HESSLE HIGH SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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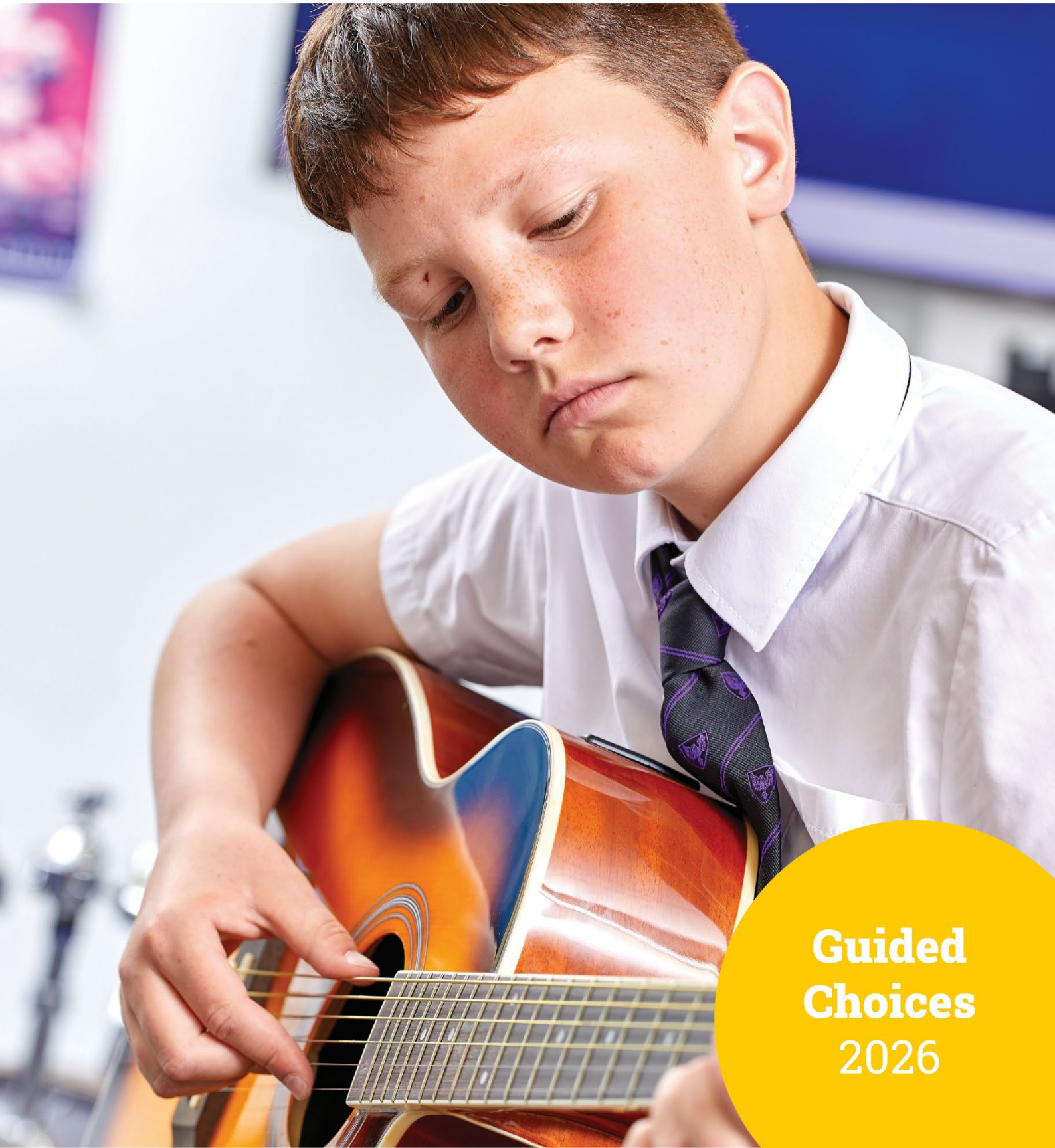

Guided Choices 2026

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Introduction

Dear Student,

Around this time in Year 9, you get to consider some of the subjects you will take in Years 10 and 11 in a process we now call “Guided choices”. By this we mean that a member of staff will give you professional advice on some potential subjects to consider, as well as more information about the subjects themselves if needed.

There will be lots of support and advice to help you in making these decisions and to guide you through the process. You may have already considered your future career, or you may just be starting out on this journey. We also strongly recommend that you talk to your parents or carers as well, as it is a big decision to make.

Alongside studying core subjects that all students must take - English, Maths, Science, RS and PE - our new approach opens up a greater range of subjects in the main school for you to consider. We hope you find this booklet useful in making your decision and remember, use all the expertise you have around you both in school and at home to make your decision. You will be writing down the subjects you took and your results for decades to come.

Jim Nixon, Headteacher

The Importance of Key Stage 4 Guided Choices

Key Stage 4 is the name given to the period of education during Years 10 and 11. This will be the first opportunity that you have to consider some of the subjects you would like to continue studying at school. During Key Stage 4, you will gain formal qualifications which will prepare you for your future pathways. These qualifications will provide you with greater choices when you leave school.

A range of qualifications are available to ensure that you achieve the best possible grades to match individual levels of ability and aptitude. Although there is some flexibility in terms of the choice of courses followed at Key Stage 4, the Department for Education insists that all students follow a compulsory core of key subjects. This includes English, Maths, Science (Double or Separate Award) and aspects of Religious Studies, Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC), Careers, RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and Health Education. As a result, these particular subjects are automatically added to your timetable as a lesson or as part of our pastoral delivery or focus days.

Further changes have also been made by the Department for Education to ensure that you have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, consisting of at least 8 subjects.

In addition, when you sit your GCSEs, almost all subjects will be examined in full at the end of Year 11. Most courses will also contain a high level of external assessment. An increased emphasis on literacy skills mean that most examinations will carry marks for extended written answers containing the correct spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Our curriculum aligns itself with local, regional and national skills, with students leaving school to follow careers in various sectors. The structure of the Key Stage 4 curriculum will ensure that every student follows a broad and balanced curriculum, whilst allowing some element of choice that is suited to individual aptitudes and needs.

The range of qualifications available at Key Stage 4

There are two main qualification routes open to you at Key Stage 4, referred to as GCSEs and vocational (outlined below):

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) Qualifications

GCSEs are linear courses, which means that you are assessed through a series of final examinations taken at the end of the course. There may be some internal controlled assessment tasks in certain subjects.

Vocational Qualifications

These alternative qualifications are considered to be equivalent to GCSE courses in terms of their value. Vocational courses are mainly assessed through in-class assignments at regular intervals with an examination at the end of the course. A 'Level 2 Pass' is equivalent to a GCSE at Grade 4, although higher equivalent grades can be accessed by achieving Merit or Distinction awards. A 'Level 1', BTEC qualification is equivalent to a Grade 3.

Demand and availability

We aim to confirm your provisional Key Stage 4 study programme as soon as we have processed all the pathway forms.

We cannot guarantee all of your first choices, some students may have to study their reserve subject. For this reason, it is important that you make your reserve choices carefully. In the event of an over-subscribed course, we base our decision on a number of factors, including previous attitude to learning in the subject and commitment to subject requirements (for example, bringing ingredients to a food lesson or PE kit to a sports lesson). Your previous approach to school life will always be considered.

The English Baccalaureate

Although the EBacc Award is not a qualification in itself, the award recognises those students who have secured a Grade 4 or better across five core academic subjects – English, Maths, Science, Humanities (either History or Geography) and a Modern Foreign Language. The subjects included are designed to enable all students to have the opportunity to study a broad and balanced academic curriculum.

We would, therefore, recommend that if you have aspirations to follow a predominantly academic route at Higher Education (University) level, you choose options which will enable you to achieve the EBacc Award. We have indicated this to you in our recommendation. For you to have the opportunity to achieve the EBacc Award, you must select two of the EBacc subjects as part of the options process.

Guided Choices

All students at Key Stage 4 will study the following core subjects:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science (either combined or separate)
- RS (non-examined)
- PE (non-examined)

Students will follow one of three pathway routes:

Green // Orange // Blue

Each student will be placed on a pathway after careful consideration. The designated pathway has been designed to ensure that students receive the best curriculum depending on their individual needs and is both broad and balanced.

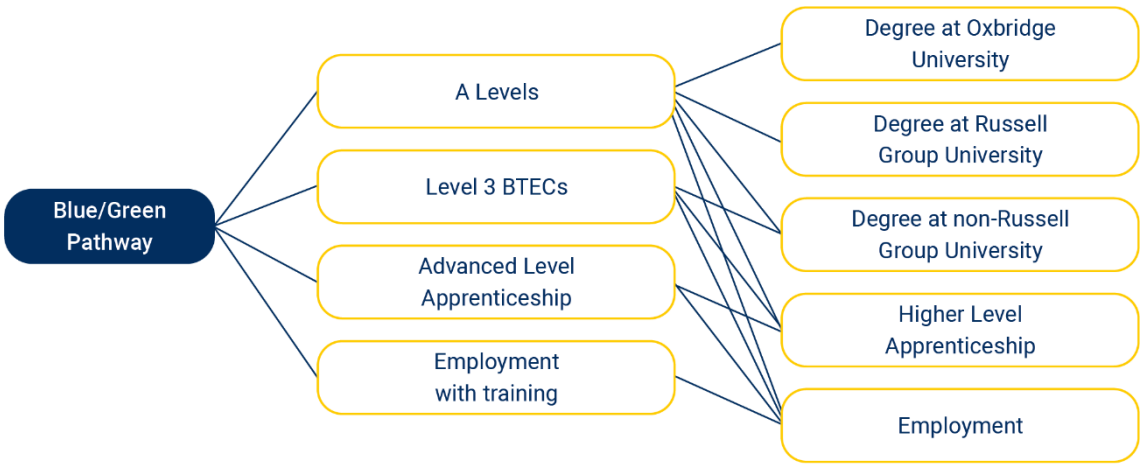
The choice of pathway also ensures that students are capable of making exceptional progress and have the appropriate level of challenge.

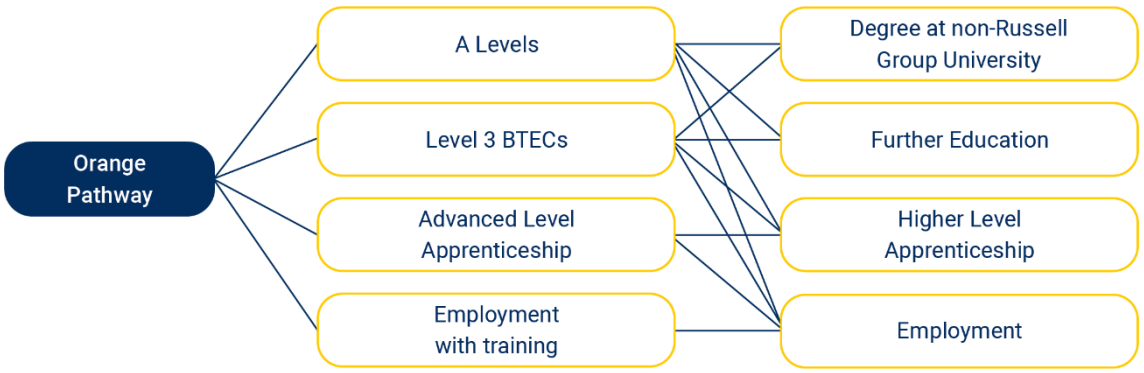
All students have different strengths and weaknesses, and a more technical pathway may provide some students with a greater degree of challenge and support. These routes have been designed to ensure that we continue to provide 'the right student with the right course'.

Progression Routes

The diagram below shows the possible progression routes for students who choose each of the different Key Stage 4 pathways.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only meant as an indicator or possible routes.





Advice for Students

Enjoyment:

Choose subjects that you think you will enjoy. This means researching content closely and asking teachers and others who know you well for advice.

Aptitude:

Choose subjects which you think you will be good at – you will be more likely to enjoy them as well. Think about why you might enjoy particular subjects and how committed you feel.

Prospects:

Think seriously about future ambitions. If you already have a university course in mind, check entry requirements for specific courses at university and work back from there.

Balance:

If you have no idea what you want to do in the future make sure that your options provide a broad and balanced programme.

Independence:

Don't choose on the basis of what friends are doing or on the basis of favourite teachers. Make your own decisions.

Where Next After Year 11?

THE CONSORTIUM
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

All young people now need to stay in learning (i.e. training or education) until they are eighteen years old.

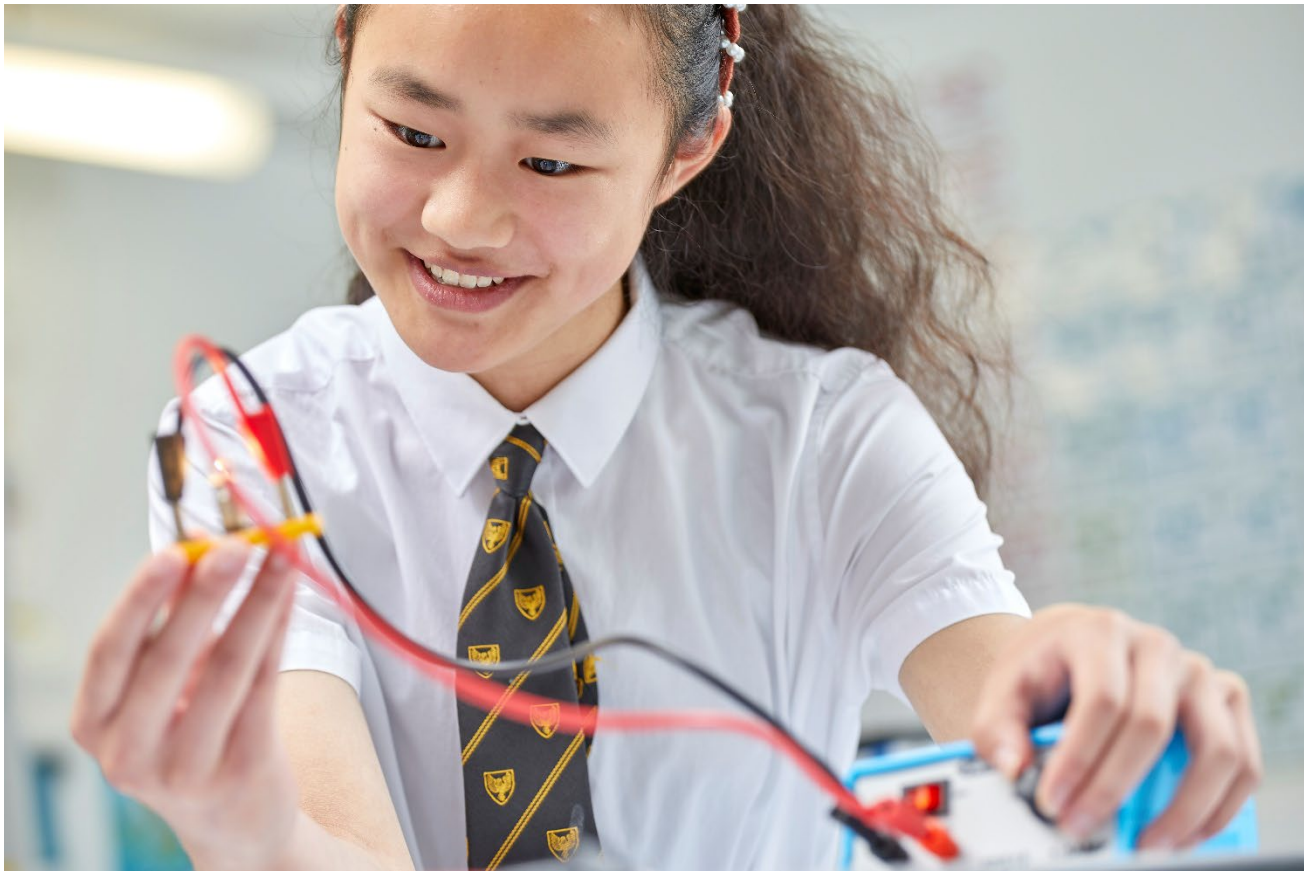
You must choose from one of the following options:

- Full time education, such as school Sixth Form, a further education or Sixth Form College or a training provider.
- Apprenticeships or other work-based learning routes.
- Employment with training.

At 16, you could consider continuing your full-time education at The Consortium Sixth Form College, which offers a wide range of courses, academic, applied and vocational. This provides an appropriate route for higher education at University or higher or degree apprenticeships.

We realise for some however, that this might not be the right choice, especially if you are seeking intermediate/advanced apprenticeships or work-based learning.

We are committed to offering quality Information, Advice and Guidance, so all students in Year 11 will have the opportunity to have a careers interview with a careers specialist to assist them with these major decisions. You will also have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from Further Education establishments and Apprenticeship providers.



Key Dates

As this is such an important decision, we have planned a number of events to support students and parents/carers in these choices.

Our aim is to have every student studying courses in which they have a high degree of interest and the potential to achieve highly.

Once everyone has submitted their option choices, we will begin the process of fitting the students' choices into a timetable.

Whilst we always try to ensure that students are given their first choice of courses, this cannot be guaranteed.

- **January 2026** - Year 9 Workshops
- **February 2026** – Student Subject Fair
- **24 February** - Year 9 Information Evening
- **5 March** - Year 9 Progress Evening
- **6 March** - Deadline for preferences
- **9 September** - Start of Key Stage 4 Courses

Core
Subjects

English Language/Literature
(GCSE)

Course Content

In GCSE English Language and Literature, we will look at writing and understanding fiction and non-fiction, we will offer a wide variety of texts for study, we will teach key skills for communicating through writing and speech and we will encourage an appreciation of literature.

The English Language curriculum covers: understanding and producing non-fiction texts, speaking and listening, and understanding spoken and written texts and writing creatively.

The English Literature curriculum covers: exploring modern and literacy heritage texts, poetry, Shakespeare and modern drama.

Skills

You will gain the following skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening, analysis, forming and supporting and opinion, empathy, independent thinking and teamwork.

Assessment

English Language – 2 Exams
English Literature – 2 Exams

For further details see:
Mrs O'Loughlin

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Teacher (including English as an Additional Language abroad), Social Media Manager, Writer, Marketing, Publishing, Advertising

Mathematics
(GCSE)

Course Content

Mathematics is important as it helps learners develop confidence in a wide range of methods and techniques.

The GCSE course has increased focus on applying maths in context, problem-solving and reasoning.

The mathematics curriculum covers:

Statistics and Number which includes data handling and probability.

Number and Algebra which includes the number system, expressions and equations and sequences and functions.

Geometry and Algebra which includes geometrical reasoning and calculation, mensuration, graphical methods and solving problems with algebra.

Skills

There are many skills that can be gained throughout the course, such as: numeracy, logical thought and argument, analysis and investigation.

Assessment

There are 3 exams – 2 calculator papers and 1 non-calculator paper at the end of the course.

This is offered in two tiers of entry: Higher and Foundation. Learners will take these papers at the end of Key Stage 4 in Year 11 to enable them to achieve the highest grade possible.

For further details see:
Mrs Meir

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Accountancy, Engineering, Financial Services, Research, Data Scientist, Teacher

Combined Science
(GCSE)

Course Content

Combined Science is taught by specialist teachers in the three areas of Science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

All three areas cover models, theories and assumptions made about the natural world and beyond whilst linking this to your future careers. Science involves practical activities, theory development and analysis of results from scientific methods.

Biology includes cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

Chemistry includes atomic structure and periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis and chemistry of the atmosphere.

Physics includes energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism.

Skills

Throughout the course you will gain a critical approach to scientific methods, application of knowledge and understanding of how science works and its role in society, whilst also understanding how science could benefit you in the future, from careers to health care.

Assessment

There are six exams in total, two from each area (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). The grades from these exams are then combined to form a combined science grade. Each exam is out of 70 marks and lasts 1hr 15mins.

For further details see:
Mr Boyes

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Teacher, Forensic Scientist, Veterinarian, Medical Doctor, Environmental Scientist, Research Scientist

Separate Science
(GCSE)

Course Content

Separate Science is taught by specialist teachers in the three areas of science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

All three areas cover models, theories and assumptions made about the natural world and beyond whilst linking this to your future careers. Science involves practical activities, theory development and analysis of results from scientific methods. This course is suitable if you are thinking of taking science at A level or thinking of going to study at university.

Biology includes cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

Chemistry includes atomic structure and periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis and chemistry of the atmosphere.

Physics includes energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism and space.

You will cover more content compared to Combined Science and at a greater depth.

Skills

Throughout the course you will gain a critical approach to scientific methods, application of knowledge and understanding of how science works and its role in society, whilst also understanding how science could benefit you in the future, from careers to health care.

Assessment

There are six exams in total, two from each area of science.

Your grades for each contribute to give you a grade for that specialism (e.g. two Biology exams contribute to your Biology GCSE grade). Each exam is out of 100 marks and lasts for 1hr 45mins.

For further details see:
Mr Boyes

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Teacher, Forensic Scientist, Research Scientist, Architect, Software Engineer, Electric Engineer, Biotechnologist, Microbiologist, Conservation Officer, Physiotherapist

Options
Subjects

Acting

(BTEC Technical Award Level 1/2)

Course Content

This BTEC course looks at the acting performance process as well as the final product from the perspective of director, designer, deviser and performer.

Studying performing arts improves your performance skills by allowing you to perform your own work and recreate written text. It will also develop your imagination and your ability to create drama.

Throughout the course we will: explore performing arts, devise dramas from a stimulus, perform scripted plays, develop skills and techniques in the performing arts, develop our understanding of playwrights and practitioners and respond to a brief.

Skills

This will develop the following skills: communication, planning and selecting, critical skills, through evaluation, analysis and reflection and performance.

Assessment

You will be assessed on three components, two internally and one externally.

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are confident and willing to perform in front of an audience, interested in working in the performing arts industry, creative, a performer, public speaking or to develop confidence.

For further details see:
Miss Lewis

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Actor/Actress, Director, Script Writer, Casting Director, Drama/Music Therapist, Teacher

Business Studies
(AQA)

Course Content

In GCSE Business Studies, learners will investigate how entrepreneurs such as Steve Jobs and Lord Alan Sugar became so successful in business.

You will gain insight into what makes a brand successful and understand how external influences such as competition, the economy and legislation effect the actions of a business.

The curriculum spans six modules:

Business in the Real World looks at how businesses are started and how to set up and run a successful business.

Influences on Business focuses on external influence interest and exchange rates, the impact of competition and inflation and consumer spending.

Operations covers product methods and the impact of technology on production.

Human Resources looks at recruitment, selection and motivation of employees.

Marketing focuses on the marketing mix, marketing research, advertising and promotion.

Finance covers how businesses make a profit or break even.

Skills

The course will help learners gain entrepreneurial skills, resilience, creative thinking, leadership and risk taking.

Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hour 45-minute exam
Paper 2: 1 hour 45-minute exam

Suitable if you are

GCSE Business Studies is suitable if you want to be an entrepreneur, are interested in how businesses become successful or thinking of a career in Law, Business or Finance.

For further details see:
Mrs Smith

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Marketing Manager, Business Development, Investment Banker, Project Manager, Accountant, Entrepreneur, Brand Manager

Child Development
(BTEC Tech Award)

Course Content

BTEC Child Development gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of children's development and care needs.

It will also provide you with skills and knowledge that are relevant and transferable to other settings and other courses and lastly allow you to balance the demands of an exam with written assignments.

Throughout the course we will cover: patterns of child development, promoting children's development through play, the principles of Early Year's practice, promoting children's positive behaviour, Health and Safety in Early Year's settings, making healthy food choices for children and introduction to working in the Early Year's sector.

Skills

The course will help learners improve on their communication, supportiveness, team work, organisation, creativity and patience.

Assessment

Assessment on this course consists of a mixture of exams and assignments. The units are assessed through a range of written assignments including reports, leaflets and presentations.

Suitable if you are

The course is suitable if you are interested in child development, respectful towards and value children, organised and hardworking and willing to work independently.

For further details see:
Mrs Taylor

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Early Years Practitioner, Social Worker, Youth Worker, Primary School Teacher

Computer Science
(OCR)

Course Content

GCSE Computer Science investigates how programs are written, software engineering and network communications.

It includes mathematical computations and the logical puzzles used to decode patterns.

The course does require a good understanding of Maths and Science. Learners will be assessed on suitability for the course.

The curriculum spans three modules:

- **computer systems** – systems architecture, memory/storage, wired/wireless systems, network topologies, protocols and layers, system security, system software and ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns
- **computational thinking, algorithms and** programming – algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of languages
- **develop programming skills** – programming techniques, agile and other development models

Skills

Throughout the course you will have opportunities to develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies and an understanding of how they work, acquire and apply technical skills and understanding of the use of algorithms in computer systems to solve problems.

Assessment

Examination 1: 50%
Examination 2: 50%

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are good at maths and science, thinking of studying computer science at university or interested in understanding how systems work the way they do.

For further details see:
Mr Scott/Miss Wheeler

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Web Designer/Developer, Game Designer/Developer, Digital Marketing, Programmer, Software Engineer, Cyber Security

Dance

(BTEC Technical Award Level 1/2)

Course Content

This BTEC course focuses on education and training for those who intend to work in the Dance industry as it provides opportunity for learners to study a range of dance styles and develop both technical and interpretive skills.

The course also develops your imagination and your ability to choreograph. You will explore and analyse professional repertoire and the processes used to create performance.

The course content spans across a wide range of content, including: exploring Performing Arts (Dance) – understanding choreographers and practitioners; developing skills and techniques in dance; perform a piece of existing repertoire; responding to a brief – choreographing dance from a stimulus.

Skills

The skills gained throughout the course include: Choreographic, technical skills (Jazz, Contemporary, Ballet, Commercial/Street), performance skills, personal management, critical skills, teamwork and developing through planning, analysis, reflection and evaluation.

Assessment

You will be assessed on three components, two internally and one externally.

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are confident and willing to perform in front of an audience, interested in working in the Performing Arts (Dance) industry, creative and enjoy choreographing dance movements, interested in exploring assorted styles of dance and developing skills and techniques, committed to the Performing Arts and willing to attend rehearsals. Previous experience in dance is not essential, however learners are required to have skills in co-ordination and the confidence to perform.

For further details see:
Miss Lewis

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Arts Administrator, Choreographer, Community Arts Worker,
Dance Movement Psychotherapist, Dancer, Personal Trainer, Theatre Director

Digital Information Technology
(BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2)

Course Content

The BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology allows you to investigate the use of Technology in society today.

This course investigates the use of graphical user interfaces on platforms such as your mobile phone, tablets, games consoles, home devices and computers. Also covers IT in data analysis and the impact of IT on individuals, society and businesses.

Throughout the Digital Information Technology course learners will: explore user interface design and development principles, investigate how to use project planning techniques, develop a dashboard using manipulation tools, explore how modern information technology is evolving.

Skills

You will develop skills such as:
Designing user interfaces, manipulation of data, how to use a range of platforms and an understanding of how different technologies can affect and impact our lives.

Assessment

Component 1: PSA (Pearson Set Assignments) – internal – Exploring User Interface Design Principles and project planning techniques (internally assessed)
Design and create a user interface for a given brief.

Component 2: 36 PSA (Pearson Set Assignments) – Analyse data and make recommendations, Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data (internally assessed).

Component 3: 48 GLH (Guided Learning Hours) – Effective Digital Working Practices (externally assessed). Investigating the impact of IT on businesses, individuals and society.

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are interested in ICT, have a passion for technology or are looking for a future in an ICT industry.

For further details see:
Mrs Smith

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Data Scientist, Software Engineer, User Experience Designer, Systems Analyst, IT Security Specialist, Web Developer, Project Manager, IT Technical

Engineering Manufacture
(Cambridge National)

Course Content

Cambridge Nationals are exciting, practical vocational qualifications that can help build your future.

Cambridge Nationals will inspire and help you develop real-world skills through practical learning and help you get ready for your next steps whether that's A levels or apprenticeships.

The Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the engineering, manufacturing, process and control sectors.

The qualification is the equivalent in value to a GCSE and contains both practical and theoretical elements. As part of the Cambridge National, you will cover the different types of manufacturing processes, the materials that can be used and what other factors need to be considered.

You will be required to select and safely use equipment and machinery to complete to manufacture a one-off product.

Throughout the course you will use a range of hand tools and manual machines and gain knowledge of how to manufacture in large quantities, using CAD packages and computer-controlled machinery.

Skills

The course will enable you to develop a range of skills to help you succeed not only in the workplace but in other subjects too. These skills include problem solving, leadership, planning, teamwork and creative thinking. No matter what you progress on to the skills you'll learn will help prepare you for the future.

Assessment

Theoretical Content: 40% External Exam Component

NEA (Non-exam assessment): 60% comprising of Manufacturing a one-off product and Manufacturing in quantity.

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are interested in engineering, manufacturing, a good problem solver and being a team player.

For further details see:
Mr Wilkinson

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Manufacturing Industries, Construction

Fine Art
(GCSE)

Course Content

Fine Art gives you the opportunity to express yourself and personalise your work, it will develop a wide range of creative practical 2D/3D skills.

You will explore current, exciting design work and it teaches you to see where the roots of modern art have come from. The course also gives you the chance to work with artists and visit inspirational places.

The course spans 3 main themes:

- **Landscapes** - we look at the iPad paintings of David Hockney – with a trip to Salts Mill to see the work up close and personal.
- **Portraits** looks at discovering how different artists have produced portraits using a variety of materials and techniques.
- **External Assignment** which requires independent development of ideas and techniques in preparation for a 10hr practical exam.

Skills

You will gain skills in investigation, research, experimentation, fine detailed drawing and painting, presentation, independence and written analysis of work.

Assessment

Examination: Exam paper, launch in January
Portfolio of work culminating with 10hr exam=40%
Portfolio of work: one full project = 60%

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are skilful at drawing and painting, creative, inquisitive, interested in changing the norm, challenging conventions and finding meaning in everything, considering a career in the art industry. Learners must be committed to independent work outside the classroom and achieving a Grade 3.5 at the end of Year 9 in Art.

For further details see:
Miss Lewis

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Theatre Set Design, Interior Design, Illustration, Photography, Printing

Food Preparation & Nutrition
(GCSE)

Course Content

Food Preparation & Nutrition is a fresh and exciting GCSE course.

It will offer you the chance to be creative with a range of ingredients and cooking techniques/skills, develop specialist knowledge of nutrition, food traditions, food science and kitchen safety, give you the opportunity to make connections between theory and practice to apply in preparation and cooking.

The course is split into theory and practical topics. The theory topics include food, nutrition and health, food science, food safety, food choice, food provenance. The practical topics include design and development, investigation, trialling dishes, selecting and rejecting dishes.

Skills

You will gain skills in research, development and creativity.

Assessment

Theory/Exam: 50%
Non-exam Assessment: 50%

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are organised, innovative, interested in food theory, a problem solver, a team player, analytical, creative and efficient.

For further details see:
Mr Wilkinson

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Dietician, Head Chef, Food Scientist, Nutritionist, Personal Trainer, Quality Assurance Officer, Procurement Manager, Food Journalist/Critic

French
(GCSE)

Course Content

The GCSE French course is ideal for those who like learning languages and have an interest in culture.

It will develop communication and comprehension skills in French and improves literacy in English. French is also beneficial as it fits in with any other combination of GCSEs and widens your options for the future.

The curriculum will cover topics about your friends and family, where you live in comparison to France, school in comparison to French schools, work, holidays and travel, lifestyle and current affairs.

Skills

Throughout the course you will gain Literacy in English and French, social and communication skills, translation, logic and analysis.

Assessment

Speaking: 25%
Reading: 25%
Listening: 25%
Writing: 25%

Suitable if you are

You will be suitable for this course if you are a good communicator, interested in the world around you, different languages and cultures, a problem solver or considering a career in a related field.

French is to be offered in addition to GCSE Spanish for those of you on the pathway where French is core.

French will not be an option if you are not on this pathway.

For further details see:
Mrs Groak

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Law, Travel and Tourism, Development and Aid Agencies, Translating and Interpreting, International Business and Marketing, Sciences and Education, Interpreter, Political Risk Analyst, MFL Teacher, Translator, Diplomatic Service Officer, Tour Manager

Geography
(GCSE)

Course Content

GCSE Geography makes use of new contemporary case studies and themes in Geography at a range of local, national and international scales, provides you with the opportunity to investigate and discover themes in Geography in the UK and oversees through fieldwork and study and is delivered by dedicated subject specialists who are always available.

GCSE Geography is split into three distinct themes, Human and Physical Geography and fieldwork applications.

Challenges in the Human World – urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and resource management.

Living with the Physical Environment – the challenges of natural hazards, physical landscapes of the UK and the living world.

Geographical Applications – two pieces of primary fieldwork and investigation write up along with an issue evaluation exam.

Skills

Throughout the course, learners will gain skills such as; collaborative learning, field work skills, accuracy and analysis, investigation, questioning, organisation and problem solving.

Assessment

Challenges in the Human World – Exam 35%
Living with Physical Environment – Exam 35%
Geographical Applications – Exam 30%

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are accurate, analytical, inquisitive, organised.

For further details see:
Mrs Williamson

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Environmental Consultant, Surveyor, Volcanologist, Teacher, Landscape Architect, Town Planner, Analyst, NASA Researcher

Health and Social Care
(BTEC Tech Award)

Course Content

Health and Social Care covers human lifespan development, Health and Social Care values, effective communication in Health and Social Care, healthy living, social influence on Health and Well-being, promoting Health and Well-being.

The course will give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of Health and Social Care. It will provide you with skills and knowledge that are relevant and transferable to other settings and other courses. This course allows you to balance the demands of an exam with written assignments.

Skills

This course will improve learners' skills of communication, supportiveness, teamwork, organisation, creativity and patience.

Assessment

You are suitable for this course if you are interested in Health and Social Care, possessing effective communication skills, organised and hardworking, willing to work independently and in a team or considering a career in a form of health care.

For further details see:
Mrs Taylor

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Nurse, Social Worker, Counsellor, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Personal Trainer, Child Care Assistant

History
(GCSE)

Course Content

GCSE History will help learners to develop knowledge and understanding of how key events have shaped the world we live in today.

Module 1: will cover Medicine in Britain, 1250-present. In this module learners will examine the development of ideas about the causes of illness and how illness was treated and prevented. Learners will learn about how people, events and developments influenced medicine over time and make comparisons between different periods of History. This module will also include a study of how injuries were treated in the British sector of the Western Front during World War One.

Module 2: will cover Anglo Saxon and Norman England 1060-1088. In this British depth study learners will learn about how the Morman Conquest changed and shaped Medieval landscape in England. This will include learning about events leading up to the Battle of Hastings, how William the Conqueror established control of England and subsequent life in Norman England.

Module 3: will cover Superpower Relations and the Cold War. In this period study learners will learn about how ideology shaped relations between the USA and the USSR during the Cold War. This module will cover the origins of the Cold War, how crises impacted relations and the subsequent collapse of the USSR.

Module 4: will cover the USA, 1954-75 – Conflict at Home and Abroad. In this depth study learners will learn about the growth of the Civil Rights Movement in the USA and America's disastrous involvement in the Vietnam War.

Skills

At GCSE learners will develop skills addressing:

- Chronological understanding
- Source and interpretation analysis
- Organisation and communication skills
- Structuring extended pieces of writing

Assessment

Paper 1: Medicine Through Time (1hr 20mins) Essay and Source skills

Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England/Superpower Relations and the Cold War (1hr 50mins) Essay skills and understanding of cause and consequence

Paper 3: The USA (1hr 30mins) Essay and interpretation skills

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are ready for a real academic challenge, determined to work to succeed, interested in current affairs, interested in people and how our society has been shaped by the past.

For further details see:
Mr Fulton

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Archaeologist, Palaeontology, Teacher, Conservation Officer, Journalist, Solicitor

Music

(Edexcel GCSE 9-1)

Course Content

GCSE in Music supports you in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills including performing, composing and appraising.

The qualification encourages you to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities. It also supports the development of musical fluency and provides access to further study of music at AS and A level.

Skills

The course develops skills such as teamwork, collaboration, self-confidence, performance, critical listening, musical analysis and composition.

Assessment

Component 1: Performing 30%
Component 2: Composing 30%
Component 3: Appraising 40%

For further details see:
Mrs Webb

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Musician, Media Sound Technician (TV, Film, Theatre), Conductor, Composer, DJ, Music Producer, Music Therapist

Photography
(GCSE)

Course Content

GCSE Photography will develop your understanding of the creative, imaginative and practical skills for working in photography.

The course explores visual perception and visual literacy – this will craft an appreciation of the history of photography, through practical and critical responses.

Project 1: (Introductory History of Photography) Still Life Project – looking at the basics of photography, exploring camera techniques of the frame, composition, rule of thirds, vantage points and Photoshop editing.

Project 2: Trick Photography – exploring Photoshop and photo manipulation techniques.

Project 3: Portraits – conveying emotion, connections and feeling through portraiture.

Project 4: Abstract of Minimal – a mini project introducing conceptual photography.

Project 5: Externally Set Project – development of ideas and experimentation in preparation for 10hr practical exam.

Skills

Skills such as investigation, experimentation, independence, recording, presentation and analysis will be nurtured.

Assessment

Examination: Exam paper, launch in January – portfolio of work leading to 10hr exam = 40%
Portfolio of Work: 3 projects 60%

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you can work independently, have good theory writing skills, experiment with imagery, be competitive, question, are considering a career in a related field or are achieving a Grade 3.5 in Art at the end of Year 9. You will need access to your own camera in Year 11 for independent and personally motivated examination shoots.

For further details see:
Miss Lewis

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Fashion Photography, Advertising, Film and Television, Press Photographer or Journalist, Scientific Photography, Teaching.

Physical Education
(GCSE)

Course Content

GCSE Physical Education develops your knowledge and practical skills/rules in a range of team and individual activities.

It also examines the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance. Through taking the course, you will develop an understanding of how to live a healthy active lifestyle.

The course itself consists of assessment in three practical sporting activities, one analysis of performance activity, anatomy and physiology, movement analysis healthy active lifestyles, fitness and training, sport psychology and socio-cultural influences.

Skills

You will gain skills in performance as a participant in a range of sports, as well as analysis of performance of a sport involving observation and evaluation of skills.

Assessment

Examination: 60%
Practical Coursework: 30%
Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP): 10%

Suitable if you are

You would be suitable for this course if you are enthusiastic about sport, involved in sport outside of school, which to know more about the benefits of a healthy active lifestyle, want to develop knowledge and understanding of the human body or considering a future career in the sports industry.

For further details see:
Mrs Leckenby

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Personal Trainer, Sports Therapist, Physiotherapist, Exercise Physiologist, Sport and Exercise Psychologist, Sports Coach, Professional Sports Person

Religious Studies
(Full Course GCSE)

Course Content

GCSE Philosophy and Ethics explores religion and belief systems, reflects on fundamental questions, gives opportunities to develop your own opinions and promotes an understanding of diversity.

The curriculum covers three modules: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World, Study of Christianity and Study of a World Faith.

Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World includes issues of life and death, issues of relationships, issues of good and evil and issues of human rights.

Study of Christianity includes Christianity belief, practice and teachings.

Study of a World Faith includes Sikh belief, practice and teachings.

Skills

The course promotes empathy, discussion, expressing opinions and negotiation.

Assessment

Exam 1: 50%
Exam 2: 25%
Exam 3: 25%

Suitable if you are

Suitable if you are enquiring, a critical thinker, interested in tropical issues.

For further details see:
Mrs Hall

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Barrister, Teacher, Chaplain, Health Service Manager, Psychotherapist, Recruitment, Armed Forces

Resistant Materials

(GCSE)

Course Content

Is modern and relevant to give you the opportunity to learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes as well as established practices.

You will understand and apply the iterative design process as well as learn to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering your own and other's needs, wants and values.

The curriculum follows Core Technical Principles and Specialist Technical Principles.

The Core Technical Principles include new and emerging technologies, energy generation and storage, developments in new materials, systems approach to designing, mechanical devices, materials and their working properties.

The Specialist Technical Principles include selection of materials or components, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, scales of production, specialist techniques and processes, surface treatments and finishes.

You will be taught all the above principles through the following categories: papers and boards, timber-based materials, metal-based materials, polymers, textile-based materials, electronic and mechanical systems.

Skills

The course will enable you to gain skills such as designing, developing, modelling, problem-solving, specialist, technical and practical skills.

Assessment

Theoretical Content: 50% - External Exam Component
NEA (Non-Exam Assessment): 50% a NEA design and make project with a portfolio of evidence.

Suitable if you are

Creative, good at or enjoy problem solving, good at or enjoy the Design and Technology specialisms and you're considering a future career path in one of the specialities.

For further details see:
Mr Wilkinson

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Engineering, Resistant Materials, Textiles, Product Design, Architecture

Sociology
(GCSE)

Course Content

GCSE Sociology considers how human beings acquire and pass on their identity and culture from generation to generation.

It examines how families and education contribute to a person's identity and how social structures influence human behaviour. Learners will develop an understanding of inequality and will examine competing theories on the causes of inequality.

The course also includes a detailed study of crime and deviance. In the module of Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry, learners are encouraged to develop their understanding of the research process and will conduct their own sociological research.

In the module Social Processes learners will ask: How do societies pass ideas and beliefs down through the generations? What is the 'family' and how has this concept changed? What role does education play in shaping society? How do sociologists carry out their research?

In the module Social Structures learners will ask: How and why is society divided into different types of people? What are the causes of crime and deviant behaviour? Carry out practical research to investigate an issue.

Assessment

Component 1: 50% - Understanding Social Processes: Written Examination
Component 2: 50% - Understanding Social Structures: Written Examination

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable if you are interested in the world around you. Understanding people's lives, interested in social issues like crime, poverty, educational achievements and families.

For further details see:
Mr Hossack

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Social Worker, Police Officer, Prison Officer, Probation Officer, Special Needs Coordinator (SENDCO), Business and Marketing, The Law

Spanish
(GCSE)

Course Content

GCSE Spanish is ideal for learners who like learning languages and have an interest in culture.

The course develops communication and comprehension skills in Spanish and improves literacy in English. It's also beneficial as it fits in with any other combination of GCSEs and widens your options for the future.

The curriculum will cover topics about free time and hobbies (El tiempo libre), school life (Educación), the world of work (Trabajo), holidays and travel plans (Vacaciones), and health and healthy lifestyle (Salud).

Skills

Throughout the course you will gain literacy in English and Spanish, social and communication skills, transition, logic and analysis.

Assessment

Speaking: 25%
Reading: 25%
Listening: 25%
Writing: 25%

Suitable if you are

This course is suitable for you if you are a good communicator, interested in the world around you, different languages and cultures, a problem solver or if you're considering a career in a related field.

For further details see:
Mrs Groak

Possible Careers and Opportunities

Engineering, Resistant Materials, Textiles, Product Design, Architecture

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All information is correct at time of printing and is subject to change without notice.