

# Sir Harry Smith

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE

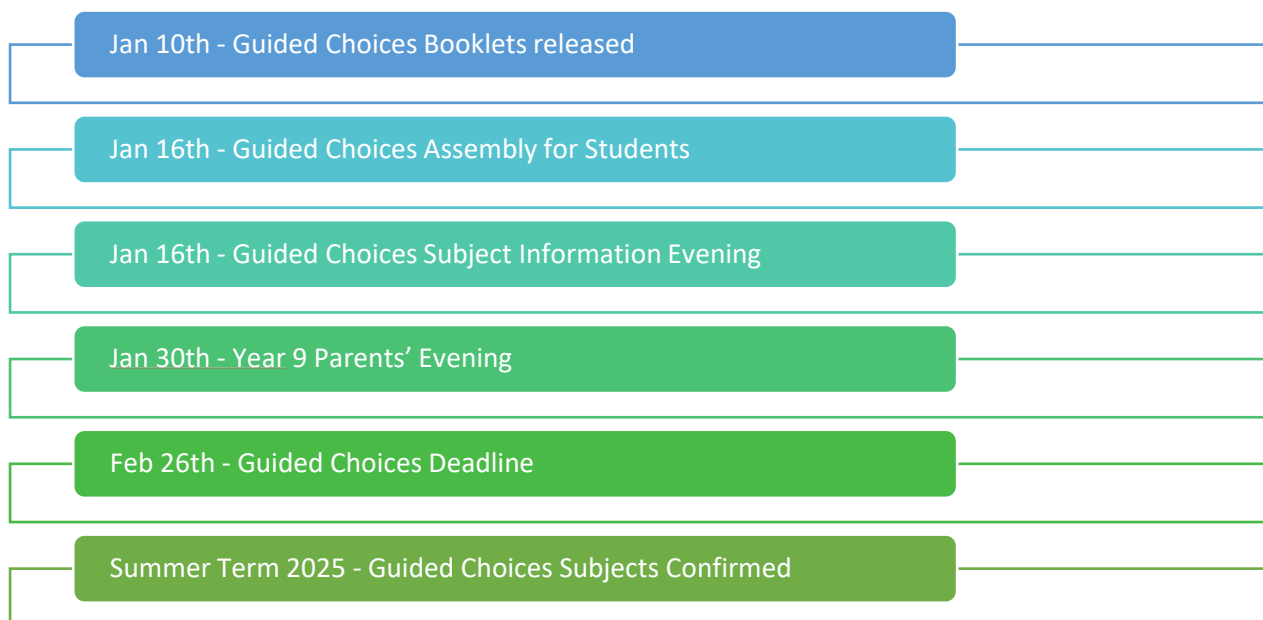


### **YEAR 9 GCSE GUIDED CHOICES STUDENT INFORMATION BOOKLET 2024-25**

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Year 9 Guided Choices process. This is an exciting time for students, as they now have the opportunity to choose some of the courses they would like to continue studying into Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4). This guidance will help students and their parents/carers to understand the process and will give them some suggestions about how to choose the courses. There is also a lot of support on offer and students can discuss their choices with their form tutor, subject teachers, curriculum managers, and parents/carers. All students will be guided with their choices. We want the courses chosen by students to provide them with the best possible chance of success, as well as ensuring that their curriculum is broad, balanced and enjoyable.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS



## MAKING THE RIGHT GUIDED CHOICES

There is a huge range of guidance and support available about potential choices. This booklet is a starting point, but please also approach your Tutor as a first point of contact to talk through the decisions that you are making.

The key questions to discuss at home and with your Tutor when selecting your preferred courses for Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) will be:

- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- Which subjects are you succeeding in?
- Which Key Stage 4 courses do you have a real interest in?
- Which subjects match your future aspirations?

We would strongly encourage every student to carefully consider a range of courses that will enable them to succeed and progress. For most, it is important to maintain a well-balanced curriculum that gives opportunities for different styles of learning and study and ensures that they have access to broad progression routes post-16.

We will use our professional experience in supporting students through this stage in their education, and also any restrictions (for example, class sizes or clashes) to adjust any selections as necessary.



## THE CORE CURRICULUM

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum is made up of the following subjects:

- English Language (1 GCSE)
- English Literature (1 GCSE)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Triple/Combined Science (2 or 3 GCSEs)
- Physical Education
- Skills for Life

These account for approximately 15 periods a week. The remaining 10 periods form part of our Guided Choices programme that personalises provision for students through access to up to four additional GCSE/vocational courses.

This booklet outlines the breadth of qualifications that Sir Harry Smith Community College offers at Key Stage 4, and we know that collectively these courses provide every student with the appropriate qualifications and courses to achieve their individual potential, whether that be through an exclusively academic programme or a mix of GCSE and vocational courses.

At Sir Harry Smith Community College, we have an established Modern Languages team of staff and encourage every student to study at least one of the language courses on offer. This reflects the growing expectation from Sixth Forms, Universities and employers over recent years.

## ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBACC)

The Government believes that schools should offer students a broad range of academic subjects at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. The EBacc is a group of subjects at Key Stage 4 which gives this breadth of academic subjects.

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (2 GCSEs)
- History or Geography
- French or German

It is the Government's ambition that more and more students should be studying the EBacc.

Sir Harry Smith Community College strongly agrees with this as we believe it gives students the best knowledge and skills to prepare them for Post 16 and beyond. Students that choose to follow Pathway One will automatically be taking the group of EBacc subjects. To achieve the EBacc students will also need good GCSE passes in these subjects.

## VOCATIONAL COURSES

Sir Harry Smith Community College is committed to providing every student with the opportunity to achieve high quality vocational and applied qualifications alongside their traditional GCSE subjects. We recognise the benefits these courses offer students in terms of the range and breadth of skills developed beyond those fostered on traditional GCSE courses. For some students they bring greater relevance and context to their learning in school and support their progression and achievement in the future.



## OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Students will be on one of two pathways:

### Pathway One

French or German	History or Geography	Student Choice from Optional Subject (see table below)	Student Choice from Optional Subject (see table below)
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### Pathway Two

French or German or History or Geography	Student Choice from Optional Subject (see table below)	Student Choice from Optional Subject (see table below)	Student Choice from Optional Subject (see table below)
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Curriculum Area	Subject
Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies*
	Level 2 Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing*
Citizenship	GCSE Citizenship Studies
Computing	GCSE Computer Science
Design & Technology	GCSE Design and Technology
	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Humanities	GCSE Geography
	GCSE History
Modern Foreign Languages	GCSE French
	GCSE German
Creative Arts	GCSE Art
	GCSE Dance
	GCSE Drama
Physical Education	Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport Studies
Social Sciences	GCSE Psychology
	GCSE Religious Studies
	GCSE Sociology

\*Not to be chosen together as qualification overlaps in content

*Important note: Optional courses on offer are not guaranteed to run and alternative options may be offered in the future.*

## ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATIONS

Variations to the curriculum may be recommended to a few students to enable them to achieve their full potential. Parents will be consulted if their child is involved in any variation from the standard curriculum.



## KEY TERMS

**Controlled Assessment:** a piece of work that must be produced in college in controlled conditions (under the supervision of a member of staff) and makes up a proportion of the overall final grade.

**NEA:** Non-examination assessment, which is research or project-based work or an assessment of practical skills in subjects such as Design and Technology. NEA is the current exam board terminology for coursework and makes up a proportion of the final grade.

**External Assessment:** work that will be assessed by the exam board, usually in the form of an exam.

Some courses in Key Stage 4 will have an element of controlled assessment or NEA and a final exam or set of exams, each of which contributes a certain proportion to the final overall grade.



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** N/A – Core Subject

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study English Language?

Studying AQA English Language at GCSE is essential for developing crucial communication skills, such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It fosters critical thinking and analysis through the exploration of diverse texts, enhancing students' ability to interpret and evaluate information. Additionally, the course encourages creativity and self-expression, preparing students for both academic success and effective communication in everyday life.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

In the AQA English Language GCSE course, students study a variety of texts from different genres and time periods, including fiction and non-fiction. They develop skills in reading comprehension, textual analysis, and critical thinking. The course also emphasizes creative and transactional writing, where students learn to write in various styles and for different purposes. Additionally, there is a focus on spoken language, where students practice and are assessed on their speaking and listening abilities.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Paper 1: Fiction. Reading with a focus on key skills – information retrieval, language analysis, structure and giving a critical response. Writing description or narrative.

Paper 2: Non-fiction. Reading with a focus on key skills – true and false statements, comparison summary, language analysis and comparisons between texts. Writing a non-fiction piece with a specific viewpoint for a specific audience and purpose.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Ibrahim

English Language GCSE comprehensively develops essential literacy skills, critical thinking, and effective communication, all of which are fundamental for academic success and future employment. The course's diverse and engaging content fosters a deeper appreciation of language and equips students with the ability to analyse, interpret, and express ideas clearly and creatively, preparing students well for further education and life beyond school.



## ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** N/A – Core Subject

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study English Literature?

Studying AQA English Literature for GCSE is beneficial because it deepens students' understanding and appreciation of literary works from various genres and periods. It enhances critical thinking and analytical skills through the exploration of themes, characters, and stylistic elements. Additionally, the course fosters empathy and cultural awareness by exposing students to diverse perspectives and human experiences. It also improves writing and communication skills, preparing students for further education and various career paths.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

You will study a modern play, a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, a Shakespeare play, and poetry. The poetry is both an anthology collection and unseen poetry. You will look at the context for the texts, as well as the writer's intentions and the reader response. This will give you an appreciation of writing in different time periods, and an understanding of the impact on readers – both from history, and the present time.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

All are essay responses.

Paper 1: Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet) and 19<sup>th</sup> century novel (A Christmas Carol).

Paper 2: Modern play (An Inspector Calls) and poetry – both from an anthology (Power and Conflict), and unseen.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Ibrahim

English Literature GCSE cultivates a deep appreciation of classic and contemporary literature, enhancing students' analytical and interpretive skills. The course encourages critical thinking, empathy, and cultural awareness by exploring diverse themes and perspectives. Furthermore, it develops advanced writing and communication abilities, providing a strong foundation for further education and various career opportunities.





## MATHEMATICS

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** N/A – Core Subject

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a subject rich in problem solving skills, analytical thinking, and analysis. It is a highly prized qualification that is valued by employers and further education providers alike.

Mathematics, and the skills it develops, are key building blocks to develop deeper understanding of many aspects of our lives and the world – ranging from managing our personal finances to (at the highest level) understanding the nature of the universe.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

GCSE Mathematics has five distinct topic areas: Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Each topic is looked at through a mastery approach, developing fluency through modelling, variation, different representations, structural approaches and coherence with other areas of the subject. Problems range from simple recall type (such as solve  $3x + 2 = 14$ ) to deep problems involving topics from multiple areas of maths and other subjects.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is fully assessed by final examination. This comprises of three exam papers, each lasting 90 minutes. There is one non-calculator paper and two calculator ones. All areas of the course can be assessed on any paper – and some topics will be assessed on all three.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mr Ashworth

Maths is a key part of any curriculum, it will be required for further study at post 16, regardless of what subjects/courses you choose to embark on. During lessons, I am often asked “when will I need to know this”? The simple truth is I cannot begin to imagine how a topic can be of use in your future – all I can say is how I may have used it previously. And, sometimes, I have just learnt a piece of mathematics to see what I can do with it. As a subject, it is a huge sandbox – choc full of surprises and interesting relationships that are fascinating to discover and see how they can be used in new ways!



## SCIENCE (COMBINED)

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** N/A – Core Subject

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Science?

Science is able to inform problem solving and decision making in many areas of life. Everything we know about the universe, from how trees reproduce to what an atom is made up of, is the result of scientific research and experiment. Science helps our understanding of the world around us.

Double science students receive two combined GCSEs. The results will be based on your overall performance across all three sciences

### What Will I Study? Course Content

#### Biology

- learn all about cell biology and organisation within plants and animals
- discover how infection occurs and your body's response to fighting off infections
- learn about inheritance and debate whether a person's traits are a result of nature or their environment

#### Chemistry

- learn all about how we went from Aristotle's earth, water, wind and fire to the detailed nuclear model of the atom
- be able to identify unknown substances through experimentation and calculate the concentrations of solutions
- look at human impacts on the world and how energy is transferred during chemical reactions

#### Physics

- have the opportunity to look at energy transfers and understand how electricity moves between components
- look at particles and how they behave which will lead into radioactivity where you will discover different types of radiation to understand both the dangers and uses.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

There are two papers each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each paper is 1hr 15 minutes long.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Betts

This course is suitable for all students.



## SCIENCE (TRIPLE)

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** N/A – Core Subject

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Triple Science?

Triple Science gives you all the benefits of the combined award but allows you a more in depth investigation into certain topics leading to three GCSE qualifications (in Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Given that triple science goes in more depth, it makes the transition from GCSE to post-16 science subjects easier.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

As well as studying all of the content covered in combined science you will also dive into more topics such as:

- Space - discover the history of stars, evidence that the universe is expanding and how satellites orbit our planet
- how your body regulates and how you maintain your core temperature
- how the brain, the eye and the kidney work and debate the benefits and risks of transplants and dialysis
- how the transition elements are used as catalysts and that nanoparticle properties differ to those of their larger counterparts
- the structures of molecules such as alcohols and carboxylic acids and see how they react with each other to form polymers to create materials you use every day

### How Will I Be Assessed?

There are two papers each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each paper is 1hr 45 minutes long.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Betts

This course is recommended for students who want to go onto study Science post-16.



## BUSINESS STUDIES

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Business Studies?

Would you like to set up your own business and be a successful entrepreneur? Would you like to be a manager in a business? Have you got an interest in the news and how the government and their policies affect your everyday life? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then Business Studies is the GCSE for you. You will learn about how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, you will learn about planning, finance, marketing and economics and discover some of the methods and techniques used to analyse an organisation's performance.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

We want our students to develop as independent learners and encourage them to use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts from opinions, form arguments and make informed judgements. The Business Studies course gives students a thorough understanding of the dynamic environment in which businesses operate and the factors that influence business activity and behaviour. Throughout all of the Business Studies course students will develop a range of transferrable skills. As well as an ability to apply theory to the real world, students will also develop skills in analysing numerical information and drawing conclusions from it.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

#### **Compulsory paper 1**

1 hour 45 minutes worth 50% of grade. Multiple choice, short and extended answers (90 marks) – questions will relate to the content that appears in Theme 1 and students may draw on underpinning knowledge and understanding developed through Theme 2 as appropriate.

#### **Compulsory paper 2**

1 hour 45 minutes worth 50% of grade. Multiple choice, short and extended answers (90 marks) – questions will relate to the content that appears in Theme 2 and students may draw on underpinning knowledge and understanding developed through Theme 1 as appropriate.

Both externally assessed by Edexcel.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mr Hemraj

This GCSE course opens exciting opportunities to study business at A-level in our Sixth Form. We live in a corporate world and the markets operate around us constantly. Because of this, business is a universal subject. There are few, if any, careers for which an understanding of business would not be of some benefit. Business Studies is also a key to attaining highly paid and challenging roles in all levels of management. Students are recommended to have a keen interest in the world of business and world-wide current affairs. Whatever your interests are, with the knowledge from Business, students can commercialise their passions.



## ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING

**Course Type:** Cambridge National

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** Distinction\* (Level 2) – Pass (Level 1)



### Why Study Enterprise and Marketing?

The Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing is aimed at students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in enterprise and marketing. The course will equip you with sound specialist knowledge and skills for everyday use.

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations. This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the Business and Enterprise sector. The qualification contains practical activities that build on theoretical knowledge so that you can put your learning into practice while also developing valuable transferable skills.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

This qualification has three mandatory units:

- Unit R067: Enterprise and Marketing Concepts. In this unit, you will learn about the key factors to consider and activities that need to happen to operate a successful small start-up business such as what makes a product financially viable and factors to consider when starting up and running an enterprise.
- Unit R068: Design a Business Proposal. In this unit, you will identify a customer profile for a specific product, complete market research to generate product design ideas, and use financial calculations to propose a pricing strategy and determine the viability of their product proposal.
- Unit R069: Market and Pitch a Business Proposal. In this unit, you will develop pitching skills to be able to pitch your business proposal to an external audience. Finally, you will review your pitching skills and business proposal using self-assessment and feedback gathered.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Unit R067: Enterprise and Marketing Concepts – This is assessed by an exam.

Unit R068: Design a Business Proposal – This is assessed by a set assignment.

Unit R069: Market and Pitch a Business Proposal – This is assessed by a set assignment.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mr Cooper

Industry and commerce dominates our society and almost all career choices will benefit from having an understanding as to how businesses operate. Within that field, new business start-ups and the world of marketing have become increasingly important areas. This course is aimed at students who are interested in learning about new business start-ups as part of the business sector, and how to go about marketing products or services, and businesses to customers. The course is designed as a hands-on vocational course and students will both design their marketing strategy and need to publicly pitch this to an audience as part of their assessment, so developing real world skills.



## CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Citizenship Studies?

Would you like to know more about the world around you and your place within it? Do you have an interest in the news and how the government, law and society affect your everyday life? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then Citizenship Studies is the GCSE for you. You will learn about how the world around you makes links with almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, you will learn about parliamentary democracy, law and justice, power and influence. In addition, you will have the opportunity to plan, deliver and measure that impact of your own citizenship action project whilst learning how to work effectively in a team.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

We want our students to develop as independent learners and encourage them to use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts from opinions, form arguments and reach an informed understanding of the world and society around them. The Citizenship Studies course gives students a thorough understanding of the dynamic environment in which we all live. Throughout the course, students will develop a range of transferrable skills for the future. As well as an ability to apply theory to the real world, students will also develop skills in analysing a range of information sources and drawing conclusions from it alongside taking an active role in a project.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

#### Compulsory Paper 1

1 hour 45 minutes worth 50% of grade. Questions are focused around three themes:

*Theme A - Living together in the UK*

*Theme B - Democracy at work in the UK*

*Theme C - Law and justice*

For each theme you will answer both shorter questions and then have a choice of more extended answers to show off your understanding.

#### Compulsory Paper 2

1 hour 45 minutes worth 50% of grade. Section A of this paper is focused on your Citizenship Action Project that you will have completed during the course. Section B then allows you to explore the actions of others and explore the theme of *Power and influence* before answering a comprehensive final Section C which links all your understanding together in one answer.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager

This GCSE course opens exciting opportunities to study subjects such as Law and Politics in the future whilst linking well with Sociology, History and Geography at Key Stage 4. Citizenship really is a universal subject that is ideal for anyone who has an interest in how the world works and what individuals can do to be active, valuable members of a society. There are few, if any, careers for which an understanding of Citizenship would not be of some benefit!



## COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a modern, fascinating subject. The world depends on computers. In this GCSE you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges. You will develop problem solving skills, learn through exploration, solve real-world problems, and open the door to your future career.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

You will understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing, and debugging programs. You will be given an opportunity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically, and critically. You will understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems, understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society, and apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

#### J277/01: Computer Systems

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

#### J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

### How Will I Be Assessed?

J277/01: Computer systems. 1 hour 30 written exam (50%)

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming – 1 hour 30 written exam (50%)

Practical programming – all students will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during the course of study. Students may draw on content from both components when engaged in programming.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mr Crane

This course is aimed at students who are interested in learning about how computers work, are connected together to communicate and problem solving. You should enjoy working your way through new, exciting, and often challenging problems. This course is excellent if you wish to go on and study or work in the field of Software Development, Networking, Medicine, App Development and Cyber Security.



## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Design & Technology?

Design and Technology is an exciting and engaging GCSE that covers a broad range of design and technology specialisms. The subject has links with many industries and will teach useful transferable skills that can be used in everyday life. Design and Technology develops your research and analytical skills and offers the opportunity to learn about a range of materials and their properties in a practical, hands-on way. This diverse subject will expose you to design culture where you will look at design history, fashion, architecture and more.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

You will learn to work with a range of materials, tools and techniques, whilst completing work for a given design brief. You will complete design and make projects and learn the relevant theory as you go along. The projects are based around woods, metals, plastics and textiles. You will learn about designers' brands and design history. The course also includes an element of applied maths which is assessed by themed questions during the exam.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

#### Substantial design and make task NEA

- 30–35 hours approx.
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

#### Exam

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager – Ms Boyden

GCSE Design and Technology offers students the opportunity to engage with tools, processes and materials not experienced during Key Stage 3 and to develop foundation knowledge, skills and understanding to a higher level. This subject promotes creativity and communication skills such as drawing, modelling and presentation techniques. Theory and coursework generate a significant workload that requires initiative, organisation and personal management skills. This course provides a relevant pathway to A Level Product Design for interested students which establishes a suitable foundation for those that wish to study design-based degrees and follow careers in this sector.





## FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9 - 1



### Why Study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Everyone needs to eat, so this course will teach you a range of practical skills to be able to prepare and cook a variety of meals. This course will also teach you about the different food groups and how to adapt recipes and eat healthily.

It investigates the factors influencing food choice and why people may have special dietary requirements or choose to eat differently.

It will teach you about how your food is grown, harvested and processed before it reaches the shops.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

There are 6 topic areas to be covered during your 2-year course.

Topics include:

- Food preparation
- Food safety
- Food science
- Food choices
- Food provenance - Where your food comes from and how it is grown
- Food practical skills and techniques

### How Will I Be Assessed?

- There are 2 written projects - worth 50% of the overall GCSE
- There is a 3 hour cooking practical exam, based on one of the projects
- There will be a written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes - worth 50% of the overall GCSE

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager – Ms Boyden

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition offers a wide variety of activities and cooking experiences. It is a chance for you to build on the skills acquired during Key Stage 3 with a higher level of skill and knowledge. The NEA tasks challenge your creativity and level of understanding. The exam is also very accessible, and our pupils do very well on this. This year we have also planned in a range of trips, visits, and speakers to enhance understanding.



## GEOGRAPHY

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Geography?

Studying Geography gives students the opportunity to travel the world via the classroom, learning about both natural and social sciences along the way. They will understand how geography impacts everyday life and discover the key opportunities and challenges facing the world. Students will also develop academic and life skills from writing, teamwork, and communication to analytical skills. The content is based on real-life case studies to enable students of all abilities to learn and develop. AQA (2022)

### What Will I Study? Course Content

The course is split into three sections, covering Physical Geography, Human Geography and Geographical Skills. The topics that are covered in each section can be seen below:

**Living with the Physical Environment:** Challenge of Natural Hazards (tectonics, weather, and climate change), The Living World (ecosystems, tropical rainforest, and hot deserts), and Physical Landscapes in the UK (rivers and coasts).

**Challenges in the Human Environment:** Urban Challenges (Rio de Janeiro vs. London), The Changing Economic World (Brazil vs. UK), and The Challenge of Resource Management (food, water and energy in the UK, and global energy security).

**Geographical Applications:** Issue evaluation (decision making exercise) and fieldwork (contrasting physical and human environments).

Students are given the opportunity to complete two days of compulsory fieldwork. Recent trips have been to Cambridge and Hunstanton.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

**Paper 1:** Living with the Physical Environment. 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks, 35% of the GCSE.

**Paper 2:** Challenges in the Human Environment. 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks, 35% of the GCSE.

**Paper 3:** Geographical Applications. 1 hour 30 minutes, 76 marks. 30% of the GCSE.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mr Redfearn

Geography is a subject that is increasing in popularity due to the balance between building knowledge and gaining skills which increase employability. The subject tackles relevant issues, allowing you to become active citizens of the world. The Royal Geographical Society reinforce this by stating Geographer employment rates outperform other disciplines, including Politics, Physics and History. Graduate earnings outperform other subjects, including Technology, Biosciences and History.



## HISTORY

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study History?

History is a fascinating subject that helps students to make sense of the past, and to understand the world that we live in today. The GCSE curriculum will build upon the skills and knowledge that students have gained in Key Stage 3, while providing the opportunity to study topics in far greater depth.

A GCSE in History is widely respected amongst employers and universities alike, providing pathways to good careers and higher education. It also helps to build important skills such as critical thinking, which is very important in the current climate.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

Students will study the following units:

- Medicine in Britain 1250-Present, featuring a case study on medicine on the Western Front during World War One
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-88
- The American West, 1835-76
- The USA, 1954-75: Conflict at home and abroad, covering the Civil Rights movement and US involvement in the Vietnam War

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Students will receive regular exam style assessments throughout the course – normally about one a half term. This will help to give students feedback, and also give an idea of their likely final grade.

The final grade students receive will be entirely composed from three exams they will sit at the end of Year 11, covering the units above. These exams are as follows:

- Paper 1 – Medicine and WW1 – 1 hour 15 minutes
- Paper 2 – Anglo-Saxon and Norman England & American West – 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 3 – USA 1954-75 – 1 hour 20 minutes

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mr Tomlin

Those who don't study History are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past. Those who do study History, are doomed to watch while others repeat the mistakes of the past.

History is a great subject for those with enquiring minds who are prepared to work hard to get a qualification that will open many doors in the future.



## FRENCH

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study French?

Enjoyment – languages are fun, increase brain capacity, improve memory and reduce the risk of dementia!

Work or travel abroad & understand new cultures.

Language skills are important for many companies and other organisations. Learning a language enhances your communication skills, improves your decision making and multi-tasking.

Language GCSEs are regarded as a highly valuable qualification by colleges and universities. Some universities make GCSE Modern Foreign Languages an admission requirement to all their courses. People who can speak another language earn up to 20% more than people who do not.

Understand your own language and culture more.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

**People and Lifestyle:** Identity and relationships, Healthy living & lifestyle, Education and work

**Popular Culture:** Free time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Celebrity Culture

**Communication and the world around us:** Travel and tourism, Media and technology, The environment and where people live

### How Will I Be Assessed?

**Listening – 25%** Exam in Summer of Year 11. Understanding and responding to spoken extracts in English. Transcribing short spoken extracts in French

**Speaking – 25%** Speaking exam conducted at school in Summer of Year 11. 1 x role play, 1 x read aloud task and 1 x talk about visual stimuli.

**Reading – 25%** Exam in Summer of Year 11. Understanding and responding to written texts in English. Translating from French into English

**Writing – 25%** Writing exam in Summer of Year 11. 5 sentences in response to a photo, 2 short texts with bullet points, a longer text with an open ended structure. Translating from English into French.

**All elements of the exam are either foundation or higher tier.**

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Miss Haskell

This course is aimed at students who are interested in being able to communicate with others, enjoy learning about the culture and traditions of other countries, understanding how languages work and can be manipulated and solving problems. This course is excellent if you are thinking of continuing your education post GCSE or working in a business or office setting, for example Teacher, Translator, Customer Services Manager, Interpreter, Marketing Manager, Retail Manager, Buyer, Journalist, Police Officer, Travel Guide, Charity worker, Lawyer, Travel Agent, Flight Attendant, Editor, Salesman or travelling for work or pleasure.



## GERMAN

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study German?

Enjoyment – languages are fun, increase brain capacity, improve memory and reduce the risk of dementia!

Work or travel abroad & understand new cultures.

Language skills are important for many companies and other organisations. Learning a language enhances your communication skills, improves your decision making and multi-tasking.

Language GCSEs are regarded as a highly valuable qualification by colleges and universities. Some universities make GCSE Modern Foreign Languages an admission requirement to all their courses. People who can speak another language earn up to 20% more than people who do not.

Understand your own language and culture more.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

**People and Lifestyle:** Identity and relationships, Healthy living & lifestyle, Education and work

**Popular Culture:** Free time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Celebrity Culture

**Communication and the world around us:** Travel and tourism, Media and technology, The environment and where people live

### How Will I Be Assessed?

**Listening – 25%** Exam in Summer of Year 11. Understanding and responding to spoken extracts in English. Transcribing short spoken extracts in German

**Speaking – 25%** Speaking exam conducted at school in Summer of Year 11. 1 x role play, 1 x read aloud task and 1 x talk about visual stimuli.

**Reading – 25%** Exam in Summer of Year 11. Understanding and responding to written texts in English. Translating from German into English


**Writing – 25%** Writing exam in Summer of Year 11. 5 sentences in response to a photo, 2 short texts with bullet points, a longer text with an open ended structure. Translating from English into German.

**All elements of the exam are either foundation or higher tier.**

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Miss Haskell

This course is aimed at students who are interested in being able to communicate with others, enjoy learning about the culture and traditions of other countries, understanding how languages work and can be manipulated and solving problems. This course is excellent if you are thinking of continuing your education post GCSE or working in a business or office setting, for example Teacher, Translator, Customer Services Manager, Interpreter, Marketing Manager, Retail Manager, Buyer, Journalist, Police Officer, Travel Guide, Charity worker, Lawyer, Travel Agent, Flight Attendant, Editor, Salesman or travelling for work or pleasure.



<b>ART</b>	
<b>Course Type:</b> GCSE	
<b>Exam Board:</b> AQA	
<b>Number of Option Choices:</b> 1	
<b>Grading System:</b> 1-9	
<b>Why Study Art?</b>	
<p>There are hundreds of art-based careers and opportunities open to successful art students a list of which is available from the art department. The internet has opened opportunities for artists that were not previously available and artists can reach a worldwide market at the touch of a button. Studying art can help to develop critical thinking and the ability to interpret the world around us. These are transferrable skills that can also improve your performance in other subjects and can be used in future careers. Art encourages self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity. Creativity contributes to wellbeing and improved health and happiness – for the right student art can create an outlet for releasing the pressures of studying as well as those of everyday life. Art has a large coursework element which will develop your independent learning skills.</p>	
<b>What Will I Study? Course Content</b>	
<p>The first term of the course is a series of skills sessions to get students to work in a range of media using different techniques. You will continue skills sessions after the first term whilst also working on a theme of your own choosing. This independent work will become the main part of your portfolio submission. You will look at a range of artists and learn to use sources to inspire the development and communication of your ideas and intentions. You will experiment with and refine the use of visual and tactile elements such as colour, line, form, tone, texture, shape, composition, rhythm, scale, structure and surface. You will learn about and use a range of artistic processes and apply them to your independent project. There is a considerable written element to the GCSE Art where you will continue to develop your evaluation and analysis of your own and other's work.</p>	
<b>How Will I Be Assessed?</b>	
<p><b>Unit 1:</b> Portfolio / 60% of Grade  <b>Unit 2:</b> Externally Set Assignment / 40% of Grade  <i>(includes preparatory work and 10 hours of Supervised Time)</i></p> <p>There are four assessment objectives for units 1 and 2 and each assessment objective is 25% each.</p>	
<b>Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Campbell</b>	
<p>Students who love to draw, paint and create would be well suited to Art GCSE. If you draw and paint in your own time for enjoyment then you would be well suited to GCSE Art. You should have a good grasp of the elements of art (<i>Line, tone, form, texture etc</i>) and be able to demonstrate these in your Year 9 classwork. Art GCSE would be suited to someone wanting to go on to a creative career such as an animator, architect, fashion designer, jewellery designer, ceramicist, illustrator, tattooist or fine artist.</p>	



## DANCE

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 1- 9



### Why Study Dance?

The course will appeal to anyone who wants to understand the workings of dance. Students can study dance set works and learn to perform, choreograph, and appreciate dance in performance. At this level, dance is also a powerful way of developing creativity, teamwork, confidence, critical thinking, self-discipline, physical health and the ability to work collaboratively.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

#### Unit 1: Performance:

- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately 1 minute in duration).
- Duet/trio performance (3 minutes in a dance which is a maximum of 5 minutes in duration).

#### Unit 1: Choreography:

- Solo or group choreography – a solo (2 to 2 ½ minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (3 to 3 ½ minutes).
- Internally marked and externally moderated.

#### Unit 2: Dance Appreciation:

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.
- Critical appreciation of own work.
- Critical appreciation of professional works

### How Will I Be Assessed?

#### Unit 1: Performance and Choreography

- Performance: 30% of GCSE 40 marks
- Choreography: 30% of GCSE 40 marks

#### Unit 2: Dance Appreciation

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of GCSE 80 marks

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Miss Wray

This course is aimed at students who have a passion for dance and love to perform. Students who love to create their own dance and who appreciate all forms of dance. This course is an excellent choice if you like to be creative and practical within lessons. Careers available to students from this course are: Dancer, Choreographer, Film, Director, Dance Photographer, Dance Videographer, Marketing for Dance, Fitness Instructor, Teacher, Costume Designer, Physical Therapist and many more.



## DRAMA

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 1-9



### Why Study Drama?

Studying drama requires emotional maturity, and gives students a deep understanding of themselves. Because it involves using not only their voices and bodies, but also emotions and creativity, it is able to engender a deep sense of self-esteem. In the arts, students learn to work both independently and collaboratively to construct meanings, produce works, and respond to and value others' contributions. They learn to use imagination to engage with unexpected outcomes and to explore multiple solutions. It is also a subject that requires a great deal of peer trust, and so it plays an important role in teaching communication, listening and empathy skills. Studying drama is demanding, and teaches students that success only comes from hard work.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

#### Devising Drama:

Learners will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively, and create their own devised drama.

#### Presenting and Performing Texts:

Learners will develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text.

#### Performance and Response:

Learners will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama. Learners will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

- 30% Devising Drama - 60 Marks (Non-exam assessment)
- 30% Presenting and Performing Texts - 60 Marks (Non-exam assessment) – Visiting Examination
- 40% Performance and Response - 80 Marks (Exam assessment) – 1 hour 30 minutes written paper

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Miss Wray

This course is aimed at students who have a passion for drama and love to perform. Students who love to create their own theatre and who appreciate all forms of theatre. This course is an excellent choice if you like to be creative and practical within lessons. Careers available to students from this course are: Actor, Broadcast Presenter, Drama therapist, Runner/ Broadcaster for TV/ Film, Theatre Director, Theatre Stage Manager, Choreographer, Costume Designer, Light and Sound Designer/ Technician and many more.





## SPORT STUDIES

**Course Type:** Cambridge National

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** Distinction\* (Level 2) –  
Pass (Level 1)



### Why Study Sport Studies?

Sport is growing ever more popular in society and this course enables you to gain the sporting knowledge and practical development that will give you an opportunity to further your interest and understanding of different aspects in sport. It will give you an opportunity to understand the wider context of sport in society and the grounding that will allow you to open doors to a future career in sport.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

The examination unit which is 40% of the final grade will be theory based and taught in the classroom. You will learn about issues which affect the participation in sport, the role of sport in promoting values, the implications of hosting a major sporting event, the role the National Governing Bodies play in the development of sport and the use of technology in sport. The practical unit is both practical based and taught in a classroom and is worth 40% of the final grade. You will be assessed in two sports based on your performance and how you apply practice methods to improve. As a leader you will also organise, plan and lead a sports activity session and review your progress doing this. The final unit will be Sport and the Media. This is 20% of the final grade and is assessed by a set coursework assignment.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is a mixture of examination and coursework which allows students to gain their best grades under both types of assessment.

The exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes and is worth 70 marks.

It has three Sections which have a mixture of multiple choice, short, medium and long answer questions. There is also context-based scenario questions which need response analysis and evaluation.

The coursework is a mixture of practical assessment and written evaluation and the set assignment is written coursework.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager – Miss Tyson

This course is aimed at students who are interested in sport and are keen to develop their sporting ability as well as learn about the theory behind sport. Students therefore need to understand that there is a significant amount of classroom based lessons and the practical lessons include drills and analysis of performance in order to improve technique. It would suit students who are willing to work hard at both the practical and theory parts of the course and those who also have an understanding of sport outside of school. It would be advantageous if you play sport for a club.



## PSYCHOLOGY

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour which attempts to understand, create treatment and raise awareness of different behaviours. Psychology offers students an exciting opportunity to study different theories and research studies about human behaviour. Students are encouraged to think critically about the theories and research, whilst being able to apply their knowledge to wider society. Over the two year course students will develop an array of skills such as analytical thinking, awareness of other viewpoints, extended writing, and real world application of knowledge.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

Students study seven topics over the two years. In September we begin with Research Methods in which we explore the different approaches taken to conducting research and the reasons psychologists may choose key elements within this. From January and into Year 11 students will study criminal psychology, developmental psychology, psychological problems, sleep and dreaming, memory and social influence. All topics require students to know two theories and two pieces of research, as well as the key terms and application from the topic.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

There are two exams at the end of the GCSE course, both are 90 marks over 90 minutes and are equally worth 50% of the GCSE.

Paper 1: Criminal Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Psychological Problems, Research Methods.

Paper 2: Sleep and Dreaming, Memory, Social Influence, Research Methods.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager – Mr Nichols

This course is aimed at students who wish to further understand human behaviour and develop an analytical approach to explaining behaviour. Students will benefit from having an interest in the world we live in, being empathetic towards others who may be different to them and be open to viewpoints which may differ to their own.



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics)

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why study Religious Studies (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics)?

It is vital to be able to understand other people and other points of view if we want to build a cohesive society and a harmonious world. Understanding religious belief is a massively important part of this, and understanding how people of different beliefs live their lives enables us to come to a deeper understanding of the complexity of our world.

*“Religious Studies is probably the one subject I’ve used most since leaving school....It’s not just about Christianity; It was learning about the way different people live. Going to India and Pakistan and having an understanding of that helped me no end.” (Freddie Flintoff – England Cricketer.)*

### What Will I Study? Course Content

Christianity: Beliefs and Practices

- Marriage and family
- Issues of life and death

Islam: Beliefs and Practices

- War and peace
- Punishment and justice

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Final examinations:

- Two hour paper on Christianity
- Two hour paper on Islam

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager – Mr Harvey

This course is accessible to all students, it is interesting and practical. If you enjoy debates, discussion, current affairs, finding out about people, their culture, interests and beliefs, then this is the course for you.

Employers, colleges and universities all value students who have developed these skills of analysis becoming critical thinkers who are confident and articulate in presenting different points of view.

If you plan to work with people, and most of us do, then Religious Studies will help you work with others who are different to yourself. This course is especially valued by service industries, police force, medical services, social work, government work, journalism, media, business – the list goes on!



## SOCIOLOGY

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** Eduqas (WJEC)

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies. Unifying the study of these diverse subjects of study is sociology's purpose of understanding how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

#### Unit 1 – Understanding Social Processes:

Students will look at topics such as socialisation, norms, values and subcultures. They will also look at what happens to children who have not been socialised/feral children and consider the nature vs nurture debate.

**The Family** – Students will study debates around types of family such as 'Are lone parent families positive or negative for society?'

**Education** – Students will study different sociological theories surrounding education and answer such questions as 'Why do girls do better in education?'

#### Unit 2 – Understanding Social Structures:

**Inequalities** – Who is to blame for the inequality in society, the rich or the poor? Is it fair that eight people own as much as the bottom 50% of the world's wealth? We look at Sociological theory in order to explain some of the debates within the modern world including Marxism, Feminism and Functionalism.

**Crime and Deviance** – Students will study crime and why people commit crime, looking at explanations for behaviour. Students will look at different types of crime and again, seek to explain the reasons behind behaviour in society.

**Research Methods** – Students will complete a topic on research methods understanding how research is carried out and how to evaluate this.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Unit 1: 1hr 45 minutes written exam

Unit 2: 1 hr 45 minutes written exam

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Cutler

This course is aimed at students who are interested in learning about how society works. You should enjoy writing essays looking at different viewpoints.

