

# Sir Harry Smith

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### **YEAR 9 GCSE GUIDED CHOICES STUDENT INFORMATION BOOKLET 2022-23**

## 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

Oct 5th - Guided Choices Assembly
Oct 14th - Choices Deadline
Jan 6th - Guided Choices Booklets released
Jan 12th - Guided Choices Subject Information Evening
Jan 16th - Year 9 Progress Checks
Feb 1st - Year 9 Parents' Evening
Feb 22nd - Guided Choices Form Deadline
May - Guided Choices Subjects Confirmed



## MAKING THE RIGHT GUIDED CHOICES

There is a vast range of guidance and support available about potential choices. This booklet is a starting point, but please also approach your form tutor as a first point of contact. 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 an 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 appropriately. For most, it is important to maintain a well-balanced curriculum that gives opportunities for different styles of learning and study and broad progression routes post 16.

With our professional experience in supporting students through this stage in their education, and also with some restrictions (e.g. class sizes/clashes), it may result in some selections being adjusted.



## 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 languages 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 on **Pathway One** will automatically be taking the group of EBacc subjects. Students on **Pathway Two** can choose French, or German for one of their three choices if they wish and by doing so will then 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 are then 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
Computing	GCSE Computer Science
Design & Technology	GCSE Design and Technology
	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Health & Social Care and Child Development	Level 2 Cambridge National in Child Development
Humanities	GCSE Geography
	GCSE History
Modern Foreign Languages	GCSE French
	GCSE German
Creative Arts	GCSE Art
	GCSE Dance
	GCSE Drama
	GCSE Music
Physical Education	Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport Studies
Social Sciences	GCSE Sociology
	GCSE Religious Studies
	GCSE Psychology



## 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-exam 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?

English Language is an interesting and exciting subject. Everything we do stems from communication and the ability to communicate through reading, writing and speaking. Through English Language, you will learn how to read critically, write for different audiences and purposes and speak in a formal situation.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

Both fiction and non-fiction texts, all unseen.

You will read both fiction and non-fiction texts to explore the language and structure. You will make comparisons between texts, and you will explore them to be able to respond critically. You will also learn to write in both fiction and non-fiction styles, and for different audiences and purposes. This will include creative, descriptive writing, articles, speeches, letters etc

You will also complete a Spoken Language Endorsement – a presentation about a topic of interest.

### 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 based text with a specific viewpoint for a specific audience and purpose.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Middleton

This course is exciting and interesting, allowing you to write in a creative way for different audiences and purposes. It allows you to explore a range of modern and 19<sup>th</sup> century extracts and texts for the unseen reading.



## ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

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

**Grading System:** 9-1



### Why Study English Literature?

English Literature is an exciting subject which allows you to explore different texts, and to explore them in detail. You will study a range of texts, and these will allow you to read texts from different centuries, and to explore the contextual features which were so important to the writers.

### 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 and 19<sup>th</sup> century novel.

Paper 2: Modern play and poetry – both from an anthology, and unseen.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Middleton

The English Literature course allows for studying a wide range of texts. It allows you to explore the cultural heritage and contextual details. It allows you to consider the impact of the texts, and become critical readers of them. This also supports your skills in English Language.



## 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 & 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 bodies 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 to 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 30 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 30 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 Potter

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.



## 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.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Component 1: Computer systems – 1 hour 30 written examination (50%)

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming – 1 hour 30 written examination (50%)

Practical programming – all students will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task 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 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, Systems Analysis, Web/App Development or 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 offers links into many industries and will teach you a range of transferable skills that you will use in everyday life. Design and Technology develops your research and analytical skills. It offers you the opportunity to learn about materials and their properties in a practical, hands-on way. This diverse subject will expose you to design culture, looking 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, learning 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 includes an element of applied maths that will be assessed within the exam in year 11.

### 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 - Mrs Searle

GCSE Design & Technology is a highly enjoyable course that is a joy to teach. It offers students the opportunity to engage with tools, processes and materials they would not have used in Key Stage 3. This subject develops creativity and drawing skills. Theory and coursework generates a significant workload that requires initiative, organisation and personal management skills. This course leads well into A Level Product Design and students leaving the Sixth Form progress on to design based degrees.



## FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9 - 1



### Why Study Food Preparation & 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 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 mins. – 50%

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Searle

GCSE Food Preparation & 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.



## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**Course Type:** OCR Cambridge National

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** Pass 1 – Distinction \*2



### Why Study Child Development?

This qualification is for learners aged 14-16 who are interested in working with children. Students develop knowledge and practical skills in the development of a child aged 0-5 years. The final grade is made up from 3 Unit marks, so it isn't reliant on a single exam at the end of the course. Students who study Child Development and achieve a Level 2 Pass or higher have the option of studying Level 3 BTEC National in Health and Social Care or Level 3 BTEC National in Children's Play, Learning and Development in Sixth Form here at Sir Harry Smith Community College. Students who have followed these courses have gone on to study Primary Teaching, Nursing, Midwifery, Health and Social Care and Social Work at University. Some students choose the apprenticeship route to continue studying in Nursing and Child Care.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

- Unit R057: Health and well-being for child development. This is assessed by an exam. In this unit you will learn about the importance of pre-conception health and reproduction, antenatal care and preparation for birth.
- Unit R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years – this is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to create a safe environment for children from birth to five years in childcare settings.
- Unit R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn the physical, intellectual and social developmental norms for children from one to five years.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

R057 – External exam sat at the end of Year 11, 40% of final grade.

R058 – Exam board set NEA completed Autumn Term of Year 10 for submission to the exam board in January of Year 10, 30% of final grade.

R059 – Exam board set NEA completed Autumn Term of Year 11 for submission to the exam board in January of Year 11, 30% of final grade

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Miss Ward

Working as a childcare professional needs an understanding of the care needs for children of all ages. This qualification will help you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills that will allow you to help and support those in your care, starting from pre-conception through to children aged birth to five years. It is important that childcare settings provide a safe and nurturing environment to care for babies and young children, as well as providing activities and support to help them develop. This qualification will allow you to gain knowledge and skills to help provide such an environment for children in your care



## 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 15 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 15 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

**Identity & culture:** Me, my family & friends. Relationships & lifestyle choices – health, Travel & tourism

**Local, national, international & global areas of interest:** Home, town & local area, Environment, Social issues

**Current & future study & employment:** My studies, school, future plans & employment

### How Will I Be Assessed?

**Listening – 25%** Exam in Summer of Year 11. Questions and answers in English & French.

**Speaking – 25%** Speaking exam conducted at school in Summer of Year 11. 1 role play, 1 discussion about a photo card and some general questions lasting up to 12 minutes.

**Reading – 25%** Exam in Summer of Year 11. Questions and answers in English & French. Translation from French into English.

**Writing – 25%** Writing exam in Summer of Year 11. Message in response to a photo, a short text with bullet points, a longer text structures and open ended and translation 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

**Identity & culture:** Me, my family & friends. Relationships & lifestyle choices – health, Travel & tourism

**Local, national, international & global areas of interest:** Home, town & local area, Environment, Social issues

**Current & future study & employment:** My studies, school, future plans & employment

### How Will I Be Assessed?

**Listening – 25%** Exam in Summer of Year 11. Questions and answers in English & German.

**Speaking – 25%** Speaking exam conducted at school in Summer of Year 11. 1 role play, 1 discussion about a photo card and some general questions lasting up to 12 minutes.

**Reading – 25%** Exam in Summer of Year 11. Questions and answers in English & German. Translation from German into English.

**Writing – 25%** Writing exam in Summer of Year 11. Message in response to a photo, a short text with bullet points, a longer text structures and open ended and translation 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.



## MUSIC

**Course Type:** Music

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 1-9



### Why Study GCSE Music?

As well as being a subject which brings fulfilment, enjoyment, confidence and academic achievement; studying music also brings many other benefits. There are lots of transferable skills that you will also learn. GCSE Music involves written, analytical, practical and social/personal skills such as: independent learning, performance and presentation skills, analytical and essay-writing skills, perseverance, listening skills, creativity and self-expression, co-ordination, mathematical ability, improves reading and comprehension skills, and it improves memory skills.

### What Will I Study? Course Content

You will learn approaches to performing, developing musical ideas, compositional techniques, technical control and coherence, methods of notating composition, musical elements, instrumental music, vocal music, music for stage and screen, musical fusions, listening, analysis and appraising.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

#### **Unit 1: Performing (30% - Controlled assignment: internally assessed, externally moderated)**

You learn and perform two pieces of music. You will be assessed on: accuracy, fluency, technical control, expression.

#### **Unit 2: Composing (30% - Controlled assignment: internally assessed, externally moderated)**

You will be expected to compose two new pieces of music. Your compositions will be assessed on: developing your musical ideas, technical control of the instruments you choose to compose for, composing with musical coherence. A recording of your composition along with a copy of your written score will be sent off for moderation by the exam board.

#### **Unit 3: Listening and Appraising (40% - Written exam paper with audio CD)**

You will complete a listening exam and written paper which lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes. In section A of the exam you will listen to some of the set works you have studied and will have to answer questions on these pieces. You will also hear a piece of music you are unfamiliar with and will have to identify musical features about this piece. To finish section A you will complete a dictation task. In section B you will complete a longer written task, comparing two pieces.

### Recommendation from the music teachers - Mrs Freeman and Mrs Gray

- Already have some performing ability on an instrument or can sing well
- Enjoy performing on an instrument or enjoy singing
- Are committed to practicing on their instrument/voice at home
- Enjoy creating their own music (composing music)
- Enjoy listening to and learning about a variety of different types of music, including classical, popular and world music.
- Are willing to attend an extra-curricular music club to help with their ensemble performing skills.



## SPORT STUDIES

**Course Type:** OCR Cambridge National

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** Pass 1 – Distinction \*2



### 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 choose sport as a course in the sixth form also opening the door 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 30% 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 either Sport and the Media or Awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous activities. This is 30% 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 - Mrs Hunt

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.



## 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 minute written exam

Unit 2: 1 hr 45 minute 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.



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics)

**Course Type:** GCSE

**Exam Board:** Eduqas/WJEC

**Number of Option Choices:** 1

**Grading System:** 9-1



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

We live in a diverse society: understanding religious ideas, beliefs and outlooks, means we can have a better understanding of the world we live in. Religious Studies develops critical thinking, evaluation and empathy. It is a subject that asks the big questions in life!

*"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

Philosophy and Ethics:

- Relationships
- Life and Death
- Good and Evil
- Human Rights

Christianity: Beliefs and Practices

Islam: Beliefs and Practices

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Final examinations:

- Two hour paper on Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World.
- One hour paper on Christian Beliefs, Teachings and Practices.
- One hour paper on Islam: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices.

### Recommendation from the Curriculum Manager - Mrs Nicholls

This course is accessible to all studies, 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. 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!



## 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.

