



Meols Cop High School

YEAR 9 OPTIONS BOOKLET

Course Information and Advice



Brokering Aspirations

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

YEAR 9 OPTIONS



KEY STAGE 4 COURSES 2025

This booklet provides you with information about all of the Key Stage 4 courses that are available in school from September 2025. Each option course chosen this year covers 2 years' work and we expect that once they have chosen to study a subject, all students will complete the full course.

To our Students

This is a very important stage of your education. The decisions you make now could affect the opportunities open to you in the future, so read this information thoroughly, listen carefully to the subject teachers in ASPIRE and think carefully about the choices you are going to make. Also, ask for advice from those in a position to help you - your parents/carers, your teachers and the careers lead Mrs Webber and of course, your Learning Tutor - they all want the best for you.

When making your choices, be realistic. Here are some points to help you:

- *Do choose subjects that you are passionate about, that you enjoy and/or interest you;*
- *Do choose subjects because you like them and not because your friend has chosen them;*
- *Do seek advice and help if in any doubt.*

Finally, please remember that the choices you make will not always necessarily be possible. If too few students choose a subject then it will be unlikely to run and if a subject is oversubscribed then the numbers will need to be limited. However, we will do our very best to satisfy all choices.

For our Parents/Carers

Please help and encourage your child in making their choices and feel free to ask the school for help and advice. However, please remember that it is your child who has to do the studying for the next two years and choices made unwillingly may prove problematic. You might have high hopes of them becoming a fighter pilot, neurosurgeon or electrician, a beautician, hairdresser or nurse, a successful investment banker or even a teacher, but is this what they really want?

The options system:

The options system is intended to perform the following functions:

- *Provide some specialisation;*
- *Give students some ownership of their education;*
- *Create a sense of responsibility amongst students.*

Some subjects offered in the option choices are new to the students. Before any subject is chosen, students will have attended a series of assemblies delivered by the leaders of each optional subject during ASPIRE time. They will need to carefully read the information contained in this booklet and talk to the relevant staff to make sure that they understand what the subject is about. They should be confident in their choices and their wish to study each selected subject for the next two years. Once allocated to a subject, other than in very exceptional circumstances, students will not be able to make any future changes to their selection. It is therefore of vital importance that the choices made at this stage are well informed and 'correct' for each student.

When completing the option preference form, students will have to provide a written justification for their choice. We expect that when selecting a subject to study, all students do so for a reason that is based on positive educational outcomes and not simply because it is what friends have chosen to study. These forms will be considered carefully by the Headteacher and the senior leadership team before students' choices are finalised and confirmed.

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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

This page outlines the structure of the curriculum for Year 10 students starting in September 2025. The pages that follow will then outline the courses in further detail to assist you in making your final choices.

1

All students will study the following subjects in Year 10 and 11:

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Science

These subjects will be assessed through GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11.

2

All students will pick one of the humanities subjects to study.
This is GCSE History or GCSE Geography.

3

All students will then choose 3 options from the following course choices:

GCSE Art and Design - Fine Art
GCSE Art and Design - Graphics

GCSE Business Studies

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Dance

GCSE Drama

Level 2 Creative Imedia

Level 1 /2 Award in Hospitality and
Catering

GCSE Geography ^

GCSE History ^

GCSE Design and Technology (Timbers & Plastics or
Textiles Technology)

BTEC Level 1/2 Music Practice / GCSE Music

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Spanish

Level 2 Cambridge Nationals Sports Studies

GCSE Triple Award Science*

^ Students can choose to study both of these subjects as part of their wider options choices.

All students will study the following subjects in Year 10 and 11:

Core Religious Education
Personal Social and Health Education (ASPIRE programme)
Core Physical Education

*Students wishing to study Triple Award Science will be taken into consideration on an individual basis owing to the specific demands of the course

CORE SUBJECT OFFER

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GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



1

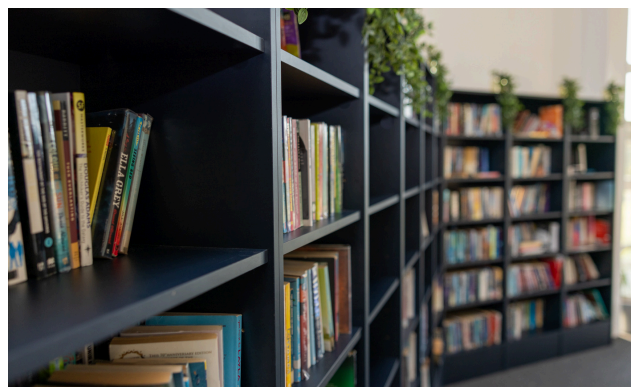
What will I study?

Paper 1: Fiction reading and creative writing.

Paper 2: Non-fiction reading and transactional writing.
Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language. This involves presenting information and ideas to an audience.

How will I learn?

While studying English Language you will be expected to work both independently and as part of a group. Lessons will involve regular discussions and opportunities to feedback as a method of developing knowledge and understanding. Learning time will be dedicated to practicing and developing the key reading and creative writing skills based on a range of engaging resources.



How will I be assessed?

100% Examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% (analyse a fiction passage and write either a description or a narrative).

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% (analyse and compare two non-fiction texts and write a transactional text).

Spoken Language: will be assessed through a presentation and will be graded using pass, merit or distinction.

What can I achieve?

GCSE English Language (Grades 9 – 1).

What skills do I need to be successful?

To be successful in GCSE English Language you will need to employ a variety of different analytical and creative skills. You will need to use these skills to read and respond critically to a range of creative texts. You will also need to demonstrate your ability to create your own original and creative texts, employing ambitious vocabulary and a wide range of linguistic and stylistic features to engage your audience.

What next?

'A' Levels in subjects such as English Language and Media Studies. Also, English Language is a valuable qualification that is required in both the employment market and as a prerequisite for most further studies.

CORE SUBJECT OFFER

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GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



What will I study?

Paper 1: Shakespearean play: Macbeth and the 19th century novel: A Christmas Carol

Paper 2: Post-1914 Prose/Drama: An Inspector Calls (Priestley), The Poetry Anthology: Power and Conflict and Unseen Poetry.

How will I learn?

While studying English Literature you will be expected to work both independently and as part of a group. Lessons will focus on close reading and analysis of the specified texts, including exploring and annotating the texts themselves and unpicking the contexts in which they were written. Lessons involve regular opportunities for discussions and feedback and frequent opportunities to practice and develop the key analytical reading skills.

How will I be assessed?

100% Examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes 40%.

One essay question on Macbeth and one essay question on A Christmas Carol.

Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes 60%.

- One essay question on An Inspector Calls.
- One comparison question on poems from the AQA Power and Conflict anthology.
- Two questions on unseen poems, one of which involves comparison.
- Candidates are not permitted to take copies of the set texts into the examination.

What can I achieve?

GCSE English Language (Grades 9 – 1).

What skills do I need to be successful?

To be successful in GCSE English Literature you will need to employ a variety of different analytical reading skills. You will need to use these skills to read and respond critically to a range of challenging texts.

What next?

'A' Levels in subjects such as English Literature and careers in the media.



CORE SUBJECT OFFER

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MATHEMATICS



What will I study?

The Mathematics department follow the Edexcel GCSE specification. The new GCSE has a Foundation tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher tier (grades 4-9). The content is grouped into the topic areas of:

Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change, Geometry and Measures Probability & Statistics.

How will I learn?

All students are encouraged to take an active role in all lessons and given the opportunity to develop fluent knowledge, reason mathematically and apply techniques to solve problems. Lessons are interactive, involve discussion and we will also make use of the IT facilities in the maths department. We will complete weekly recall quizzes in class in order for you to practice key GCSE skills and strengthen your long-term memory. Home learning is also based on reinforcing what we have studied in class. We suggest a minimum of 1 hour extra study per week.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three question papers at the end of the GCSE course. Each exam paper is worth one third of the final grade and lasts for 90 minutes. Paper 1 is non-calculator and Papers 2 and 3 are calculator. Exam papers include a mixture of question styles from short one-mark questions to multi-step problems. We will complete a number of past GCSE examination papers throughout the course in order for you to gain an insight into how you will be assessed and prepare accordingly. We will also complete weekly recall quizzes in class in order to help strengthen your knowledge. There is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics.

What can I achieve?

GCSE Mathematics (Grades 9 – 1)

What skills do I need to be successful?

You will build on the mathematical skills and knowledge from KS3. You need to be both fluent in mathematical knowledge and possess the ability to reason and think mathematically. We will give you opportunities to develop these skills in every single maths lesson but you also need to be able to show resilience when posed with a difficult problem.

What next?

A-Level in Mathematics, Further Mathematics (GCSE grade 7 required), Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Accountancy. A post 16 qualification in Mathematics is a valuable qualification that is required in both the employment market and as a prerequisite for studying some University courses. GCSE Maths helps you build essential skills that you will use on a daily basis in all career paths including, Software Engineer, Game Designer, Beauty Therapist, Electrician, Biochemist, Doctor and Teacher. A mathematical background really does offer flexibility of career choice.



CORE SUBJECT OFFER

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GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE



What will I study?

In GCSE Combined Science you will study a range of topics including the biology of living things and the environment, chemical reactions and organic chemistry, forces, and energy. This GCSE includes several fundamental and traditional scientific concepts as well as covering exciting new applications that impact on modern life. There are 18 practical investigations that pupils are required to carry out within the course in addition to a number of practical skills they must master. This GCSE also incorporates significant mathematical content which is taught and applied throughout the course.



How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of tasks, which incorporate the over-arching key skills of recall and application, in which practical activities play an important role.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through written exams taken at the end of year 11. There are 6 papers: 2 biology, 2 chemistry and 2 physics, each being 1 hr 10 mins. The exams are graded 9-1 and you will achieve two grades for science as it is a double GCSE. Papers are offered at both higher and foundation tier.

What can I achieve?

Pupils will be awarded a 'double' GCSE grade between 9 and 1, to reflect the extensive amount of material that must be studied. These grades are linked to each other and awarded together so will be the same or consecutive number, e.g. 7,7 or 7,8 but not 8,6. In the higher tier the double grades available range between 9, 9 and 4, 4. In the foundation tier the double grades available range between 5, 5 and 1, 1.

What skills do I need to be successful?

You will need to have good practical, analytical and recall skills. Good levels of literacy and numeracy are essential.

What next?

Colleges will consider your grade in science as an entry requirement. You can also go on to advanced studies in the pure sciences: Physics, Chemistry and Biology or science related courses like Sports Science, Psychology, and Forensic Science.

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GCSE GEOGRAPHY



How will I learn?

Lessons will follow on from the structure you are used to at key stage 3, Beginning each lesson with a short review of previous learning. This will be followed by the introduction of new content through modelling, worked examples, guided student practice and various activities. Homework supports your learning and encourages independent learning skills, through 'Show My Homework.'. Field trips are an important part of geography at GCSE so you get to experience your learning outside the classroom making the vital connections between your new knowledge and the wider world.



We complete fieldtrips to Liverpool, Wales, the Holderness coast and there are also opportunities for international fieldtrips to Iceland, Sicily and the Bay of Naples.

What will I study?

Paper 1: The physical environment

Topic 1: The Changing landscapes of the UK

Topic 2: Weather hazards and Climate Change.

Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Paper 2: The human environment

Topic 4: Changing cities

Topic 5: Global Development

Topic 6: Resource Management

Paper 3: Geographical investigations

Topic 7: Fieldwork (Liverpool and River Alyn Wales)

Topic 8: UK Challenges

What skills do I need to be successful?

We will build on your geographical knowledge and skills from key stage 3. You will need basic knowledge of human and physical processes and the ability to form your own opinion on current global issues. We will give you continuous opportunities and support to develop these skills to become a successful geographer.

What next?

So many employers value the knowledge and skills that studying geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team, using new technologies and communication skills – and much more. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from the city planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities or retail.

Geography is a versatile subject and is classified as a science subject so can also be used if students are considering careers in various fields including pharmacy, medicine, veterinary science, town planning, architecture, development and many more.

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GCSE HISTORY



How will I learn?

The brilliant work you have done in Year 7, 8, and 9 has set you up for GCSE, providing you with the skills and knowledge that will be useful for the next 2 years. For example, your study of the trenches in Year 8 will help you when studying medical improvements during World War One and your study of William the Conqueror in Year 7 will help you when studying the Normanisation of England. The skills you have learnt at KS3 (sources, interpretations etc.) will aid you in your exam preparation, and extended writing.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 11, you will sit three full exams.

Paper 1: British Medicine Through Time: Case study of World War One Medicine

Paper 2: Anglo Saxon and Norman England & The American West

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany

Each paper contains different exam questions, that we will spend our time practising and mastering, so you will be fully prepared.

What can I achieve?

You will receive a GCSE in History (grades 9-1), which give you the skills of analysis, debate and interpretation. These are important and necessary for a full range of careers.

What skills do I need to be successful?

To be successful at GCSE, you will need to employ a variety of skills that you have been developing at KS3. You will be expected to be able to read and understand sources and interpretations, and use your contextual knowledge to support certain ideas. You will need to analyse the past, focusing on its importance, the consequences and development over time.

What next?

A Level History is a well respected and valuable qualification. It allows you study the past in more depth, as well as developing your skills from GCSE. The skills of research, interpretation and analysis are vital in numerous careers, including; journalism, engineering, historical conservation, politics, law, medicine, archaeology, and the Civil Service.



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GCSE ART AND DESIGN -
FINE ART
GRAPHIC DESIGN



What will I study?

There are two courses that you can choose when picking your options. These are Fine Art and Graphic Communication. In the Fine Art course, you will be taught to use a range of materials including observational drawing, painting, printmaking, graphics and digital art. You will learn the design process from taking a topic to researching, designing, making and evaluating it. Annotating your work will be an ongoing and vital part of this process. Within the Graphic Communication course, you will be taught a range of different communication techniques including advertising, printing, illustration, branding, multimedia and motion graphics. You will give consideration to audience, working to design briefs, working with a variety of materials and developing your digital and mixed media skills.

How will I learn?

You will have 2 units of work which make up the coursework and another unit which is called the 'externally set task' and this is like a small unit with an exam at the end.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on 4 different areas within each unit of work. These are called 'Assessment Objectives.' These are referred to as 'A.O.1, A.O.2, A.O.3 and A.O.4. They cover the 4 different areas of planning that are crucial to the process of answering any type of design brief or creating a piece of art work. The assessment objectives are as follows:

- A.O.1 Will assess your ability to record and analyse the work of artists and craftspeople.
- A.O.2 Will assess your ability to develop and refine your ideas.
- A.O.3 Record observations in any form e.g. photography, drawing and painting.
- A.O.4 Present a final outcome relating to A.O's 1, 2 and 3.

Coursework is 2 units of work and is worth 60% of your total grade.

What can I achieve?

There is a high success rate in art for Meols Cop Students, the majority gain a level 4 and above which is a GCSE qualification that can help you gain entry to college courses if you choose to study art or if not, it will contribute to getting you accepted into college, or an apprenticeship, whatever you want to do post Meols Cop.

What skills do I need to be successful?

The main skills that you will need to develop will be drawing, painting, photography, printing and using image manipulation software. The most important thing that you will need to bring to your lessons will be curiosity, interest and the desire to learn more about this subject. Problem solving skills are also an essential part of any creative course.

What next?

GCSE art can be the starting point for many post 16 careers in design, fine art, graphic design, media and education. In this age of fast growing new technology and the internet, it has become much easier to enter the creative professions. New jobs require creative brains. Game design, social media, engineering, illustration graphic design, architecture, television production.....the list is endless. Art is also a great tool for developing creative thinking, every project involves problem solving skills which can be used in all subjects. Lastly, it is a great tool for stress relief and improvement of well-being.



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GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES



What will I study?

The qualification consists of two units (themes) focusing on Investigating Small Business and Building a Business. The course covers a range of key business theories and concepts including entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, promotions and functional areas.

The content studied in the GCSE provides an excellent foundation for students who wish to progress onto A-Level or BTEC Level 3 Business or Economic based qualifications.



How will I learn?

Students will learn through a variety of different methods including independent and team-based activities, real life case studies, theory based lessons and exam based practise. This approach enables students to develop a deep understanding of the subject area by applying it to the real world enabling them to make clear links between the different areas of content. Alongside, this provides them with an opportunity to develop their research, analytical and evaluation skills.

How will I be assessed?

This is assessed through two examinations to be taken at the end of Year 11. Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes in length and is worth 50% of the overall grade.

What can I achieve?

GCSE Business Studies (Grades 9 – 1)

What skills do I need to be successful?

To be successful at GCSE Business Studies you need to be hard working, have a positive approach to your studies and be determined to succeed. A good understanding of Maths and English is preferred for the GCSE option.

What next?

Business Studies provides an excellent basis for a range of post 16 options including Business Studies A-Level, BTEC Level 3 Business, A-Level Economics, ICT and Apprenticeships. It also provides an excellent basis for a range of social science and humanity-based subjects, for example History and Sociology. There are a range of career pathways open to you after studying Business Studies including starting your own business, the legal profession, accountancy and finance, leadership and management, education and training, plus many more.

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LEVEL 2 CREATIVE iMEDIA



What will I study?

Students in this option group will follow the OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia. Students will study three units. In the first unit you will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry.

The second unit you will learn how to develop brands and visual identities for clients. You will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience.

The final unit you will learn to design and create interactive digital media products for chosen platforms. Interactive digital media products are found across the media industry, in games, websites and apps, and learning. You will learn to select, edit and repurpose multimedia content of different kinds and create the interactive elements necessary for an effective user experience.



How will I learn?

The course is very hands-on and practical with the work focusing on the production of planning materials and completed tasks using various software. Students develop practical IT skills and knowledge relating to a broad employment area. For each unit, students will be given a client brief based around each topic and must plan and produce a given task for each unit. It is a very good course to prepare students for the work they will do if they choose to study IT at college level.

How will I be assessed?

The OCR Creative iMedia is assessed in 3 units. Two are coursework based and there is one exam. The exam is worth 40% of the GCSE and the coursework is worth 60%.

What can I achieve?

Vocational GCSE equivalent qualification in Creative iMedia graded Pass, Merit or Distinction

What skills do I need to be successful?

The IT skills required you will have studied at Key Stage 3 and these will be developed. To be successful in this subject you need to be able to work consistently over the length of the course and be organised.

What next?

Information Technology is an invaluable skill and students will be able to apply the knowledge gained from this course to almost any career they wish to pursue. The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia course is a computing qualification that provides a good foundation for students who want to study computing at College and University.

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GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE



3

What will I study?

Component 01: Computer systems - Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software.

It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.



Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - Students develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming - Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study using a high-level programming language.

How will I learn?

Learning can be delivered through a creative blend of practical and theoretical lessons. You will research the fundamentals of computer systems using various resources and engage in investigative work. Students are given the opportunity to develop practical programming skills, and also develop vital understanding across a range of relevant computer science topics.

How will I be assessed?

Two written examinations (one for each component) are worth 50% each of the final grade awarded. The written examinations are undertaken in the final year of the course. The Computer Science course offers the opportunity to resit an exam if necessary.

What can I achieve?

GCSE Computer Science (Grades 9-1)

What skills do I need to be successful?

You will build upon the skills developed in years 7-9. To be successful in this subject it is essential that you possess good analytical skills, a love of programming, be willing to work hard over the two year period, take responsibility for your own learning and be organised.

What next?

A/AS Level Computer Science; Cambridge Technicals in Digital Media; Cambridge Technicals in IT or Level 2/Level 3 Apprenticeship. Careers in: programming, game design, web development, systems management, database management, nanotechnology, AI and robotics.

OPTION SUBJECT OFFER

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GCSE DANCE



3

What will I study?

Students will study a range of dance styles, looking closely at the physical, technical and expressive skills required to become a successful dancer. As well as performance, students will have the opportunity to become choreographers communicating; ideas, feelings, emotions, meanings and moods through dance. Alongside practical work, students will critically appreciate the work of 6 professional choreographers; developing an articulation of knowledge and critical reflection to inform artistic practice.



How will I learn?

Students will have three/four hours a fortnight on practical dance elements; engaging as choreographers and performers, alongside one/two hour a fortnight of critically analysing, interpreting, evaluating and appreciating professional dance works.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit a written examination at the end of year 11 (1 1/2 hours) and three practical assessments which cover choreography and performance through solos and group work.

There are three controlled assessments which are completed in lesson time and are split into choreography and performance. Performance controlled assessments; performing two set phrases and a duet/trio dance (30%). Choreography controlled assessments; choreographing a routine through motif manipulation for a solo or group (30%).

What can I achieve?

GCSE Dance (Grades 9 -1)

What skills do I need to be successful?

Students should have experience of dance for at least 2 years and be interested to know more about performing and choreography. You need to enjoy being active and can appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy. The skills you will develop are not just as a performer or a choreographer but as a critic of professional dance works.

What next?

This will help entry into a career relating to performing arts such as a dancer, entertainer, stage manager and much more. This is a valuable opportunity to prepare you for employment or A' Level or BTEC in Dance and Performance Studies.

OPTION SUBJECT OFFER

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LEVEL 1/2 AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING



What will I study?

This qualification will enable you to focus on learning about different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the sector. Through studying this course you will develop practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting nutritional dishes to meet specific client's needs.

How will I learn?

You will develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.



How will I be assessed?

The course has two elements:

Unit 1: The Hospitality and catering industry: is assessed through a written examination which is 80 minutes in length and is 40% of the qualification. The examination is out of 80 marks and includes a range of question types requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations and use stimulus material to respond to questions.

Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action: is assessed through a non-examination assessment task (NEA) which will be completed under controlled conditions, marked by your teacher, externally moderated by WJEC. This assessment will allow you to showcase the food preparation skills you have developed through your practical lessons.

What can I achieve?

Level 1 or 2 at Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* level.

What skills do I need to be successful?

You should have enthusiasm for hospitality and catering and be looking forward to building on your Key Stage 3 knowledge and experience. This course will require you to bring in your own ingredients for a practical lesson each week during Year 10.

What next?

Studying Hospitality and Catering gives you a broad knowledge base and skills that can be transferred to a variety of further education courses and employment. The more specialist pathways you could follow are Chef, Food Technologist, Nutritional Therapist, Food Quality Manager, Food Researcher, Dietitian, Event Planner, Environmental Health Officer, Food Stylist and Professional Baker.

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GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: TIMBERS AND PLASTICS



What will I study?

You will use creativity and imagination to develop a variety of design ideas, making models and prototypes that solve real and relevant problems.

Design and Technology has a common core theory content which includes new and emerging technologies, modern and smart materials and their working properties which will be covered throughout the course.



This core content covers all aspects of Design and Technology: Timber, Metals and Polymers, Textiles, Paper and Board and Electronic and Mechanical Systems. In Timbers and Plastics you will develop your use of CAD/CAM to develop your designs and programmable components in order to understand electronic systems and how they can help you in Design and Technology

How will I learn?

You will learn by developing specific Design and Technology knowledge, designing skills and technical abilities in both a practical and classroom setting.

How will I be assessed?

The course has two elements:

Non-Exam Assessment: this is worth 50% of the overall marks available. This is an extended design and make task covering the elements of investigating, designing, making, analysing and evaluating. You will respond to a Design Brief given by the exam board in the June of Year 10 and produce a working prototype and detailed portfolio of evidence.

Examination: this is worth 50% of the overall marks available. The examination is single tier entry and two hours in length. The exam will cover core principles, specialist technical principles and design and making principles alongside a mathematics and science content.

What can I achieve?

GCSE in Design and Technology (Grades 1 – 9.)

What skills do I need to be successful?

You should have enthusiasm in designing and making and be looking forward to building on your Key Stage 3 Design and Technology knowledge. Confident practical skills, creative designing, critical thinking, analysis and evaluation skills are also essential.

What next?

Studying Design and Technology: Timbers and Plastics gives you a broad knowledge base and skills that can be transferred to a variety of further education courses and employment. The more specialist pathways you could follow are architecture, industrial and product design, ergonomist, theatrical set and prop design, construction and building design, planning, CAD technician, aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering and quantity surveying.

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GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY

What will I study?

The Textiles industry is one of the oldest in the world, and is undergoing a massive resurgence in the UK. By studying Design and Technology: Textiles Technology you can become part of an interesting and creative industry that is far more than just fashion and clothes.

In Textiles Technology you will design, experiment and create woven, knitted, stitched, printed and decorative textile products incorporating a wide range of traditional and modern decorative techniques.

You will explore new technology and understand major cutting edge developments such as wearable electronics, medical textiles and materials that can be stronger than metal.



How will I learn?

You will learn by developing specific Design and Technology knowledge, designing skills and technical abilities in both a practical and classroom setting.

How will I be assessed?

The course has two elements:

Non-Exam Assessment: this is worth 50% of the overall marks available. This is an extended design and make task covering the elements of investigating, designing, making, analysing and evaluating. You will respond to a Design Brief given by the exam board in the June of Year 10 and produce a working prototype and detailed portfolio of evidence.

Examination: this is worth 50% of the overall marks available. The examination is single tier entry and two hours in length. The exam will cover core principals, specialist technical principles and design and making principles alongside a mathematics and science content.

What can I achieve?

GCSE in Design and Technology (Grades 1 – 9.)

What skills do I need to be successful?

You should have enthusiasm in designing and making and be looking forward to building on your Key Stage 3 Design and Technology knowledge. Confident practical skills, designing, critical thinking, analysis and evaluation skills are also essential.

What next?

Studying Design and Technology: Textiles Technology gives you a broad knowledge base and skills that can be transferred to a variety of further education courses and employment. The more specialist pathways you could follow are interior design, trends forecaster, visual merchandising, buying, fashion design, material technology, sales, social media promotion, theatre design, pattern making, product development, costume designer, fashion journalism, fashion photography, education and aerospace engineering.

OPTION SUBJECT OFFER

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GCSE DRAMA



3

What will I study?

The Eduqas GCSE Drama specification is designed to give you a broad and balanced experience of Drama. You will collaborate with others, devising your own piece of theatre and demonstrate your acting skills in a performance from a text. You will explore a range of texts and view a variety of live theatre productions. In addition, you will learn about performances in a range of styles and about historical and contemporary theatre practitioners.

How will I learn?

This course involves both practical and written elements. The lessons are predominantly practical and written work underpins this to demonstrate your understanding. You will work in groups, collaborating to create performance material and for your scripted performance. You will learn about the rehearsal process and planning for all aspects of performance including costume, set, sound and lighting design. This course will develop your skills as a researcher, creator, performer and evaluator of Drama.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 - Devised Performance (40% Internal Assessment)

You will produce a portfolio of supporting evidence based on the rehearsal process and perform your devised piece lasting between 5-16 minutes. You will then complete a written evaluation of your performance. This is an internally assessed component, moderated by the exam board.

Component 2 - Performance from a Text (20% External Assessment)

You will practically explore a text (play) and perform two extracts demonstrating effective use of performance skills and character development to a visiting examiner.

Component 3 - Interpreting Theatre (40% External Assessment)

A written exam on a set text (different to C2) that you will have explored practically and a review of a piece of live theatre. You will have studied the text in lessons to inform your writing from the perspective of an actor, designer or director.

What can I achieve?

Students are graded using 9-1

What skills do I need to be successful?

In addition to demonstrating excellent performance skills, you will also need to be committed to working with others effectively, using communication and negotiation skills.

What next?

Students might consider progression to; A Levels including Drama and Theatre Studies in preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects; study of a vocational qualification Level 3 such as BTEC National in Performing Arts, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the performing arts or production areas. The school has good connections with institutions such as LIPA and Runshaw College, opportunities to explore courses in these institutions will be available during the course.



OPTION SUBJECT OFFER

YEAR 9 OPTIONS



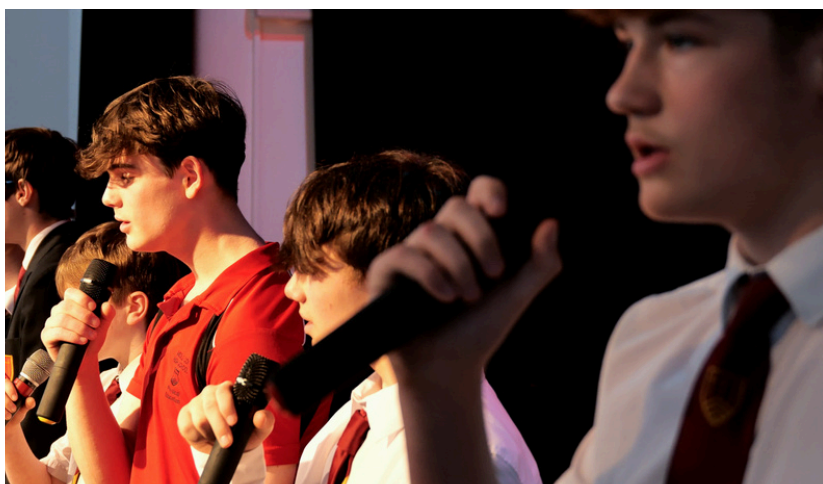
BTEC LEVEL 1 / 2 MUSIC PRACTICE

GCSE MUSIC



How will I learn?

You will develop both individual and ensemble performance skills by attending peripatetic lessons and rehearsing group performances with your peers. Composition skills will be taught in lesson time, supported by theory knowledge you will gain throughout the course. You will understand how music is created and developed from initial ideas to the finished product.



Listening skills will be developed by exploring various topics and their particular characteristics through theory and written elements work as well as performing and composing.

How will I be assessed?

Performing and composition skills will be assessed throughout coursework completed in school. There will be half termly performance assessments as well as numerous opportunities to perform in public. You will be assessed on your composing and performing skills as part of your coursework and your listening and appraising skills as part of your exam.

What can I achieve?

BTEC Level 1/2 in Music Practice: L1P-L2D*

GCSE Music 9-1

What skills do I need to be successful?

You must be able to perform confidently and accurately on an instrument or as a vocalist. You should enjoy composing music and studying music from a range of genres. Additionally, you should be committed to learning new skills such as theory and sequencing in order to create effective compositions.

What next?

A level in Music or Music Technology. BTEC Extended Diploma in Music Performance, Music Technology or Professional Performance Programme in Musical Theatre. Students who study music can go onto a career in a whole range of different fields related to music including performer, radio presenter, agent, sound engineer, songwriter, record producer, peripatetic teacher and composer.

OPTION SUBJECT OFFER

YEAR 9 OPTIONS



LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL SPORT STUDIES



What will I study?

The Cambridge National in Sport Studies is a qualification that offers students the solid foundation required for further study or progression into the sports industry.

Sport is a high-profile and expanding industry and there is a growing need for qualified professionals. The Cambridge National in Sport Studies looks at the sports sector. Within the subject students will develop their own performance and how to effectively lead others as well as gain knowledge about the national sports context.

Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance.



How will I learn?

The course has both theory and practical elements. Theory lessons will predominately be based within a classroom but where applicable theory content will be taught through a practical setting. The Cambridge National course develops independent learners where students can take ownership of their learning within the classroom through the completion of coursework and through 1 externally assessed exam.

How will I be assessed?

The course follows the OCR specification and is split into 3 units. Students will sit one external exam lasting one hour 15 minutes and has 70 marks and equates to 40% of the overall grade. The remaining 2 units are taught and assessed by teachers within school and then externally moderated by OCR, these 2 units equate to 60% of the qualification. Each coursework unit has between 4-5 tasks to complete

What will I learn?

Contemporary issues within sport: Students will learn about a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, relating to participation levels and barriers, promotion of values and ethical behaviour, the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used within sport.

Performance and leadership in sports activities: In this unit, the majority is assessed through practical, students will learn how to develop their skills as both a performer, in two different sporting activities, and as a leader in one activity.

Sport and the Media: In this unit, students will learn about a wide variety of media sources that cover sport at a local, national and international level. Students will research how the media can positively and negatively effect sports, sports clubs, participants and spectators, whilst linking them with the ever changing development in technology, sponsorship and increase in revenue across all sport.

What can I achieve?

Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* equivalent to grades 9 -1 at GCSE

What skills do I need to be successful?

To be successful in this subject you must enjoy and have a passion for sport, be able to complete work by set deadlines, demonstrating organisation, maturity and determination over the length of the course.

What next?

The Cambridge National in Sports Studies is a qualification that provides a good foundation for students who wish to pursue a sports course at college such as a Btec in Sport or A Level PE or who wish to have a career in the sports industry.

OPTION SUBJECT OFFER

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES



3

What will I study?

In Religious Studies you will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of two major world religions. These will include Christianity and either Islam or Sikhism. You will also explore how religion affects believers' lives through the study of four themes: Relationships and the Family; Issues of life and death; Good and evil; and Human Rights.



How will I learn?

We will explore religious beliefs, teachings, practices and how this affects a believer's life. We will examine these through discussions, investigations, the use of media clips, visits to local places of worship and interviewing people who are theist, atheist and agnostic. You will develop your literacy skills, learning how to construct arguments that purposefully evaluate different points of view and reaching your own critical judgments of these.

Religious Studies is also the perfect subject for refining your debating skills. You will get the opportunity to form views based on accurate information. You have the chance to then put your reasons for those views to the test in our debating sessions. Should euthanasia be legalised? Should we bring back the death penalties? Are people born evil or is it how they are nurtured?

How will I be assessed?

There are three papers: one three hour paper and two one hour papers. One paper is based on the themes units; the two shorter papers examine your understanding about the religions. Each exam paper has a common structure of 2, 5, 8 and 15 mark questions. You will also receive six SPaG marks per paper.

What can I achieve?

GCSE in Religious Studies (Grades 9-1)

What skills do I need to be successful?

You will need good literacy skills and should enjoy communicating your ideas through discussion and debate. You will need to be able to analyse sources and use the information in them to help to further your understanding of the world around you. You need to be willing to open your mind to views of other people, as well as sharing your own.

What next?

A good GCSE grade in Religious Studies may lead onto advanced studies in theology, law, history, sociology, social care, philosophy, and politics. Careers sectors who value religious education qualifications include: mental health support (counsellors etc.), law (police, solicitors, barristers etc.), medical staff (doctors, midwifery, nursing etc.), social care and social work, armed forces, charity workers, education (teachers, teaching assistants, leaders), and human rights campaigners.

OPTION SUBJECT OFFER

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

GCSE TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE



3

What will I study?

You will study three separate GCSEs in Biology (living things and the environment), Chemistry (chemical reactions and organic chemistry), and Physics (forces, and energy).

These GCSEs include several fundamental and traditional scientific concepts as well as covering exciting new applications that impact on modern life.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of tasks in which practical activities play an important role. There are 24 required practical investigations that must be carried out in addition to a list of practical skills that must be mastered. We teach triple science as a separate group throughout years 10 and 11.



How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through written exams taken at the end of year 11. Each separate science will be assessed through two written papers, each 1hr 45 mins in duration. This means you will take six papers in total. Papers are offered at both higher and foundation tier.

What can I achieve?

Completion of this course leads to the award of three GCSEs (9-1), a GCSE in Biology, a GCSE in Chemistry and a GCSE in Physics. The grades awarded for each may be different.

What skills do I need to be successful?

You will need to have good practical, analytical and communication skills. Due to the nature of the course, good levels of literacy and numeracy are essential.

What next?

Colleges will consider your grade as an entry requirement for Advanced Level studies in the pure sciences such as Biology, Physics*, Chemistry*, in addition to science related subjects such as Forensic Science, Electronics and Psychology and Sports Science. * To study A' level Physics or Chemistry, grade 7 in Mathematics is also a requirement. This course leads to 3 individual GCSE grades (9-1). Due to the amount of work that this requires, we would suggest that this course is suitable for learners who are passionate about science and have strong levels of literacy and numeracy.

OPTION SUBJECT OFFER

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

GCSE SPANISH



What will I study?

This course will be based on three themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national and international global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

There will also be a focus on Spanish traditions and culture including the study of popular literature and fiestas.

How will I learn?

In lessons you will regularly practice the 4 skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Lessons will continue like they are now using workbooks and sentence builders to support your learning. Homework will also be set on the same platform you currently use www.sentencebuilders.com

How will I be assessed?

All four communication skills of, speaking, listening, reading and writing are assessed at the end of year 11. These components are each worth 25% each of the final grade. The speaking exam will take place with your class teacher. The Spanish GCSE does offer the option of foundation and higher tier.

What can I achieve?

GCSE Spanish (Grades 9-1)

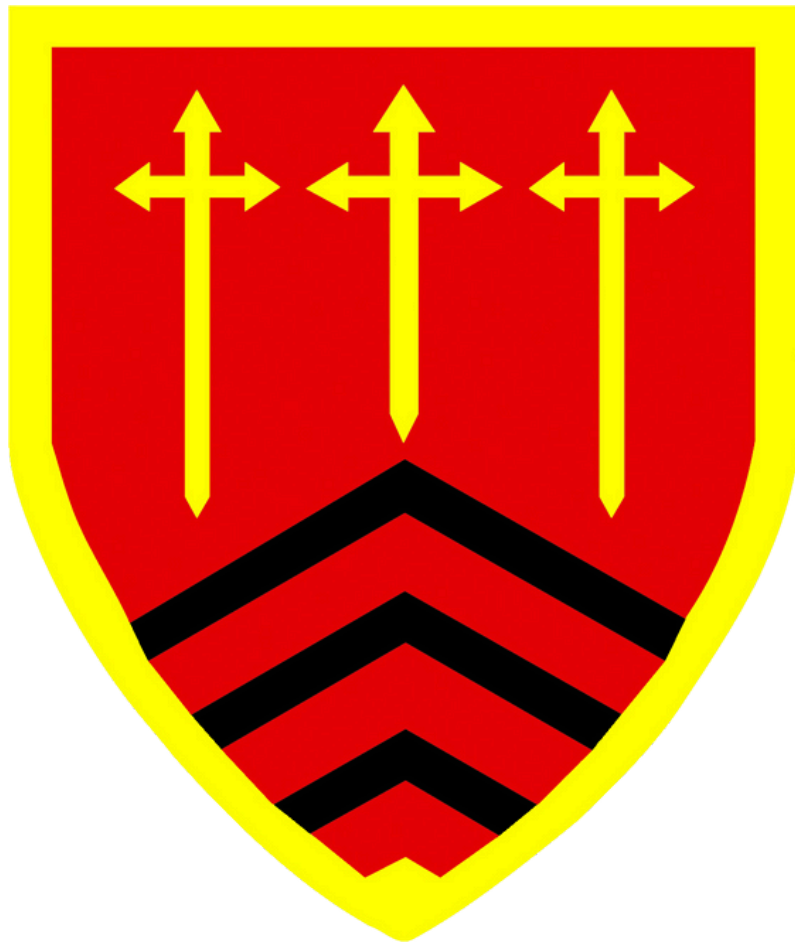
What skills do I need to be successful?

To be successful you need to have a passion for languages. You must be confident to speak out in front of the class and get fully involved in all lessons. You should have good literacy skills and some cultural awareness. Being highly motivated to work to your full potential at all times is essential to be a successful linguist.

What next?

If you are interested in continuing your Spanish studies, you can go on to study A Level Spanish if you achieve grade 6 at GCSE. Many employers value a language as a good academic qualification and this may be advantageous at an interview. Studying Spanish can lead to a variety of career options including becoming a translator or interpreter. Having a language can also be useful if you plan to study in the areas of law, business, tourism and many more.





Key Dates

Wednesday 26th February: Options Assemblies start

Tuesday 25th February: Academic Consultation and Options Evening

Monday 17th March: Options form distributed

Friday 28th March: Deadline for completed option preference forms submitted electronically

Friday 23rd May: Option choices finalised

