



Manor Drive Secondary Academy



Year 9 Options Booklet

KS4 commencing September 2026

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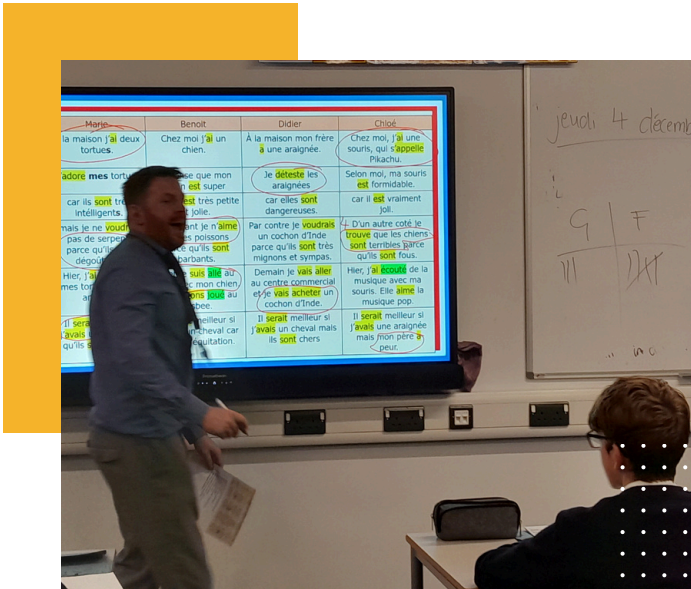
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OVERVIEW



The Year 9 Options selection is a very important stage in the life of every young person. It allows them to make key decisions about which subjects they would like to choose to study in years 10 and 11, and possibly beyond.

The Manor Drive Approach

At Manor Drive Secondary Academy, we are committed to ensuring that students have the best chances to succeed.

We aim to foster a culture of learning centred around our four core values:

Knowledge, Strength, Respect, and Ambition.

As students approach Key Stage 4, they are given the opportunity to tailor their studies to align with their passions, goals, and abilities. Selecting subjects to study in Key Stage 4 is a crucial step in this process, and we believe that involving students, parents/carers, and school professionals is key to aiding students in making these significant choices.

Our goal is to assist all students in making informed decisions that lead to outstanding outcomes and a promising future. This guide provides essential information about the opportunities offered to Year 9 students at MDSA, including details about the Core Curriculum that all students are required to follow. Furthermore, it outlines the process and deadlines for students to select their Year 10 and 11 study options.

What is Key Stage 4?

The curriculum at Key Stage 4 consists of a mixture of essential learning and additional learning. Students will be able to choose subjects for their additional learning according to their strengths and interests. They will be guided through their choices by subject teachers, tutors and other staff to ensure that their choices are appropriate. The KS4 curriculum reflects the National Curriculum requirements and the curriculum policy of the school. We want to offer as much individual choice as we can, so that the students can follow courses they need for interest and their future career paths. However, there are also certain constraints.

Whilst all GCSEs have equal status, they do assess different skills. When making choices students must balance their skills and learning styles in order to keep options open for later life, such as choosing college or A level courses.

The Core Curriculum

Our priority is to provide courses that will enable students to maximise their potential and enhance their opportunities in the future.

There is a common core of subjects which all students will follow which includes:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- RSE, RE, Careers and Citizenship

Additional Learning Choices

We want our students to be committed to their subjects and so we allow them to choose the four subjects that make up their Additional Learning. Choices are available from the following options:

- GCSE French
- GCSE German
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Film Studies
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Art and Design: Textiles
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
- GCSE Design Technology
- Vocational Health and Social Care
- Vocational Sports Studies
- Vocational Music
- Vocational ICT

Availability of courses

We make every effort to ensure that students can study the choices they opt for, but we are constrained by timetable, staffing and group sizes. As a result, students are asked to make reserve options.

Reserve options should be considered very carefully as students may not be able to study their first choices in every instance. If this is the case, students will be spoken to about this.

What are GCSEs?

GCSEs stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. This is highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. GCSEs are two-year courses graded at 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest grade, 5 being the benchmark for a 'good' pass and a 4 being the benchmark for a 'standard' pass. Students are assessed at the end of the course in a final examination. Some courses continue to have a coursework element which, in the majority of cases, make up a small percentage of the final mark.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

What other courses are available?

For Vocational subjects, BTEC qualifications and Cambridge Nationals are available to students across various fields. These programs are developed in partnership with industry professionals to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge desired by employers. Assessments for vocational qualifications consist of a mix of internal assignments and external exams, all of which are on par with a GCSE level.

How the new grades compare with previous ones

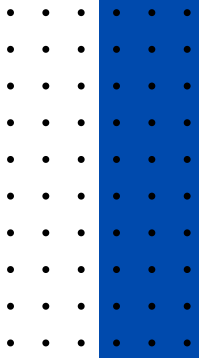
What is the English Baccalaureate?

This was introduced by the Government in 2010 as a measure to see how many students get a grade 5 or above in core academic subjects at Key Stage 4 and is a standard that some students can aim for in years 10 and 11. This is not a statutory requirement, but is promoted as a way to enhance the prospects of students as it allows them to continue to study a 'core academic curriculum'.

Core Academic Subjects for the Ebacc:

- English
- Mathematics
- History or Geography
- A language
- The sciences (at least two)





CHOOSING SUBJECTS

- Do choose subjects which you enjoy
- Do choose subjects at which you are successful
- Do choose subjects which you may need for a career or further education
- Do research the subjects before you choose it. Once you have started the course, you will be studying it for two years.
- Do listen to the advice your teachers give about the suitability of a course for you

- Don't choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it
- Don't choose a subject just because you like or dislike a particular teacher, they may not end up teaching you

What Next?

Detailed information about each GCSE and Vocational subject can be found in this booklet. Please take time to read more about each subject and speak to your teachers.

While we aim to assign most students their first choice of options, there is a chance that this might not be possible, therefore take care to choose reserve choices that you are willing and able to study. You will be advised of the subjects you have been allocated in the Summer term once the timetable has been completed. At this point if there are any issues, you can speak to your form tutor or Head of Year about this.

Core Subject: English Language

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

The course develops and assesses skills in Spoken Language, Reading and Writing. A wide variety of texts are studied for exam preparation, including novels, plays, poems, newspapers, magazines, and advertisements.

Paper 1: Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing

This exam includes several comprehension questions about one unseen literature fiction text and one extended descriptive writing question.

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

This exam includes several comprehension questions about two linked non-fiction texts and one extended writing question presenting a viewpoint.

Spoken Language Element

This mandatory element appears as a separate endorsement on the GCSE certificate and is reported as a separate grade, either Pass, Merit or Distinction. Tasks are set and marked by the teacher. Tasks include presenting, responding to questions and feedback, and assess student's use of Standard English during a speaking task.

Assessment



Paper	Details	Time of exam/% of grade
Paper 1	Examination; Explorations in creative writing and reading	1 hour 45 mins 50%
Paper 2	Examination Writer's viewpoints and perspectives	1 hour 45 mins 50%
Spoken Language	Reported as a separate element	0%

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

English is sometimes referred to as the 'universal qualification'. It underpins every element of what you will do in the future, whether you become a barrister or a barista. The skills of inference and deduction, and the ability to explain your ideas, both orally and in writing will support any A Level or Degree course, but are equally valid and useful in the workplace.

The most successful English students tend to go on to careers in Journalism; Media; Law, Teaching or Politics, but all students, regardless of ability, will gain a great deal from their GCSE studies.

Core Subject: English Literature

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

The course develops and assesses skills in the close reading and analysis of novels, poems and plays. It also challenges students to be able to communicate their understanding effectively through essay writing.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

This exam includes a question on a Shakespeare play and a question on a 19th century novel.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

This exam includes a question on either the modern prose text or drama text studied and a comparative question on two poems you will have studied within a cluster of poems and a question on a poem you will not have seen before.

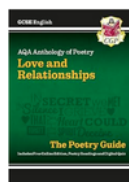
Assessment



Paper	Details	Time of exam/% of grade
Paper 1	Examination; Shakespeare and the 19th century novel	1 hour 45 mins 40%
Paper 2	Examination; Modern Texts and Poetry	2 hours 15 mins 60%

The texts that may be studied in Years 10 & 11 include:

An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley
Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology
Relationships Poetry Anthology



What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

English Literature will inspire or deepen your passion for the written form and can lead on to greater studies or a rich and interesting career. You will comprehend the literary form, the author's influences and inspirations, and the historical context in which it was written better. You will develop a sharp analytical mind that can conduct in-depth analysis and take into account bigger themes and influences. It will also help you organise your arguments and improve your communication skills, which will help you both academically and professionally.

The most successful English Literature students tend to go on to careers in , Creative Writing, Journalism; Media; Law, Teaching or Politics, but all students, regardless of ability, will gain a great deal from their GCSE studies.

Core Subject: Maths

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Edexcel

The course is divided into the following subjects:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics



Mathematics is an exciting and challenging subject. It enables us to solve everyday problems and has many applications across other subject areas. All students must have a scientific calculator for the course (recommended Casio fx-83GT CW) and Chromebooks are used for other tasks such as graph drawing and spreadsheet processing. There is an increased mathematical difficulty in both foundation and higher tier syllabuses. At foundation tier there is substantially more content which has made its way down from the higher tier. In both tiers there is greater rigour as the three terminal exams now last a total of 4.5 hours.

Students are entered at either foundation or higher tier, depending on their ability. This is generally decided following mock examinations. All prior data will be considered at this point.

The exams are designed to assess the following:

- AO1 – ability to use and apply standard mathematical techniques
- AO2 – ability to reason, interpret and communicate mathematically
- AO3 – ability to solve problems within mathematics and other contexts

Assessment

Paper	Details	Time of exam/% of grade
Paper 1	Non-calculator	1 hour 30 mins 80 marks
Paper 2	Calculator	1 hour 30 mins 80 marks
Paper 3	Calculator	1 hour 30 mins 80 marks

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

Mathematics at GCSE is important to students and will support the study of many subjects at A Level. These include Advanced Mathematics, Sciences, Geography and Psychology. It is also key to enable students to go on to study most Degree courses.

Mathematics is also highlighted as an important subject for many career paths including careers in Engineering, the Financial Sector, Teaching, the Medical Profession, the Armed Forces and the Retail Industry.

Core Subject: Combined Science

Qualification: Equal to two GCSEs Exam Board: AQA

The Combined Science GCSE covers scientific ideas, how they develop and how they apply to a range of domestic, industrial and environmental contexts.

Students will cover a range of topics and experience a range of practical work, problem solving and ICT to help them learn new ideas. Biology, Chemistry and Physics are all studied as part of this qualification, which is a Core curriculum requirements for all students.

Topics covered include:

- Working Scientifically
- Cell Biology
- Infection and Response
- Bioenergetics
- Inheritance
- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Structure and Bonding
- Energy Changes
- Chemical Analysis
- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity



There is a double grade ranging from 9-9 to 1-1 and this does include split grades e.g. 7-6.

There is a higher and foundation tier for each examination.

Throughout the course students will complete 21 required practicals and students will be assessed on their understanding of these in all examinations.

Assessment

**Six papers in total, two on each Science discipline.
There are higher and foundation tiers available for each examination.**

Paper 1 to 6

Written exams

1 hour 15 mins
16.7% each paper

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

Students who study this course will be able to study any of the three A Level courses in the Sciences at a Sixth Form or College, subject to achieving the minimum entry requirements, or they may choose to study a Vocational Level 3 Qualification such as the BTEC Qualification in Applied Science.

Optional Subject: Art and Design

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: WJEC/Eduqas

This is an exciting practical course which encourages students to develop personalised creative projects from the following areas of study: painting and drawing, digital photography, 3D and sculpture, mixed media, graphics design, printmaking, textiles and fashion.

Students in Year 10 and 11 will have the opportunity to produce a wide range of projects developing their visual, aesthetic and technical skills as well as their knowledge and understanding of Art and Design. Students will be able to opt to specialise in a single area of study in such areas as photography, painting and drawing, graphics, 3-dimensional design. Students can also opt for a broad course where they can produce work in more than one area.

Studies will also be made of relevant artists and designers to support their individual projects.

Students will need to purchase sketchbooks and have access to basic materials for use with home-learning. These can be purchased from school as an art pack. Access to the required equipment should not prevent any student opting for Art and Design, as there are limited funds available to support families experiencing financial difficulty.



The portfolio is worth 60% of the final grade and the external assignment 40%. Therefore, it is incredibly important that anyone wishing to join the course understands the importance of their coursework to their final grade and the role homework plays in keeping up with their work.

Assessment

The Art GCSE consists of one extended piece of coursework, in the form of a portfolio and an externally set assignment.

Unit 1	Portfolio of work	Controlled assessment 60%
Unit 2	Externally set practical task	8 weeks prep and 10 hour exam 40%

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

An Art GCSE can lead to a variety of careers or further and higher study. The wide variety of skills and contextual studies covered in the course can give you a good basis to move into a whole range of areas within the Creative Industries.

For example, Fine Art; Sculpture; Photography; Fashion; Textiles; 3D Design; Graphic Design; Architecture; Set Design; Special Effects; Interior Design, and more.

Optional Subject: Art Textiles

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: WJEC/Eduqas

Students will follow an Art and Design route specialising in Textiles. Students will be introduced to a variety of interesting themes to base projects on as well as exciting techniques that explore a range of textile mediums and processes, including both traditional and new technologies.

Students will have the opportunity to develop skills in a variety of ways. Students can specialise or combine areas of interest to refine knowledge and practice, some of which are listed below:

- Fashion and/or costume
- Printed and/or dyed materials
- Textiles for an interior setting
- Constructed and/or applied textiles
- Constructed and/or stitched and/or embellished textiles.

Students will also research designers and/or art movements in Year 10 to use as inspiration for their own work. We encourage students to widen their designer knowledge and contextual events. Students will complete a portfolio of work for assessment as coursework and complete an externally set assignment as an examination in Year 11.

The focus of the course is for students to demonstrate their creative intelligence through self expression, production and development of original and creative pieces across the GCSE.



The course is suitable for anyone who wishes to think creatively and has an interest in the Textiles and Fashion industry. The ideal student is not afraid to experiment with ideas and materials that are new to them. If you like to work with materials; manipulating, reworking and reinventing, then this is the course for you!

The portfolio is worth 60% of the final grade and the external assignment 40%. Therefore, it is incredibly important that anyone wishing to join the course understands the importance of their coursework to their final grade and the role homework plays in keeping up with their work. We will offer after school sessions to ensure all students are able to use all equipment

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

GCSE Art Textiles can lead to a variety of careers or further and higher study. The wide variety of skills and contextual studies covered in the course can give you a good basis to move into a whole range of areas within the creative industries.

For example, Fashion Design; Textile design; Brand advertising/styling; Interior Design; Costume Design; Special Effects and the list goes on.

Assessment

The Art GCSE consists of one extended piece of coursework, in the form of a portfolio and an externally set assignment.

Unit 1	Portfolio of work COURSEWORK	Controlled assessment 60%
Unit 2	Externally set practical task EXAM	8 weeks prep and 10 hour exam 40%

Optional Subject: Business Studies

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Edexcel

GCSE Business Studies gives students a strong understanding of how businesses work and why they make the decisions they do. The course introduces key business concepts and terminology, and explores how businesses operate in different contexts – from small local start-ups to large global companies. Students learn how business activity affects individuals, communities and society.

The course develops enterprising, creative thinkers who can analyse information, interpret data and make informed, well-reasoned decisions. Students investigate real business opportunities and issues, learning how areas such as marketing, finance, operations and human resources link together and influence each other.

By applying knowledge to both familiar and unfamiliar situations, students become confident problem-solvers who can construct balanced arguments and justify their decisions using a mix of qualitative and quantitative evidence. This GCSE helps students think critically, work independently and gain skills that are valuable for further study and future careers in business.

What will the students do in the subject? The course is made up of two themes.

Theme 1: Investigating small businesses. Students will study key business concepts, issues and skills involved in start up and running a small business.

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2: Building a business. Students will study how a business develops beyond the start up phase, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources.

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions



Assessment

Unit	Details	% of Grade
Paper 1	Investigating small business	50%
Paper 2	Building a business	50%

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

The aim of GCSE Business is to provide students with; a programme of study that enables progression to employment and apprenticeships in business; progression route to advanced level qualifications such as A Levels and BTEC Level 3 Nationals; the skills, knowledge, understanding and qualities which are valued by employers and further education.

Optional Subject: Design Technology

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

Design and Technology is a subject that provides opportunities to design, model, make and evaluate quality products manufactured from a wide range of materials. Students will learn core knowledge of design technology and an in-depth knowledge of specific materials.

Students will build on their knowledge and skills covered in Key Stage 3. They will learn to recognise design opportunities and how to explore specific areas to enable them to plan and design innovative modern products. They will be studying the work of existing designers through the analysis and handling of modern products. Students communication skills will be consolidated and developed through the use of recognised techniques including iterative design sketching, production of orthographic drawing and utilisation of CAD systems to enhance presentations. Modern equipment will be employed along with traditional techniques to manufacture quality working prototypes.

The course requires students to be interested and passionate about design, the development of products and the theory and research that goes into creating a product. They need to be keen at experimenting with design through drawing, annotations and show resilience when creating and improving design concepts. They also need to demonstrate confidence in using the tools and equipment explored throughout Key Stage 3, as well as knowledge and skills using computers and design software. Students also need to be confident with knowledge of materials, their properties and how technological advances influence and change design.

Assessment



Unit	Details	% of Grade
Written exam	Investigating core and specific technical knowledge	2 hours 50%
Coursework	Practical coursework - a contextual challenge set by the exam board in year 11	50%

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

Design and Technology opens the door to A Level Product Design and BTEC Engineering – Manufacturing. It also prepares for higher education courses in Product Design, Graphic Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering, Civil Engineering and many more.

With its broad and versatile foundation, Design and Technology equips students with critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are highly valued across various industries. Moreover, it fosters creativity and innovation, enabling students to envision and create practical solutions to real-world challenges.

Optional Subject: Dance

Dance will help you to develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation.

What will I learn?

Unit 1 enables learners to gain a holistic knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to reproduce an existing piece(s) of professional/published work.

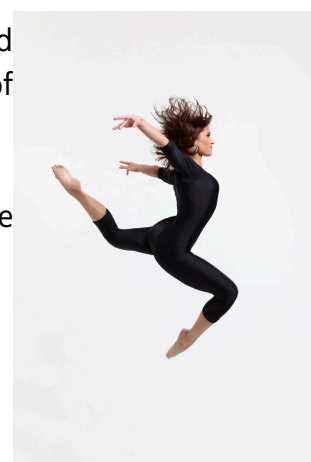
Unit 2 enables learners to gain, develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to create and refine a piece of original choreography.

Unit 3 introduces learners to areas of the performing arts that need to be considered when responding to an industry commission

Is Dance for me?

Choosing to study dance is a big decision that comes with a lot of commitment. It's not just about what you do in class; it's about putting in extra time to practice and improve your skills. As a dancer, you'll spend hours outside of lessons rehearsing, working on projects, and figuring out how to express yourself through movement.

Dancing isn't just about being physically talented. It also takes a lot of discipline and determination. You have to really love what you're doing because success in dance means sticking to a tough practice schedule and constantly working on becoming better. If you're ready to put in the hard work and stay dedicated, you can achieve amazing things in this challenging but super rewarding subject.



Unit	Details	% of Grade
Performance	Assign brief and several tasks	30% 10 Hours
Choreography	Solo or group choreography	30% 10 Hours
Performing Arts in Practise	Scenario and several tasks	40% 20 Hours

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

This course provides a strong foundation from which students can take other courses in dance and performing arts. These include A-level dance, higher education dance, and professional training. In addition, the skills acquired such as teamwork, problem-solving, management and motivation of others are transferable to almost any career and further studies

Optional Subject: Drama

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Cambridge OCR

The OCR Drama GCSE is an excellent choice for students because of the personalised pathways of both performance and design (set, costume, lighting, and sound). As 60% of the overall grade comes from practical exploration, it allows students to develop their confidence, communication and key 21st century skills.

As part of the course, students will attend the theatre, experience a range of play texts and consider challenging themes and issues. The course is highly engaging and enjoyable allowing students to produce high quality contemporary performance. This course is ideal for any student who enjoys Drama and who is happy and confident to perform both devised pieces and scripted work in front of others. Students need to have a willingness to attend extra rehearsals with their group.

The course consists of three components:

Component 1: Devising Drama

Students work from a stimulus to research themes and issues from which to create a performance. Students can work as a performer or designer.

Practical work is supported by a portfolio documenting the creative process.



Component 2: Presenting and Performing Texts

Students will study a play text chosen by the school.

Students can work as a performer or designer.

Students will take part in performing two extracts from the play or supporting a group with the design and creation. There is a short supporting document outlining the performers vision for the piece.

Component 3: Performance and Response

Section A – a study of one play text set by the exam board

Section B – completing of a live theatre evaluation (seen by the student as part of their study)

Assessment

Unit	Details	% of Grade
Component 1	Devising Drama	60 marks 30%
Component 2	Presenting and Performing Texts	60 marks 30%
Component 3	Performance and Response Written Exam	1hr 30 mins 40%

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

Drama is a versatile subject which requires many skills. During the course students will develop skills in teamwork, communication, time management, confidence, presentation, cooperation, negotiation and ultimately performance skills. These skills are not only important in Drama but in numerous other subjects and careers.

The GCSE Drama course can lead onto A Level Drama and Theatre or the study of performance related subjects at other Post 16 institutions. It is also highly regarded by other subjects and employers due to the broad range of skills learnt.

Optional Subject: Film Studies

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Eduqas/WJEC



Throughout the two-year program, you will cultivate a passion for film while deepening your knowledge of filmmaking, screenplay writing, and how this influential medium shapes our world. The course covers the following areas:

- Film Technology
- Narrative and Genre
- Representation
- Film Style
- Film Criticism



You will explore essential aspects of film such as cinematography, mise en scene, editing, and sound. Additionally, you will delve into the contexts of films and the societal backdrop during their creation. Discover how films reflect historical and societal narratives of their time.

Studying Film at GCSE enables students to see the world in a completely different light and develop a wide range of transferable skills for further education, work and life: Creative thinking; Critical thinking; Essay writing; Evaluative skills; Emotional intelligence; Film analysis; Textual analysis; Communication; Research skills; Literacy; Technical competencies.

Assessment

What films will we study?

Students will watch and analyse a range of films and are likely to include:

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film

- Rebel Without a Cause (Ray, USA, 1955)
- Ferris Bueller's Day Off (Hughes, USA, 1986)
- The Hate U Give (Tillman Jr, USA, 2018)

Component 2: Global Film, narrative, representation and film style

- Slumdog Millionaire (Boyle, UK, 2008)
- The Wave (Gansel, Germany, 2008)
- Skyfall (Mendes, UK, 2012)

Unit	Details	% of Grade
Component 1	Key Developments in US Film	1 hour 30 35%
Component 2	Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style	1 hour 30 35%
Component 3	Production Non-exam	30%



What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

Studying this course at GCSE will provide all students with great knowledge to continue onto the A Level in Film or the Level 3 Media course. Equally students may gain the skills needed to pursue an apprenticeship where there are many roles in the Film sector.

Optional Subject: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

The Food Preparation and Nutrition course is designed for all students who enjoy making a wide variety of food products. Students must be committed to cooking as often as possible, to fully develop their practical skills and confidence. Students will learn about nutrition, food safety and a variety of food preparation and cooking skills.

Assessment



Unit	Details	% of Grade
Exam	Written Exam	1 hour 45 50%
Coursework	Two tasks set by the exam board -Food Investigation Task -Food Preparation Task including 3 hour practical assessment	50%

The course is split into 50% non-exam assessment and 50% final written examination. The non-exam assessment consist of one food investigation (15%) (a 1,500 to 2,000 word report) and one food preparation assessment 35% (plan, prepare, cook and present a 3 course menu).

A final written examination worth 50% of the final mark takes place in the Summer Term of Year 11.

Food Preparation and Nutrition will suit any student who has enjoyed the work in KS3 and who wants to build on their acquired skills. It will suit any student who has a keen interest and passion in food. It requires organisation and planning, as the emphasis is on the making. It is also suitable for anyone who wishes to take the subject further at Post 16 level. Let us not forget that the food industry is still one of Britain's largest employers



What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

Students might go on to study food at college which can lead to various careers including the military, catering or working in a restaurant. Students might go on to study a food related degree.

Food Preparation and Nutrition can also lead to employment and careers in The National Health Service eg Dieticians, Nutritionists.

Optional Subject: French

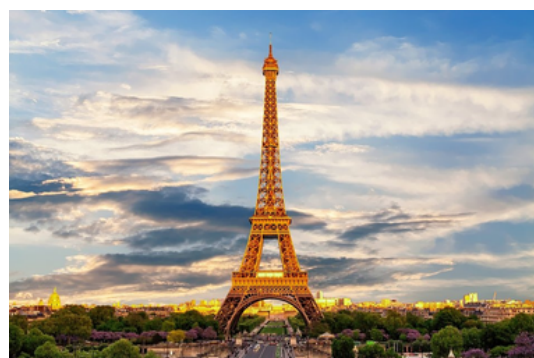
Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Edexcel

Students develop their communication and comprehension skills logically from key stage 3, becoming more confident and proficient users of the language. Learning is underpinned by a focus on the pillars of vocabulary acquisition (there is a set vocabulary list) grammar and phonics. These skills are taught in conjunction with the following themes on which the assessments are based:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Students are entered at either Foundation or Higher tier for all papers, depending on their ability profile in Year 11. All prior data will be considered at this point.

Assessment



Unit	Details	% of Grade
Paper 1 Listening	Comprehension and dictation	25%
Paper 2 Speaking	Read aloud task, describe a picture, roleplay, general conversation	25%
Paper 3 Reading	Comprehension and translation into English	25%
Paper 4 Writing	Describe a picture, written response, translation into French	25%



What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

It is a multilingual world and UK companies are now realising that they need foreign languages to compete when trading internationally.

Employers and universities value the key skills developed by language learners – these include: communication skills, team working, interpersonal skills, presentation techniques, problem solving, organisational skills, good learning strategies.

Successful language students tend to go on to careers in translating, interpreting, journalism, media, business, armed forces, teaching or law.

Optional Subject: Geography

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

You will be studying a wide variety of current topics and issues through the Geography course.

The Physical Geography topics, such as coasts, biodiversity and climate change allow you to explore questions ranging from how earthquakes and volcanoes shape our lives to how we are changing tropical rainforests. The Human Geography topics, such as development, population and cities help you to understand questions ranging from 'How could demand for oil cause wars?' to 'Why are we finding it harder to feed the world's population?'

In class, you will take part in group work, discussions, presentations, games and many other activities. You will also use new technologies, such as GIS (Geographical Information Systems).

You will carry out fieldwork in two different places - at the coast and in an urban area. You will have the opportunity to take part in a residential enrichment trip during Year 10 to Iceland.

If you have an interest in the world around you and want to learn a range of new skills, this is the course for you! As with any GCSE, it is essential that students apply themselves and have a strong work ethic.



Assessment



Unit	Details	% of Grade
Paper 1	Living with the Physical Environment	1 hour 30 35%
Paper 2	Challenges in the Human Environment	1 hour 30 35%
Paper 3	Geographical Applications (fieldwork and geographical skills)	1 hour 15 30%

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

Geography A Level is a natural progression from Geography GCSE, however, Geographers learn many transferable skills that make you suitable for a range of opportunities. It is a useful subject and complements other subjects, such as, Science, Maths, Business, ICT (to just name a few!), it also makes you highly employable.

Optional Subject: German

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Edexcel

Students develop their communication and comprehension skills logically from key stage 3, becoming more confident and proficient users of the language. Learning is underpinned by a focus on the pillars of vocabulary acquisition (there is a set vocabulary list) grammar and phonics. These skills are taught in conjunction with the following themes on which the assessments are based:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Students are entered at either Foundation or Higher tier for all papers, depending on their ability profile in Year 11. All prior data will be considered at this point.

Assessment

Unit	Details	% of Grade
Paper 1 Listening	Comprehension and dictation	25%
Paper 2 Speaking	Read aloud task. describe a picture, roleplay, general conversation	25%
Paper 3 Reading	Comprehension and translation into English	25%
Paper 4 Writing	Describe a picture, written response, translation into French	25%



What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

It is a multilingual world and UK companies are now realising that they need foreign languages to compete when trading internationally.

Employers and universities value the key skills developed by language learners – these include: communication skills, team working, interpersonal skills, presentation techniques, problem solving, organisational skills, good learning strategies.

Successful language students tend to go on to careers in translating, interpreting, journalism, media, business, armed forces, teaching or law.

Optional Subject: Health and Social Care

Qualification: Vocational Exam Board: Cambridge OCR

The NHS, the largest employer in Europe, boasts a workforce of 1.1 million individuals. With over 350 career options available, Health and Social Care education provides insights into the challenges faced by NHS staff. Students explore topics such as communication, societal diversity, and various aspects of human development.

This program suits those considering a career in the NHS or any caring profession. It involves completing assignments, creating resources, conducting research and interviews, engaging in discussions, online research, and independent study. Ideal for individuals passionate about their field of interest, capable of independent coursework, and intrigued by the diverse needs of people, health decisions, communication methods, and support requirements across all age groups.

Is Health & Social Care Right for Me?

Health & Social Care is a rewarding subject, but it is also demanding. To succeed, you will need to be prepared to work hard to stay focused throughout the course. There is a significant amount of writing, and you must be able to manage your time carefully to keep up with both the content and ongoing coursework. Strong English writing skills will help you express ideas clearly and meet the assessment requirements.

This course will suit you if you are someone who can stay organised, meet deadlines, and remain motivated even when the workload increases. If you are willing to put in the effort, stay on top of your tasks, and ask for support when needed, Health and Social Care could be a great choice for you.

The Non-Examined Assessment unit of work will be completed in Year 11. In this unit, you will have the opportunity to explore the various public health challenges the country faces, the approaches used to encourage health and wellbeing, and the importance of this to society. You will understand the factors affecting a healthy lifestyle so that campaigns can be designed to target different groups of people. You will also learn how to plan and deliver your own small-scale health promotion campaign and evaluate your planning and delivery.



Assessment

Unit	Details	% of Grade
Principles of care in health and social settings	External exam	40%
Supporting individuals through life events	internal assessment	30%
Health promotion campaigns	internal assessment	30%

What could the subject lead to, such as A Levels, further education, or career paths?

At Level 3, you have the option to pursue Health and Social Care Cambridge Technical, while colleges now offer T' Levels in Health-related fields like nursing. This program is suitable for all, focusing on practical experiences, with coursework often centred around friends and family. A considerable number of our Sixth Form students proceed to university for nursing, midwifery, and various other health-related or unrelated professions, or opt for apprenticeships, including placements with the NHS.

Optional Subject: History

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Edexcel



You will study in the course of GCSE History:

- The medieval kings Richard and John. One is considered England's greatest medieval warrior king, dubbed 'the Lionheart'. The other is seen as England's most evil and corrupt ruler. Why were these brothers so different? The examined unit is worth 20% of the overall GCSE.
- Crime and Punishment c1000AD-Present Day. This thematic study will look at how crimes, their nature as well as how we punish them has changed over a thousand years. This will include a case study on Whitechapel, the site of Jack the Ripper's murders. Worth 30% of the GCSE.
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939. This depth study will examine the cataclysmic changes in German society between the end of the First World War and the start of the Second. By the end of this topic you will understand not only how the Nazis ruled Germany but why so many truly wanted them to. Worth 30% of the GCSE.
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991. This period study will examine the causes and consequences of tensions around the world after the end of the Second World War. Our modern world has been shaped by these events and they are crucial to understanding 21st century current affairs. Worth 20% of the GCSE.



Assessment

Unit	Details	% of Grade
Paper 1	Thematic study and historic environment	1 hour 15 m 30%
Paper 2	Period study and British depth study	1 hour 45 m 40%
Paper 3	Modern depth study	1 hour 20m 30%

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

Pursuing history at A Level allows students to delve deeper into the complexities of historical events, develop critical thinking skills, and enhance their ability to analyse and interpret information. This academic foundation is highly valued in higher education, leading to opportunities in diverse fields such as law, politics, journalism, archaeology, and education. Moreover, the skills gained from studying history, such as research, writing, and the ability to form coherent arguments, are transferable and highly sought after in many professions, making it a valuable subject for a wide range of career choices.

Optional Subject: ICT

Qualification: Vocational Award Exam Board: WJEC

Are you passionate about technology? Do you like solving problems? Are you curious about all things digital, and want to learn some fantastic new skills? If so, it's time to uncover your potential – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

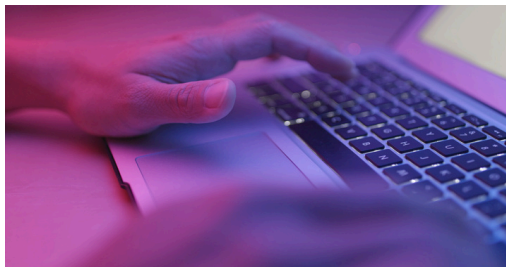
The qualification is made up of 2 units:

Unit 1: ICT in Society:

- Explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society
- Investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and homes

Unit 2: ICT in Context

- Gain a working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images
- Learn to apply your knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop a number of skills which are attractive to employer, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Coping with rapid changes in technology
- Critical thinking
- Designing, programming, testing and evaluating software systems
- Learning independently
- Numeracy and data handling
- Problem solving
- Research
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management.

Assessment

Unit	% of Grade
Unit 1 ICT In Society	Exam 40% of grade
Unit 2 ICT in Context	Controlled assessment tasks 60%



What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

The Level 2 Vocational Award in ICT provides a strong foundation for further study, such as A Level Computer Science or ICT, and other Level 3 vocational qualifications. It also supports pathways into further education, apprenticeships, and careers in fields like software development, digital marketing, cybersecurity, IT support, and web design.

Optional Subject: Music

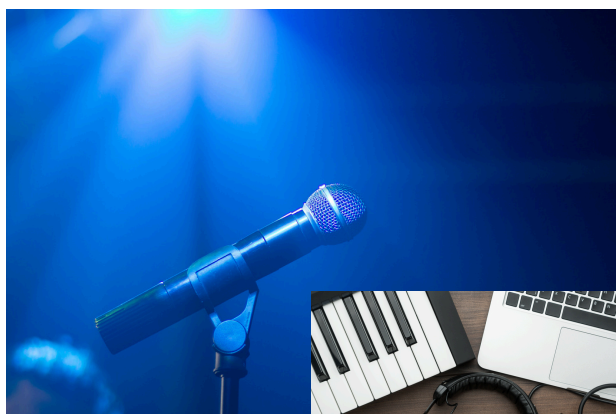
Qualification: Vocational Exam Board: Pearson (BTEC Tech awards)



The Music curriculum at Key Stage 4 is designed to foster students' enthusiasm and appreciation for Music, building upon their foundation from Key Stage 3 and nurturing this interest for the future. Students will explore and enhance their musical abilities by engaging in various activities such as solo performances, group compositions, and ensemble performances. Throughout the program, students will showcase their musical talents through both informal and formal presentations. They will delve into diverse music genres, honing their performance and composition skills within these genres. Emphasis is placed on students' growth as performers and composers, with assessments focusing on their progress in these areas leading up to final performances. While the course is predominantly practical, students are encouraged to maintain a balance between practical engagement and documenting their advancements effectively. Comprising three units, with two internally assessed and one externally assessed, the course does not culminate in a formal written examination.

This course caters to Key Stage 3 students aiming for advanced proficiency in the subject, encompassing both instrumentalists and vocalists. Proficiency in playing an instrument or singing is a prerequisite for students pursuing either course. There are no limitations on the type of instrument(s) students may choose. Reading music is not mandatory; students can perform pieces learned by ear. The curriculum encompasses diverse music genres, enabling students to perform, compose, and enhance their skills on their chosen instrument.

Students have the flexibility to showcase their abilities on any instrument, including unconventional ones and rap. Proficiency in an instrument or voice is essential for immediate engagement in assessments as the course begins.



What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

This qualification enables students to proceed to Level 3 courses in Music or Music Technology. There is a wide range of employment opportunities available in Music and the performing arts, which offer exciting prospects to those with a qualification in Music.

Optional Subject: Religious Studies

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

The course is divided into two separate halves, each separately examined.

Paper 1: The Study of Religions

This section of the course requires students to gain a deep understanding of two different major world religions: Christianity and Islam. These religions have been selected as the largest and fastest growing religions in the UK. The course covers the beliefs and practices of these major religions, as well as a critical evaluation of these ideas. Unlike many other GCSEs, 50% of the marks available are for the explanation of a student's own beliefs.

Paper 2: Religious Philosophy and Ethical Questions

This section of the course requires students to answer challenging questions on a variety of topics by comparing their own viewpoints and ideas with those from a religious perspective.

Students will study four areas:

- Religion and Life
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Relationships and families

These topics are considered from both a secular humanist and a religious perspective. The course does not seek to challenge or assert any given faith tradition, but encourages students to explore their own.

The examinations will consist of short answer questions and longer essay based questions. There is no coursework.



Assessment

Unit	Details	% of Grade
Paper 1	Written Exam	1 hour 45 m 50%
Paper 2	Written Exam	1 hour 45 m 50%

What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

This course is good preparation for a number of A Level courses. It has direct links to Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, History, Psychology and English. Or, alternatively if you are looking forward to employment, RE GCSE is an excellent qualification to have on your CV.

If you are interested in a career in law, child care, medicine, social work, education, the media, the armed forces, the police, or retail then RE GCSE is a much valued subject because of its relevance to the world in which we live. It develops key communication skills and an understanding of society which is needed in all walks of life, from employment to higher education. RE and Ethics is about people and how we live and so is an invaluable subject, whatever your future plans.

Optional Subject: Sports

Qualification: Vocational Exam Board: Pearson (BTEC Tech Awards)

This course is suitable for students who have a genuine interest in Sport. We deliver the course in a practical way, whenever possible. We like students to learn through applying their knowledge and understanding of topics through their own sporting experiences.

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (30% of the final grade, Exam Board Set Assignment/Coursework)

In this component learners will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport or physical activity and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity.

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (30% of the final grade, Exam Board Set Assignment/Coursework)

Throughout this component learners will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (40% Examination)

This is the external exam for this course and takes place at the end of the 2 years in either the January or June of Year 11. Learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.



What might the subject lead into, ie A Level, further education, career choices?

This subject can lead onto several avenues of further study. Students could make a choice to study the A Level Physical Education or BTEC Level 3 National in Sport in Sixth form or College. As the course explores many areas of sport, it is seen as a very useful insight into the many different careers there are in the sports industry. These range from fitness instructors to physiotherapists and coaches to teachers. Many careers such as the Armed Forces or Nursing see a knowledge of sport and fitness as invaluable. But even if none of these are your chosen path the knowledge you gain by looking after your body in the right way is going to be useful to you for your whole life