with their readers in a range of novels, plays, poems and non-fiction. A lot of these texts you will study with your English teacher. These texts have been chosen because there are a number of **literary concepts, thematic links** and **historical contexts** which overlap with one another. This will make it easier for you to learn and to revise. You will also learn how to read and understand unseen fiction and non-fiction as well as produce effective creative texts and write persuasively for different audiences and purposes.
How you will learn	In your English lessons, your teacher will help you to develop your ability to read a wide range of texts critically and question what the writer's motives are. You will study how writers use language and structure techniques to create meaning. It is also important that you understand the historical and social contexts of the texts so you are able to appreciate the writer's intentions at the time they were writing. For every unit, you will have your own copy of the set text and an accompanying study guide. It will be your responsibility to bring these to every lesson when you will be expected to highlight and annotate your notes. The great thing about a subject like English is it is very difficult to get the answer wrong! As long as you are prepared to share your opinion and support it with evidence from the text, you will always get credit for offering an interpretation. So, expect to frequently hear: 'That's a brilliant idea! Everyone write that down now!' As well as reading, discussing and annotating, there will be lots of opportunities for you to work with your friends and share your personal interpretations or work on projects together. Sometimes the best way to revise a concept is to actually teach it, so there will also be occasions when you will be asked to deliver presentations. In fact, for English Language, there is a Spoken Language unit, whereby you will plan and deliver a presentation to your peers and you will be assessed on how well you respond to questions. These oracy skills will be expected of you when you leave school and your English teacher will help you develop these every lesson. As well as learning in lessons, your English teacher will set you extended learning tasks to complete for homework every week. These activities will either require you to research or read a topic in preparation for an upcoming lesson; consolidate what you have learned in lesson or help you to actively revise for an upcoming assessment.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	Throughout Year 10 and Year 11, you will hit key points where your teacher will assess your reading, writing and oracy. This will usually take place at the end or beginning of a half-term once you have completed a particular unit of study. You will always be told ahead of time when you are being assessed and the success criteria and/or mark scheme will be shared with you as well. When teachers feedback their marking to the class, this will be done during Directed Improvement and Reflection Times, referred to as D.I.R.T lessons by English teachers.

MATHEMATICS

Course Title	GCSE Mathematics
Exam Board	Edexcel
Specification	1MA1
Why study Mathematics?	A grasp of Mathematics is an important life skill and has many applications in the arts and sciences. Employers are looking for people who can think logically, analyse a situation rigorously and then make a sensible decision on the basis of their conclusions. These transferable skills equip students in life whatever their chosen path and are an integral part of mathematics study. Mathematics is the language of Business, Engineering, Science and Technology.
What you will study	You will study algebra, ratio/proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics. You will be required to use and apply standard techniques, reason, interpret and communicate mathematically and solve problems within mathematics in other contexts. All of the marks awarded for the GCSE are obtained from 3 linear examinations taken at the end of Year 11 (1 non-calculator and 2 calculator).
How you will learn	The programme is divided up into units of work and will vary in length of time to complete depending on the size of content within each area. When your teacher introduces a new topic you will have time to ask questions and consolidate new ideas in class and through homework. GCSE questions will be attempted throughout the 2 year course at the appropriate level and corresponding grades awarded. The new specification places greater emphasis on applying skills, mathematical fluency, mathematical reasoning and problem solving, which will be incorporated into the programme of study.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	There are 3 exams: each of 90 minutes. Paper 1 is non-calculator, Paper 2 and 3 are calculator. All topics will be assessed across the three papers. All papers are equally weighted when giving the final grade.
Which tier of entry will you initially study?	There are two tiers of entry; Higher (Grades 9-4) and Foundation (Grades 5-1). Year 10 students will begin to study number work at the start of the autumn term. They will then undertake ratio, graphs, tables, charts, fractions, equations, sequences and more over the course of the year It is important to note that the level of entry for all students from Year 9 into Year 10 will initially depend on their ability and progress to date based on the average of all end of unit test results at Key Stage 3.
What revision materials are recommended?	CGP Revision guides available online Sparx website Edexcel past papers from website
Career opportunities	Engineering, Insurance, Banking, Mechanics, Design, Teaching, Actuary, Finance & Accountancy, Biometrician, Statistician, Environmental, Forensic, Government, Health Service, Market Research, Pharmaceutical.

SCIENCE (DOUBLE AWARD)

Course Title	GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)
Why study Science?	Science helps students understand the world around them and how scientific ideas influence everyday life, including health, technology, energy use and the environment. Studying science develops curiosity, logical thinking, problem-solving skills, data analysis and practical investigation skills. Students learn to evaluate evidence, think critically and make informed decisions. Combined Science provides a strong foundation for further study, supports progression into a wide range of careers and equips students with transferable skills valued by employers and colleges.
What you will study	Students study all three sciences throughout the course. **Biology:** cell structure and transport, enzymes and biological molecules, organisation and human body systems, disease, immunity and health, photosynthesis and respiration, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology, ecosystems and biodiversity. **Chemistry:** atomic structure and the periodic table, chemical bonding and structure, chemical reactions and energy changes, rates of reaction and reversible reactions, acids, alkalis and salts, quantitative chemistry and calculations, the Earth's resources and sustainability. **Physics:** energy stores, transfers and efficiency, electricity, circuits and electrical safety, the particle model of matter and density, atomic structure and radioactivity, forces, motion and work done, waves, sound and the electromagnetic spectrum, magnetism and electromagnetism. Scientific knowledge is linked to real-life applications such as medicine, engineering, environmental issues and technological development.
How you will learn	Students learn through teacher-led lessons and demonstrations, practical experiments and investigations, group work and class discussions, use of scientific equipment and technology, analysis of data, graphs and calculations, regular exam-style practice and revision, and independent learning to build confidence and resilience. Practical skills are developed throughout the course and assessed through written exams.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	Assessment is through six written examinations taken at the end of Year 11, with two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics papers. Each exam lasts one hour and fifteen minutes. There is no coursework. Required practicals are assessed through exam questions. Grades are awarded from 9 to 1 and the qualification is worth two GCSEs.
Career opportunities	Combined Science supports progression into further education, apprenticeships, healthcare, engineering and technology, environmental and laboratory work, sports science and fitness, teaching, technical careers and any pathway requiring analytical and problem-solving skills.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

BUSINESS STUDIES

Course Title	GCSE Business Studies
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8132
Why study Business Studies?	GCSE Business Studies gives you an overview of the world of business. The course explores all the main areas of business, such as ownership, marketing, finance, human resources, production and the impact of global events and pressures on businesses. During the course you will have the opportunity to explore how businesses could be set-up, from business planning through to how to employ others. Throughout the course we aim for you to meet local and national business leaders.
What you will study	During the two year course you have the opportunity to study for a single award qualification and will be able to achieve a GCSE grade 9 - 1. **The course contains the following units of study:** • Business in the real world: Learning about the various reasons and purposes of setting-up a business, business ownership structures, and how to plan for business success. • Influences on business: Learning about the different technological, ethical and legal influences that can change a business' chances of success • Business operations: Understanding how different aspects of a business work together, such as production, procurement and customer service. • Human resources: Learning about how a company ensures it chooses the right staff, then how they retain their employees through effective motivation, including pay and training. • Marketing: Understanding how customers can find out about your products, considering market research and the marketing mix. • Finance: Learning about sources of finance for a business, cash flow, and how to analyse the financial performance of a business.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	GCSE Business Studies is assessed through two papers (100%) at the end of the course. Exams are both 105 minutes long and worth 90 marks. Business paper 1 Influences of operations and HRM on business activity Business paper 2 Influences of marketing and finance on business activity • Multiple choice questions • Short answers questions • Short answer and extended response answers based on case studies provided in the exam
Career opportunities	Business Studies is very versatile, it opens doors in lots of different directions: • Business Manager / Operations Manager – overseeing day-to-day business activities • Management Consultant – helping companies improve performance and strategy • Project Manager – planning and delivering projects on time and on budget • Human Resources (HR) Manager – recruitment, training, and employee relations

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course Title	GCSE Computer Science
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8525
Why study Computer Science?	Computer Science helps students understand how computers work and how digital systems are designed to solve problems. The subject develops logical thinking, problem-solving, precision, and resilience. These skills are valuable across many subjects and are highly regarded by employers and further education providers.
What you will study	• Fundamentals of Algorithms • Programming • Fundamentals of Data Representation • Computer Systems • Fundamentals of Computer Networks • Cyber Security • Relational Databases and SQL • Ethical, Legal and Environmental Impacts
How you will learn	Lessons combine theory and practical work across all areas of the course. Structured booklets support understanding of key content and help students practise AQA command words such as describe, explain, apply, analyse, and evaluate. Learning regularly links knowledge to exam-style questions, with programming used to apply and reinforce understanding. Retrieval practice and feedback support long-term learning and exam readiness.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	Paper 1: Computational Thinking and Programming Skills – 50% Paper 2: Computing Concepts – 50% Both are written examinations taken at the end of Year 11.
Career opportunities	GCSE Computer Science supports progression to A-levels and technical courses and careers such as: Software Developer, Cyber Security Specialist, Data Analyst, Game or App Designer, Network Engineer. The skills developed are also valuable in Engineering, Science, Finance, Medicine, and many technology-related careers.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN)

Course Title	GCSE Design & Technology (Product Design)
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8552
Why study Product Design?	If you enjoy creative problem-solving, designing real products and understanding how things are made, this course will suit you. Product Design combines practical making with thoughtful planning, research and communication. You'll learn how designers take ideas from concept to prototype, while also building strong technical knowledge. This course helps you develop valuable skills in creativity, organisation and independent thinking - all of which are widely used in higher education, apprenticeships and the world of work.
What you will study	GCSE Design & Technology focuses on the iterative design process, combining technical theory with applied design and making. **You will build knowledge in key areas including:** • Core technical principles - technical knowledge of materials, energy and new technologies. • Specialist technical principles - in-depth understanding of materials, forces, ecological and social impacts, finishes and processes. • Designing and making principles - applying design thinking to research, idea generation, development, modelling, prototyping and evaluation. This course blends theoretical understanding of technical concepts with practical design and making skills, reflecting real-world product design practice.
How you will learn	Learning is varied and active. You will study theory in the classroom - such as material properties, design influences and systems thinking - as well as working on individual design projects where you research, create, test and refine your ideas. You will produce design portfolios and work independently on substantial design tasks with a focus on planning, justifying decisions and evaluating outcomes.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	**Assessment combines a written exam and a practical project:** • Written examination (50%) - a 2-hour paper covering core technical principles, specialist technical principles and designing and making principles. • Non-exam assessment (NEA) (50%) - a substantial design and make project (approx. 30–35 hours) where you will investigate a design problem, develop ideas, produce a prototype and evaluate your outcomes. Both assessments require strong planning, research, documentation and evaluation skills, as well as practical application.
Career opportunities	Design & Technology prepares you for a wide range of further study and careers. It provides a solid foundation for Level 3 courses (such as A-Levels in DT or T Levels in Engineering) and careers in Product Design, Industrial Design, Engineering, Architecture, Manufacturing, UX/UI Design, and more. The skills you develop, creative thinking, independent research, technical literacy and problem-solving, are highly valued across many industries.

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Digital Information Technology
Exam Board	OCR Cambridge National
Specification	J836
Why study Digital IT?	Digital Information Technology equips students with practical digital skills that are essential for modern life and the UK workplace. Students learn how IT systems are designed and used by organisations, how data supports decision-making, and how digital technologies such as cyber security and augmented reality are applied in real-world contexts. The course develops confidence, organisation, creativity, problem-solving, and digital literacy, and provides clear progression routes into further education, apprenticeships, and employment.
What you will study	**IT in the Digital World (Exam unit – 40%)** This unit develops core knowledge of how IT is used across organisations and everyday life. **Students will study:** • Design Tools– using flowcharts, mind maps, wireframes and visualisation diagrams to plan and review IT solutions • Human Computer Interfaces (HCI) – user-centred design, accessibility, interaction methods, and hardware and software considerations • Data and Testing – data vs information, data types, data collection, storage, validation, verification, and testing methods • Cyber Security and Legislation – threats, malware, social engineering, prevention measures, and UK legislation including the Data Protection Act and Computer Misuse Act • Digital Communications – communication methods, software, devices, distribution channels, connectivity, and audience demographics • Internet of Everything (IoE) – connected devices, real-world applications, benefits, risks, and security considerations • Assessment is a written exam using short-answer and scenario-based questions that require analysis and evaluation. **Data Manipulation Using Spreadsheets (Coursework – 30%)** This unit focuses on practical data skills used widely in business and industry.
How you will learn	Learning combines theory and practical application across all units. Structured booklets support understanding of key content and help students apply knowledge to exam-style and coursework tasks. Lessons focus on applying knowledge, and analysing requirements, supported by teacher modelling, guided practice, feedback, and regular reviews.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	• IT in the Digital World– Written exam (40%) • Data Manipulation Using Spreadsheets – Coursework (30%) • Using Augmented Reality to Present Information – Coursework (30%) Assessment takes place across the course.
Career opportunities	This qualification supports progression to Level 3 courses, apprenticeships, and employment in the UK, including: IT Support Technician, Cyber Security Technician / Analyst, Data or Business Administrator, Digital Content Creator, Web or Media Assistant. The skills developed are valued across business, public services, healthcare, engineering, and creative industries.

DRAMA

Course Title	GCSE - Drama
Exam Board	OCR
Specification	J316
Why study Drama?	Drama is a practical and academic subject that is exciting and inspiring, where you can explore your creativity and imagination as you learn about theatre and the roles of performers, directors and designers. **Drama gives you the chance to:** • Create your own pieces of original theatre and work with texts in the roles of actor, director and designer • Develop your individual skill and confidence as a presenter and performer • Watch and explore different styles of theatre, learn about theatre history and its impact on society. • Express yourself and develop your sense of identity.
What you will study	You will learn about different performance styles working on scripted and devised projects. You will explore the ways in which performers and designers communicate meaning to an audience. You have the opportunity to create, interpret and communicate your own pieces of theatre, and learn about technical theatre and design. As part of the course you will also attend theatre performances in order to analyse a theatre production for your written paper.
How you will learn	**Practically:** Most of your learning will be done practically, even when you study set text, this will be done through lots of practical exploration. **Collaboratively:** Most units require you to work in a group, this give you the opportunity to develop communication and teamwork skills. **Academically:** Don't forget drama is an academic subject, theory work runs through all that you will do, 70% of your final grade will be assessed through written work.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	**NEA 1: Devising Drama (30%)** You will devise a performance from a range of starting points and produce a logbook of your development. For this component you can choose to work as a performer or designer. This is performed for and marked by your teacher. **NEA 2: Text Performance (30%)** You will study a text and take part in the performance of two extracts, one of which must be presented as a group. You will also submit answers to a series of questions on how you created your scripted performance. You can work as a performer or designer for this component. This is performed for and marked by a visiting examiner. **Written Exam Assessment (40%)** The exam component is 1 hour and 30 minutes in length and has two sections.
Career opportunities	The study of GCSE Drama paves the way to a wide range of academic and career possibilities, including those involving public speaking and presenting, leadership and management, group co-operation and interaction, performing and communicating, teaching and learning, problem solving and investigation, and analysis and evaluation.

ENGINEERING

Course Title	Engineering
Exam Board	WJEC
Specification	5799QA
Why study Engineering?	If you enjoy a more hands-on approach to learning, using advanced technology and developing new skills to design, plan and make products to a high level of accuracy, then this is a course you should consider. Engineers learn to plan carefully, solve problems logically and work safely and efficiently. This course helps you develop strong organisational, analytical and communication skills alongside practical ability. Engineering offers a direct progression route into a range of apprenticeships or college courses, such as Level 3 Engineering or an Engineering T Level. Even if you do not take the subject further, you will develop practical skills using a wide range of materials and components, which will be useful throughout your life.
What you will study	You will study how engineers plan, design and manufacture products in real engineering contexts. **Areas of study include:** • Engineering materials, tools and manufacturing processes • Planning for manufacture, including detailed production plans and Gantt charts • Health and safety, including written risk assessments and safe systems of work • Design techniques – generating, developing and communicating ideas using sketches, annotations and technical information • Problem-solving – analysing problems, selecting appropriate processes and justifying engineering decisions This mix of practical and theoretical work builds your technical skills and understanding of key engineering principles.
How you will learn	Learning is active and applied. You can expect workshop practice, technical drawing (including CAD), project work, real-life tasks and classroom-based theory that supports practical engineering skills.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	**You will be assessed through three units:** • Unit 1: Manufacturing Engineering Products (40% of the qualification) • You will be given a set product to manufacture and will demonstrate skills in planning and making a product to specification. • Unit 2: Designing Engineering Products (20% of the qualification) • You will adapt or develop an aspect of the product manufactured in Unit 1 using research, product analysis and design techniques. • Unit 3: Solving Engineering Problems (40% of the qualification) A written exam exploring how engineering has impacted modern-day life at home and in society more widely.
Career opportunities	Engineering is one of the UK's largest and fastest-growing sectors, with strong demand for skilled workers. This course provides a foundation for many pathways, including further study (e.g. Level 3 Engineering), apprenticeships and careers in areas such as Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing, Aerospace, Environmental and Electrical Engineering.

FINE ART

Course Title	GCSE Fine Art
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8201
Why study health and Fine Art?	This is an exciting opportunity to concentrate and focus on developing your skills in two and three dimensional art work, with a major focus on painting, drawing, printmaking Photography and mixed media techniques. You will learn a lot of new things through practical demonstration and personal investigation. Skills and knowledge in these areas will enable you to think creatively and enhance your life in general. Creativity is key to success; combine this with technical skills and knowledge.
What you will study	You will develop skills through one major sustained project and a large range of Portfolio tasks (60% of marks). You will put these into practice for your externally set task (40% of marks) which starts in January during Year 11. You will study 2 main topic areas between September in Year 10 to December in Year 11. The first project in Year 10 is 'Identity', how artists explore and portray cultural, personal and political Identity. This is a foundation course where you will try out all techniques and materials available within the Art department. The second project is based on a previous exam title, and this encourages you to become more independent and start to specialise in areas of art that interest you and in which you have the highest developed skills. The last project is the externally set task (exam) and will start in January of Year 11. You will answer one question and develop work over a period of 3 - 4 months (40% of marks). The final piece will be completed in exam conditions at the end of April over a 10 hour period (2 days).
How you will learn	You will be surprised how much work you complete and the progress you make as the course progresses. You will be encouraged to try new techniques and learn how to extend ideas and experiment in creative ways. The skills that you have developed using your sketch pads in the lower school will be essential for your GCSE sketch pad work. Coursework is very important, it will make up 60% of your marks. Important deadlines must be met. It is for this reason that students who are interested and show a commitment to improve both through extended learning and classwork are those that do well.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	In December of Year 11 you will put together a portfolio of your project work, this makes up 60% of your final grade, this is marked and standardised in the department and then moderated by an external moderator. The externally set task (exam) will be very similar to your coursework and marked and standardised bin a similar way. However no feedback can be given to the students during this period. There is no written exam.
Career opportunities	Scenic Artist, Photographer, Fashion Designer, Interior Designer, Architect, Product Designer, Advertising Executive, Website Designer, Illustrator, Artist, Sign Writer, And many more.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Course Title	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8585
Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?	This exciting and comprehensive GCSE course is designed to teach you all about food in its widest sense and help you to learn and develop a wide range of food preparation skills. It has been developed to help you understand the following: • What food is composed of, why we need it and how it affects our long term health • How food can be prepared and cooked skillfully and safely to produce delicious and nutritious meals for different people and situations • What happens to food ingredients when you prepare and cook them • Where food comes from and how it is produced and sold • Which foods different cultures eat throughout the world • How the food choices people make affect the health and well–being of themselves, their families and the people who produce the food • How the food choices people make affect the health and well-being of the global environment and its natural resources • How you can become an informed and thoughtful consumer of food.
What you will study	Food Preparation skills - these are intended to be integrated into five sections: • Food, Nutrition and Health • Food Science • Food Safety • Food Choice • Food Provenance
How you will learn	Your lessons will cover the areas stated above in a variety of different ways which will include: • Individual and group practical tasks and experiments • Visits • Classroom based theoretical activities designed to give all learners a comprehensive understanding of the course specification and content. Year 11 will focus on NEA1 and 2 (see below) and the consolidation of knowledge gained during Year 10 and Key Stage 3.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	Examination: 50% Non-Exam Assessment (NEA): 50%
Career opportunities	Food Technologist, Chef, Food Design, Nutritionist, Quality Management, New Product Development, Environmental, Health, Dietician, Sports Nutrition, Catering, Hotel /Restaurant Management and many others.

FRENCH

Course Title	GCSE French
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8652
Why study French?	Languages open doors to lots of different careers and are valuable to employers as they demonstrate good communication skills, creativity, literacy skills, problem solving and confidence. • Speaking another language can help you to stand out from the crowd in a multitude of career paths • Employers often rank language skills as a high priority when recruiting • Speaking another language uncovers new ways of seeing the world and seeing the world through someone else's eyes • Speaking another language helps break down cultural barriers and encourages better understanding of different people's perspectives • Speaking another language helps you to be more confident when travelling and exploring the world, allowing you to be fully immersed in local life. A recent study shows that nearly one in two adults who cannot have a conversation in a modern language regret not engaging more with languages at school • Learning another language helps you to develop really useful transferable skills, like being a good communicator, having an ability to listen and also confidence in delivering presentations in the workplace. These are the things that give your overall confidence levels a boost and add value to your CV • Knowing the language means you can travel beyond the tourist trails and have an authentic experience of another culture • Speaking another language shows you're not afraid of making mistakes – you are constantly learning to improve and enhance your skills and knowledge
What you will study	Assessment is set in the context of these three themes. **Theme 1: People and lifestyle** • Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others • Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle • Topic 3: Education and work **Theme 2: Popular culture** • Topic 1: Free-time activities • Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations • Topic 3: Celebrity culture **Theme 3: Communication and the world around us** • Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest • Topic 2: Media and technology • Topic 3: The environment and where people live
How you will learn	Language GCSE courses build on the skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing, that pupils have developed at Key Stage 3. There will also be a focus on French and Francophone cultures, food, places, and traditions.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	This qualification is linear, which means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. GCSE French has a Foundation tier (FT) grades 1–5 and a Higher tier (HT) grades 4–9. Students will be assessed across the four skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
Career opportunities	There are many career options linked to languages as speaking a language is an attractive skill to employers, especially in multinational companies. Accountancy, Banking, Engineering, Fashion, Hospitality, Law, Police, the Armed Forces, Medicine, Travel and Tourism, Media and Journalism, Translating, Teaching.

GEOGRAPHY

Course Title	GCSE Geography
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8035
Why study Geography?	Geography helps you to appreciate how, and why, people live their lives differently from the way we do. It allows you to have a wider understanding of the physical and human processes that affect our daily lives and the lives of others worldwide. More importantly, because Geography has so many different aspects, it can be used as a qualification in a variety of careers. Research carried out amongst employers shows that people who have learnt Geographical skills, in particular thinking and decision making, are highly employable
What you will study	**Unit 1: Living with the physical environment** **Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment** **Highlights include:** • Urban issues and challenges - growth of cities around the world. We will look at the growth of Rio in Brazil and the impact of this on people and the environment. Closer to home we will study Bristol in detail. • The changing economic world. We will study the development gap to analyse why some countries are richer than others and look at the consequences and potential solutions to this. We will study a newly emerging economy in depth, looking at why Nigeria has changed and comparing this to the changes that have taken place in the UK's economy. • The challenge of resource management. We will look at how water is provided in the UK and abroad. **Unit 3: Geographical applications** There is a fieldwork element where you need to have undertaken two geographical enquiries outside of the classroom. We will visit Bristol and Lyme Regis and you will be examined on the skills you have used.
How you will learn	Students learn though a knowledge rich themed structure looking at the 3 units above, students are taught to develop their synoptic thinking connecting ideas from each. They will be applying the key geographical concepts of place, space, scale, interdependence and sustainability. They will learn through linking theory to real places. There are also lots of key skills they will need to develop such as using maps, interpreting graphs and data, GIS and fieldwork. Retrieval and low stakes quizzes will play an important role in revisiting and interleaving content.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	There will be an exam paper for each unit, Units 1 and 2 will be one hour and 30 minutes and unit 3 will be 1 hour and 15 minutes. These exams will take place at the end of the course.
Career opportunities	AQA GCSE Geography opens pathways into careers that use spatial thinking, environmental understanding and data skills. Students can progress into Meteorology, Town Planning, Environmental Management, sustainability roles, GIS and Mapping, Engineering, Transport Planning, International Development, Conservation, Disaster Management and research. It also supports broader careers in Business, Logistics, Tourism, Journalism, Teaching and Government work.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Course Title	GCSE Graphic Communication
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8201/8206
Why study Graphic Communication?	Graphics is an exciting and versatile course allowing for students to develop their hand drawn and digital drawing in a wild variety of Graphic areas which include advertising and branding, illustration, typography and communication graphics. Graphics gives you the opportunity to learn about the history of Graphic Communication and its development into the digital age as well as the broader arts, where there is obvious cross over. The subject is taught as an art subject; technical mastering is an important part, although creativity to express yourself using a variety of Graphic / Photography / Art techniques is essential to get a good grade. It is a good subject to combine with Photography or Product Design if you are hoping for a career in this area in the future.
What you will study	You will develop skills through a range of portfolio work and a sustained project submission. (60% of marks) and develop these skills into your externally set task for the last project. You will study an introduction to skills project, compositional skills and learn how to edit on Photoshop and Illustrator. The second project is based on a previous exam title, and this encourages you to become more independent and start to specialise in areas of Graphics that interest you and in which you have the highest developed skills. All students get the opportunity to develop these areas and make choices as they work more independently.
How you will learn	The amount that you learn in the first half term is huge and you will quickly become confident using the wide range of materials and techniques in Graphics. You will be encouraged to try new techniques and learn how to extend ideas and experiment in creative ways. The skills that you have developed using your Art sketch pads and DT work books in KS3 will be essential for your Graphics book work. After the initial skills have been taught you will learn by developing these skills, experimenting and investigating through your personal work. Deadlines must be met. It is for this reason that students who are interested and show a commitment to improve both through extended learning and classwork are those that do well.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	In December of year 11 you will put together a portfolio of your project work, this makes up 60% of your final grade, this is marked and standardised in the department and then moderated by an external moderator. The externally set task (exam) will be very similar to your coursework and marked and standardised bin a similar way. However no feedback can be given to the students during this period. There is no written exam.
Career opportunities	Graphic Designer, Magazine Editor, Illustrator, Advertising Executive, Website Designer, Media and television, Interior Designer, Architect, Product Designer, Image editor.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Course Title	BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care
Exam Board	Pearson
Specification	603/7047/6
Why study health and Social care?	Health and Social Care is ideal if you are interested in people, wellbeing, and how care services support individuals at different stages of life. The course helps you understand real-life health and social care issues while developing important skills such as communication, empathy, problem-solving, and teamwork. These skills are valuable for many careers, not just health and care roles.
What you will study	**You will study three main areas:** • Human Lifespan Development– how people grow and develop from infancy to old age, and how life events can affect development • Health and Social Care Services and Values – the services available, how they work together, and the skills and values needed to give high-quality care • Health and Wellbeing– factors that affect health, lifestyle choices, and how to create plans to improve wellbeing using a person-centred approach
How you will learn	You will learn through a mix of case studies and real-life scenarios, group work and discussions, research tasks and written work, practical, vocational-style activities that link learning to real jobs in the sector.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	Component 1: Internally assessed coursework Component 2: Internally assessed coursework Component 3: One external written exam at the end of the course
Career opportunities	This course is an excellent foundation for further study and careers such as: Nursing and Midwifery, Social Work, Health Care Assistant, Childcare and early years, Psychology, Paramedic Science, Teaching and Youth Work.

HISTORY

Course Title	GCSE (9-1) History
Exam Board	EDEXCEL
Specification	1HI0
Why study History?	History is a vibrant living subject which studies the lives of real people in genuine situations. It teaches truly transferable skills in assessing the reliability of evidence, analysing information, evaluating usefulness and developing fluent argument based written style. The content of the subject is designed to encompass a variety of cultural, social, economic and political issues in a world-wide setting.
What you will study	Unit 1: Medicine in Britain c1250 - present and The British sector of the Western Front 1914 - 18 Unit 2: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941 - 1991 Unit 3: Early Elizabethan England 1558 - 88 Unit 4: The USA, 1954 - 75: conflict at home and abroad
How you will learn	You will learn about each subject area using a variety of teaching and learning styles including problem solving, analysis and evaluation, questioning and knowledge development. Finally, you will develop a sense of change over time and what key aspects have an impact on that change and its consequences.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	You will take 3 exams at the end of the two-year course.
Career opportunities	Studying history opens up a wide range of career opportunities by developing strong research, analysis, and communication skills. Graduates can work as Historians, Teachers, Archivists, Museum curators, or Researchers, preserving and interpreting the past. History is also valued in fields such as Law, Journalism, Public Service, Diplomacy, and Politics, where critical thinking and understanding social change are essential.

MUSIC

Course Title	GCSE - Music
Exam Board	OCR
Specification	J536
Why study Music?	GCSE Music can lead to careers in performing, teaching, composing, or recording. Even if you don't choose a music career, studying music builds confidence, creativity, teamwork, focus, and resilience - skills that are valued in every job and by colleges and universities.
What you will study	You will study songwriting/composing, performance as a soloist and as a band member. **You will also study 4 areas of music:** • Music for Film, • World Music, • The Concerto • Pop Music
How you will learn	Music GCSE is a mix of listening, theory and practical work. In a typical week, 1 lesson will be on listening, 1 will be on techniques and 3 will be on performance and composing.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	60% of the assessment comes from a solo performance (on your instrument or voice), band performance, two compositions/songs you have written. 40% comes from the listening exam based on the 4 areas of study.
Career opportunities	Musician, Singer, Music Therapist, Music Composition (including; film, advertisements and computer games), Musical Instrument Maker, Repairer, Theatre, Film Sound Production, Music Industry Promotion, Producer, Music Technician, Mixer.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	NCFE Level 2 Award in Pop Music Technology
Exam Board	NCFE
Specification	60370087
Why study Music Technology?	Why study Music Technology: New technology is changing how music is created, recorded, and shared. Using Cubase, you'll learn how to record, edit, and produce music in a professional digital studio environment. The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology is a practical, project-based course that's ideal if you enjoy working with technology and want to explore careers or further study in music and music production.
What you will study	You will learn how to record a band in a studio, create music and sound for films and video games, and produce professional-quality tracks using Cubase, including mixing and mastering. You'll also explore the music industry, different job roles, and how a Digital Audio Workstation works. **You do not need to play an instrument to take this course.**
How you will learn	You will be taught everything from scratch. You will learn most things using a computer, Cubase software, mics and leads. It is a practical course with very little written work.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	60% of the course is a non examined assessment which takes place in Year 11. You will be asked to create a project to a brief NCFE sets. 40% of the course is a written exam where you answer multiple choice questions, some short questions and one longer question.
Career opportunities	Music Composer (including; film, advertisements and computer games) / Musical Instrument Maker / Repairer / Theatre / Film Sound Production / Music Industry Promotion / Producer / Music Technician / Mixer/any job in the music industry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Course Title	GCSE Photography
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8206
Why study Photography?	If you choose to study Photography you will be committing yourself to an exciting course. You will learn how to use a digital camera, explore compositional techniques and Photoshop skills within your personal investigations. Photography gives you the opportunity to learn about the history of Photography as well as the broader arts where there is obvious cross over. The subject is taught as an art subject; technical mastering is an important part, although creativity to express yourself using a variety of Photography / art techniques is essential to get a good grade. It is an opportunity to develop your creativity skills without being reliant on drawing.
What you will study	You will develop skills through a range of portfolio work and a sustained project submission. (60% of marks) and develop these skills into your externally set task for the last project. The first project is a foundation project based on Identity, this is a learning project where we choose the best parts to go towards your coursework. The second project is based on a previous exam title, and this encourages you to become more independent and start to specialise in areas of Photography that interest you and in which you have the highest developed skills. The last project is the externally set task (exam) and will start in January of year 11. The final piece will be completed in exam conditions at the end of April over a 10 hour period (2 days).
How you will learn	The amount that you learn in the first half term is huge and you will quickly become confident using your camera and working in Photoshop. It is common for students to feel a bit overwhelmed to start with, but this is eased as skills and knowledge are revisited and built upon. You will be encouraged to try new techniques and learn how to extend ideas and experiment in creative ways. The skills that you have developed using your Art sketch pads in the lower school will be essential for your Photography book work. After the initial skills have been taught you will learn by developing these skills, experimenting and investigating through your personal work. Deadlines must be met. It is for this reason that students who are interested and show a commitment to improve both through extended learning and classwork are those that do well.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	In December of year 11 you will put together a portfolio of your project work, this makes up 60% of your final grade, this is marked and standardised in the department and then moderated by an external moderator. The externally set task (exam) will be very similar to your coursework and marked and standardised bin a similar way. However no feedback can be given to the students during this period. There is no written exam.
Career opportunities	Graphic Designer, Photographer, Magazine Editor, Advertising Executive, Website Designer, Media and television, Radiographer, Image editor and many more.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Course Title	GCSE Religious Studies
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8062
Why study Religious Studies?	The main reasons for studying Religious Studies are because you find it interesting, and it allows you to develop critical thinking skills whilst considering how beliefs impact believers. Religious Studies helps you to understand the world around you by considering how important beliefs are for the lives of individuals and how this then impacts ethical and moral decision making. This allows you to have a wider understanding of our society and culture, as well as building skills of written and spoken argument. RS helps to build your passion for discovery and your ability to debate and discuss different beliefs and opinions.
What you will study	**Component 1: Study of Religion** • Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings • Christianity: practices • Judaism: Beliefs and Teachings • Judaism: Practices **Component 2: Thematic Studies** **Theme A:** Relationships and families: This unit will study the evolving understanding of a family and the purpose of human beings. **Theme B:** Religion and life: This unit studies ethical questions posed by the question of what life is and whether it is sacred. **Theme C:** The existence of God and revelation: This unit focusses on philosophical and experience based arguments for the existence of God and the criticisms of these arguments. **Theme E:** Religion, Crime, and Punishment: This unit considers how and why people should be punished for committing crimes and how religious people respond to crime and their beliefs around punishment.
How you will learn	Students learn though a knowledge rich themed structure looking at the units above, students are taught to develop their synoptic thinking connecting ideas from each. They will be applying the key skills of description, explanation and assessment/ analysis to the topics above. They will partake in debates and discussions on the whole range of units to develop their critical assessing skills as well as their evaluative skills. They will learn through linking the beliefs to real world practices and taking part in group and paired tasks to develop communication skills. There are also lots of key skills they will need to develop such as research skills to allow them to develop their understanding of the complexity and intricate nature of beliefs.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	There will be an exam paper for each component. Each component is worth 50% of the students final grade. Component 1 is assessed through a 1hr 45 minute exam worth 96 marks. Component 2 is assessed through a 1hr 45 minute exam worth 96 marks.
Career opportunities	Religious Studies has a range of skills associated with it which allows it to aide with other subjects, as well as to build useful skills for a wide range of careers. The analytical skills developed in GCSE RS set students up with the skills required for careers in legal, journalistic, political, and sociological based careers. 'Religious Studies students are highly employable. More than 82% go on to employment or further study, and 29% go onto professional jobs – more than any other Humanities and Social Science subject except architecture and languages.' (Open University)

SOCIOLOGY

Course Title	GCSE Sociology
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8192
Why study Sociology?	Sociology helps students develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society, how sociologists study and understand its structures, processes and issues. Sociology is exciting, interesting and relevant to students' lives.
What you will study	Some of the debates covered in this subject include conflict versus consensus, as well as different perspectives on social structures, processes and issues such as feminism, functionalism and Marxism. Sociological research methods are a core part of this course and we look at how they apply to family, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. The discussion of key sociological terms such as society, labelling, discrimination, power and authority are key to this GCSE course.
How you will learn	The GCSE full course has two units and the specification is fully examined, with no coursework. Students are encouraged to question evidence and issues and develop their critical and evaluation skills. Research methods and social theory are studied throughout the course and applied to the relevant topics. There are a lot of issues to discuss and debate in sociology – you need to be ready to contribute to class discussions and willing to bring your own views about society today into the class-room!
How you will be assessed in Year 11	Exam - Paper 1 - Topics: Families, Education, Social theory and methodology Exam - Paper 2 - Topics: Crime and deviance, Social stratification, Social theory and methodology
Career opportunities	The course provides a good progression route to A level qualifications in sociology and other social sciences. This is a relevant GCSE to take if you are considering any career in society which involves working with people; from working in prisons to teaching or if you want to demonstrate useful transferable skills such as the ability to be critical or write reports.

SPANISH

Course Title	GCSE Spanish
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	8692
Why study Spanish?	Languages open doors to lots of different careers and are valuable to employers as they demonstrate good communication skills, creativity, literacy skills, problem solving and confidence. • Speaking another language can help you to stand out from the crowd in a multitude of career paths • Employers often rank language skills as a high priority when recruiting • Speaking another language uncovers new ways of seeing the world and seeing the world through someone else's eyes • Speaking another language helps break down cultural barriers and encourages better understanding of different people's perspectives • Speaking another language helps you to be more confident when travelling and exploring the world, allowing you to be fully immersed in local life. A recent study shows that nearly one in two adults who cannot have a conversation in a modern language regret not engaging more with languages at school • Learning another language helps you to develop really • useful transferable skills, like being a good communicator, having an ability to listen and also confidence in delivering presentations in the workplace. These are the things that give your overall confidence levels a boost and add value to your CV • Knowing the language means you can travel beyond the tourist trails and have an authentic experience of another culture • Speaking another language shows you're not afraid of making mistakes – you are constantly learning to improve and enhance your skills and knowledge
What you will study	Assessment is set in the context of these three themes. **Theme 1: People and lifestyle** • Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others • Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle • Topic 3: Education and work **Theme 2: Popular culture** • Topic 1: Free-time activities • Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations • Topic 3: Celebrity culture **Theme 3: Communication and the world around us** • Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest • Topic 2: Media and technology • Topic 3: The environment and where people live
How you will learn	Language GCSE courses build on the skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing, that pupils have developed at Key Stage 3. There will also be a focus on Spain cultures, food, places, and traditions.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	This qualification is linear, which means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. GCSE Spanish has a Foundation tier (FT) grades 1–5 and a Higher tier (HT) grades 4–9. Students will be assessed across the four skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
Career opportunities	There are many career options linked to languages as speaking a language is an attractive skill to employers, especially in multinational companies. Accountancy, Banking, Engineering, Fashion, Hospitality, Law, Police, the Armed Forces, Medicine, Travel and Tourism, Media and Journalism, Translating, Teaching.

SPORT STUDIES

Course Title	Cambridge Nationals - Sport Studies Level 1/2 Award/Certificate
Exam Board	OCR
Specification	J828
Why study Sport Studies?	Sport Studies is ideal if you enjoy sport and want to understand how it works beyond just playing. The course combines practical sport with real-world issues such as leadership, media, technology and participation. You will develop confidence, teamwork, leadership and analytical skills that are useful in sport and many other careers.
What you will study	**You will complete three units:** • Contemporary Issues in Sport (exam) – including participation, ethics, major sporting events, governing bodies and technology in sport • Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities – developing your skills as a performer in two sports and as a leader planning and leading sessions **One optional unit, chosen from:** • Sport and the Media • Outdoor and Adventurous Activities
How you will be assessed in Year 11	One externally assessed exam (40%) Two non-examined assessment (coursework) units (60%), assessed in school and moderated by OCR The exam must be taken at the end of the course.
Career opportunities	This course supports progression to A Level PE, Level 3 Sport or Sport Science courses, Coaching, fitness and leadership pathways. Apprenticeships in sport, leisure or health-related roles It also develops transferable skills valued in many careers, including Leadership, Communication and teamwork.

TRIPLE SCIENCE

Course Title	GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Exam Board	AQA
Specification	GCSE Biology (8461), GCSE Chemistry (8462), GCSE Physics (8463)
Why study Triple Science?	Separate Sciences are ideal for students who enjoy science and want to study each subject in greater depth. The course develops strong analytical, mathematical and practical skills while encouraging independent thinking, accuracy and resilience. Students gain a deeper understanding of scientific concepts and how they apply to real-world challenges, innovation and discovery. This pathway provides excellent preparation for A Level Science courses and science-based careers.
What you will study	**Students study three full GCSEs.** **Biology:** cell biology and transport, organisation and body systems, infection, response and immunity, bioenergetics, homeostasis and control systems, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology, ecosystems and biodiversity. **Chemistry:** atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and properties of matter, quantitative chemistry and calculations, energy changes and rates of reaction, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, the chemistry of the atmosphere and Earth's resources. **Physics:** energy, work done and power, electricity and detailed circuit analysis, the particle model of matter and gas laws, atomic structure and nuclear physics, forces, motion and Newton's laws, waves and the electromagnetic spectrum, magnetism, electromagnetism and astronomy.
How you will learn	Students learn through in-depth teacher-led lessons, frequent practical experiments, extended problem-solving and calculations, data analysis and scientific reasoning, independent research and enquiry, and regular exam practice and structured revision. Practical work is central to the course and helps students apply theory to real situations.
How you will be assessed in Year 11	Assessment is through six written examinations taken at the end of Year 11, with two exams per subject. Each exam lasts one hour and forty-five minutes. There is no coursework. Required practical's are assessed through exam questions. Grades from 9 to 1 are awarded separately for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, making three GCSEs.
Career opportunities	Separate Sciences support progression into A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary science, Engineering and Physics-based careers, Chemistry and Pharmaceutical industries, Environmental and Biological Sciences, Research, Forensic Science, Teaching and Academia.