



YEAR 9 OPTIONS BOOKLET



YEAR 9 OPTIONS

This booklet is designed to provide all the information you and your child will need as they enter an important phase of their education.

For the first time in your education you are able to have some choice in the subjects that you will study in Years 10 and 11. Part of the curriculum is fixed; the remainder of your timetable will be made up of areas you can choose which could include GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

The aim of this booklet and the Year 9 GCSE Options Presentation is to help you decide the most appropriate choices for your future. It is important that you seek advice and talk to people who can help you with these decisions.

We are committed to ensuring that you enjoy your experience of learning in Years 10 and 11 and that you strive to achieve the best that you can be. You should aim to choose courses that suit your needs that will challenge you and help you develop life skills to prepare you for your future after.

On the next few pages you will find:

- An outline of the curriculum structure in Years 10 and 11 and the subjects which all students will study
- A summary of the option subjects which students can choose from
- A timescale of when you need to make your decisions by.

The remainder of the booklet contains information about all of the courses available to you in Years 10 and 11. You need to read through each page carefully and ensure that you keep this booklet safe. When you have made your decisions you will need to complete your options form.

The Year 10 to 11 Curriculum

Our aim is that all of our students follow a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for their post 16 studies, the world of work and adult life. We believe that our curriculum is flexible enough to meet the individual needs of all our students in Years 10 and 11. Some subjects (the core) are compulsory but we offer the opportunity for students to make choices about subjects to study to support their core curriculum

Core Curriculum

All students will follow a Core curriculum as shown below:

| | Course | Qualification |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Examined subjects | English Language | 1 x GCSE |
| | English literature | 1 x GCSE |
| | Maths | 1 x GCSE |
| | Combined Science (double award) or Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) | 2 x GCSE (combined) 3 x GCSE (triple) |
| Non-examined subjects | PSHE | None |
| | Computing | None |
| | Physical Education | None |
| | Religious Education | None |

English Baccalaureate subjects at GCSE

We are committed to offering a curriculum which provides a broad, balanced, relevant and personalised learning experience for all our students. It should also help to deliver outstanding achievement for all. However, we also need to ensure that it provides as strong a foundation as possible for future progression.

The government, employers and universities recognised that while it is important to offer students a curriculum which meets their needs and interests, it is also crucial that doors are not closed off to them in terms of future progression; for example, for students hoping to go to university.

The Russell Group of top universities have identified 'facilitating subjects' at A Level i.e. subjects which are most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most options open. The subjects the Group have identified are those which the government has also included in a group of subjects at GCSE which is termed the 'English Baccalaureate' (EBacc) subjects. These are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Sciences (Combined Science; Triple Science - Biology, Chemistry or Physics)
- Geography and History
- Languages

The government has created a performance measure for schools which records the performance of students in the following subjects: English Language, Mathematics, Sciences (two or more), History or Geography and a language. This reflects the importance which it, along with employers and universities, places on these subjects.

In order to ensure that our students are prepared as fully as possible for their adult life, the school requires that **all students opt for at least one EBacc subject** as one of their GCSE options. The option form therefore requires students to choose at least one subject from the following list:

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science

Students will be able to choose freely for their remaining two options. They are, of course, able to choose further EBacc subjects as part of these remaining choices.

The Options



Students can choose 3 option choices (one must be an Ebacc subject) from the list provided below and provide a second and third choice for each option block.

| Ebacc Subjects | Other Subjects | |
|---|---|---|
| All GCSE | GCSE courses | BTEC courses |
| Computer Science French Geography History Spanish | Art & Design Textiles Business Drama Graphic Communication Religious Studies Food Preparation & Nutrition | Health & Social Care Music Sport Dance |

Choosing your Year 10 Options

You will be provided with a link to an Options Form accessible via Microsoft Forms. You will need to click on the link and complete the questions. You will need to pick your first, second and third choice subjects for each of the three Option Blocks A, B and C.

The table below is an illustration on the choices available for Option block A as an example.

3. Pick your first, second and third choice subject for option A  

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Geography | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| History | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| French | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Health and Social Care | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sports Studies | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Art | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Dance | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Subjects appear in more than one block. You should only choose a subject as a first choice once

You must choose at least one EBacc subject as a first choice. If you do not choose an EBacc subject the school will select one for and you will lose an option.

Will I get all of my choices?

We will do our absolute best to get everyone's first choices. However, due to limitations on class sizes, timetabling and staffing we cannot guarantee that you will get every subject that you opt for. Where this is the case we will consider your second and third choices and will discuss the changes with you.

What qualification will I receive?

The GCSE courses that we follow fall into 2 categories; GCSE and BTEC qualifications. GCSEs are graded from 9-1 whereas BTEC are graded from Distinction* to Pass and are run as Level 1/2 courses.

The table below shows how the numerical (9-1) grade scale compares BTEC qualifications and with the old grades (based on A*-G):

| Qualification | GCSE Grade | BTEC Grade | Old GCSE |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|
| Level 2 equivalent | 9 | Distinction * | A* |
| | 8 | Distinction | A |
| | 7 | | |
| | 6 | Merit | B |
| 5 (Good Pass) | | | |
| Level 1 equivalent | 4 (Standard Pass) | Pass | C |
| | 3 | Distinction | D |
| | 2 | Merit | E |
| | 1 | Pass | F G |

BTEC qualifications are equally as valid as GCSE subjects and hold equivalent weighting. The government considers that a grade 4 is a standard pass whereas a grade 5 is considered a good pass.

Information and Guidance for Pupils

You need to think very carefully about what you want to do now and in the future. Your career choices may have an influence on the courses you take. However, you should also consider:

- Your interest and aptitudes, you will be studying the courses for 2 years
- Subjects that you enjoy or can achieve success in
- Subjects you may wish to study in further education.

You should NOT choose a course because:

- It is what your friend is choosing
- You like the teacher delivering the course
- They are different and sound good

Staff members you can talk to about your choices:

- Your teachers
- Mr Moore (Assistant Principal)
- Mrs Mistry (Head of Year)
- Mr Aspinall (Pastoral Manager)
- Mrs Mahloudji (Careers Coordinator)
- Mr Haq (Assistant Principal)

Additional guidance on career pathways

The following websites will be useful in giving you information:

www.startprofile.com

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers

www.u-xplore.com

www.helpyouchoose.org

www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees

The Language of Options

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| GCSE | Stands for General Certificate of Education and a pass is graded from 9(top grade A**) to 1(lowest passing grade F). A lot of college courses and universities will demand at least a 5 to get on their courses. You will need a 4 in English and Maths at GCSE or you will have to re-sit until you achieve them or up to the age of 18. |
| VOCATIONAL COURSE (BTEC) | The course may have more practical links to an area of work, and the assessment structure is likely to be different with more emphasis on coursework which is in the form of an NEA, but it is just as valid as a GCSE. These courses allow for two sittings of each exam, you retain the highest grade. |
| L1 /L2 COURSE | Level 1 is equivalent to GCSE grade 1-3, and level 2 is equivalent to GCSE grades 4-9. All of our courses are Level 2 courses which means they are equivalent to GCSE and will allow access onto A level and Level 3 courses at 16. |
| TERMINAL EXAM | This means you sit the written paper exams at the end of the course in year 11 |
| NEA | Non-Exam Assessment is a type of coursework that can be done in the classroom but usually under supervised or exam conditions |

The following pages contain information on all of the courses on offer. Please read them carefully and support your child to make informed choices based on the advice given. We are looking forward to working with you on this next exciting part of your educational journey.



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE: 8700

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MRS BOLAND

What Topics Will I Study?

The course develops students' skills in reading and writing.

Reading and comparing non-fiction texts and fiction texts. The texts will range from 19th through to modern days texts.

Students will also develop their skills in creative and imaginative writing.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Students will complete two end of course exams:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing-
Written Exam 1 hour 45 minutes. (50% of total GCSE).

- Section A: Reading one literature fiction text
- Section B: Writing descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives
- Written Exam 1 hour 45 minutes. (50% of total GCSE).

- Section A: Reading one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
- Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

This qualification provides the ideal foundation for students to progress to AS level and A level English qualifications: English Language, English Language and English Literature or English Literature.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Employers like to be certain that their employees have basic literacy skills and it is becoming more common to see 'Literacy Tests' being given to candidates as part of the interview process.

Need To Know

GCSE English Language is a core subject that all students will complete. The course is linear course, which falls into the government's new examination reforms and will be graded according to the new 9-1 levels.

GCSE English Literature will be completed alongside GCSE English Language.



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAM BOARD: AQA SPECIFICATION CODE:8702

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MRS BOLAND

What Topics Will I Study?

The course develops students' skills in reading poetry, prose and drama texts from Shakespeare through to 21st century texts. Students will read and respond to Literary texts including: Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, William Shakespeare's Macbeth and J.B Priestley's An Inspector Calls. Finally students will undertake a comprehensive study of the thematic poetry cluster (Power and Conflict) where they will be expected to use the skill of comparison as well as analysis, comprehension and retrieval.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Students will complete 2 exams at the end of the course:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel - 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of total GCSE).

- Section A Shakespeare: Students will answer one question on the play Macbeth. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.
- Section B The 19th Century Novel: Students will answer one question on the novel they have studied in class: A Christmas Carol. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry - 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of total GCSE).

- Section A Modern Texts: Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on the play An Inspector Calls.

- Section B Poetry: Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and other poem from the Power and Conflict anthology cluster.
- Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

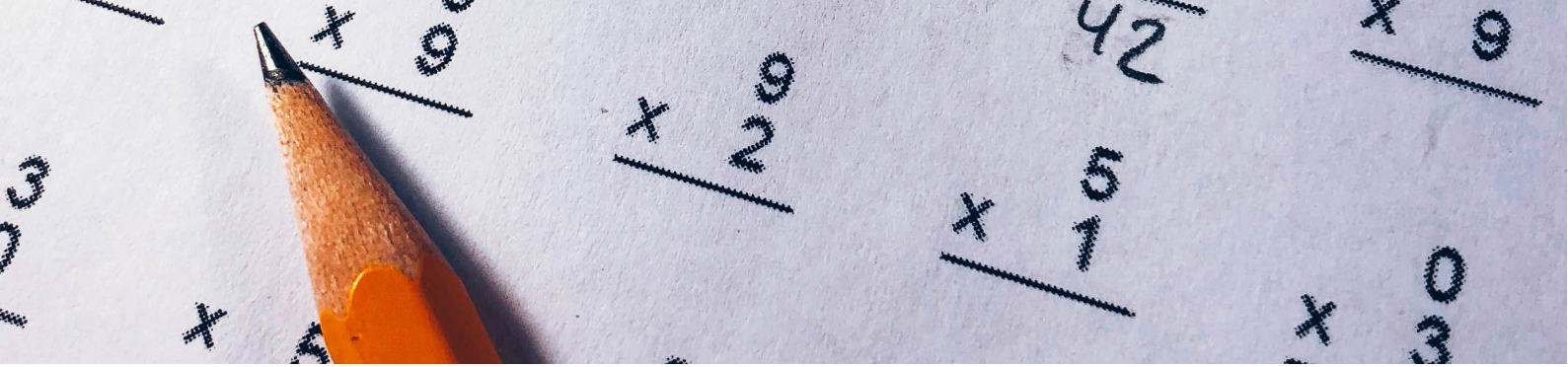
This qualification provides the ideal foundation for students to progress to AS Level and A Level English qualifications: English Language, English Language and Literature or English Literature.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

From Architecture to Zoology, GCSE English Literature will help you to develop an interest in and enthusiasm for literature and you will discover how literature is rich and influential. You will also learn to work independently; be creative; think critically; communicate your ideas with confidence and think logically.

Need To Know

GCSE English Literature is a core subject that all students will complete. The course is a linear course, which falls into the government's new examination reforms and will be graded according to the new 9-1 levels. Students will study GCSE English Language alongside GCSE English Literature.



GCSE MATHS

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE: 8300

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MR WASIM

What Topics Will I Study?

In Mathematics there are six overall topics that are covered:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability
- Statistics

How Will I Be Assessed?

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All papers are 80 marks; paper 1 is non calculator, and papers 2 and 3 are both calculator papers. Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 33.3%.

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

GCSE Mathematics is required for many employers and career progression. Higher Mathematics grades are increasingly being required to progress to PGCE and other courses. Completion of the GCSE Mathematics at a good grade may enable progression to College and AS Level courses.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Studying maths helps you develop skills in logical thinking and statistical or strategic knowledge, which are valued by employers across many job sectors. There are a huge range of career opportunities leading from GCSE Mathematics such as an accountant, actuary, engineer, software design, R&D programmer, teacher and many more.



GCSE SCIENCE (COMBINED)

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE: 8464

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MR NANGREAVE

What Topics Will I Study?

Combined science gives you the opportunity to study a broad spectrum of biology, chemistry and physics. This includes cells, infection and response, ecology, chemical bonding and the properties of matter, the rate of chemical reactions, chemical analysis, energy, forces, and waves.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Practical activities are embedded throughout the course. There is no formal assessment of these activities, however you will be assessed on your working scientifically skills in the exams.

At the end of year 11, candidates will sit the following exams:-

- Biology topics 1 to 4, 1 hour 15 minutes (16.7%)
- Biology topics 5 to 7, 1 hour 15 minutes (16.7%)
- Chemistry topics 8 to 12 1 hour 15 minutes (16.7%)
- Chemistry topics 13-17, 1 hour 15 minutes (16.7%)
- Physics topics 18 – 21, 1 hour 15 minutes (16.7%)
- Physics topics 22 - 24, 1 hour 15 minutes (16.7%)

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Biology GCE, Chemistry GCE, Physics GCE, Psychology CGE, Applied Science BTEC, Health and Social Care BTEC.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Teaching, Medicine, Veterinary, Ecologist, Forensics, Zoologist, Engineering, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Astronomy, Pharmaceutical, Dentistry.



GCSE BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS (SEPARATE SCIENCE)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 8461,8462,8463

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MR

What Topics Will I Study?

Taking separate science allows you to study science in more detail. The course covers the same topic as combined science, however there is more depth and additional material to the topics. In GCSE physics, students also study space. Successful separate Science pupils at GCSE will be working at a student assessed grade of a 6 in all 3 disciplines by the end of Year 9. This course is aimed at students who wish to study highly competitive, academic courses at University such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary sciences; the work and pace of lessons reflects this. Due to the high maths demand in the subjects, particularly Chemistry and Physics the course is only recommended to students who have secure maths knowledge. In cases where initial assessments suggest that a student is not best suited to a course we may ask that students to reconsider their option choice.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Practical activities are embedded throughout the course. There is no formal assessment of these activities, however you will be assessed on your working scientifically skills in the exams.

At the end of year 11, candidates will sit the following exams:-

- Biology topics 1 to 4, 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE biology)
- Biology topics 5 to 7, 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE biology)
- Chemistry topics 1 to 5, 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE chemistry)
- Chemistry topics 6 to 10, 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE chemistry)
- Physics topics 1 to 4, 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE physics)
- Physics topics 5 to 8, 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE physics)

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Biology GCE, Chemistry GCE, Physics GCE, Psychology CGE, Applied Science BTEC, Health and Social Care BTEC.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Teaching, Medicine, Veterinary, Ecologist, Forensics, Zoologist, Engineering, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Astronomy, Pharmaceutical, Dentistry.



BTEC MUSIC

EXAM BOARD: PEARSON SPECIFICATION CODE: J248

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MR SILVESTRO

What Topics Will I Study?

Unit 1 – Exploring Music Products and Styles (portfolio): In this topic, you will have the opportunity to explore a range of musical products and styles in order to create a portfolio of practical work.

Unit 2 – Music Skills Development (practical exam - performance): In this topic, you will perform two musical outcomes in response to a theme. You will develop practical skills as well as an understanding of practice routines.

Unit 3 – Responding to a Music Brief (practical exam - performance): You will compose or perform in response to a musical brief, using styles that were covered in Unit 1.

How Will I Be Assessed?

- Unit 1 – Exploring Music Products and Styles – you will be assessed by creating a portfolio of practical work
- Unit 2 – Music Skills Development – you will perform two musical outcomes in response to a theme
- Unit 3 – Responding to a Music Brief - you will compose or perform in response to a musical brief

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

The course is designed to develop your understanding of Music with the aim of achieving this highly respected BTEC award. You will creatively develop your ideas with your peers, then apply skills through performance and composition. This process will also develop your ability to analyse and evaluate your own, and your peers' choices.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

You can use your BTEC Music skills to enter into a variety of professions, from teaching to the more specialised fields of music performance. BTEC Music will compliment any role where you need excellent communicative skills, a creative outlook, organisational skills, the ability to meet deadlines and the ability to lead.

Need To Know

This BTEC Music course offers a brilliant opportunity to develop your ability as a musician, as well as developing your collaborative skills, your communicative skills, and your confidence.



LEVEL 1/2 BTEC TECH AWARD IN PERFORMING ARTS (DANCE)

EXAM BOARD: PEARSON
SPECIFICATION CODE: 603/7054/3

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MISS HOWE

What Topics Will I Study?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas:

- Development of key skills that prove their aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire and responding to stimuli
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal, and performance
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes, and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.

These components build on each other to motivate your students by helping them put what they've learned into practice and grow in confidence.

How Will I Be Assessed?

- Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts, Internal Assessed assignment. (30% of the total course).
- Component 2: Developing skills and techniques, Internally Assessed. (30% of the total course)
- Component 3: Performing to a brief, Externally Assessed (Synoptic). (40% of the total course)

Work is assessed by case studies, assignments, performance observations, rehearsal logs and projects. Internally assessed work is moderated by BTEC Examiners.

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Student can study a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a 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 arts areas.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Performing Arts can benefit students who wish to pursue a career in the arts, media, the communications industry, law, marketing and any career which deals with the public or presentations in business.

Need To Know

The course allows students to be assessed in many ways both physically and through academic writing. Students will have to confidently perform in front of others and create pieces individually. Following health and safety rules within the dance studio is essential for students to participate safely, which involves removing footwear and socks. Performing Arts is a practical subject, which requires commitment and dedication. The structure of the course allows students to access both level 1 and level 2 standards. Previous dance experience would be beneficial but not necessary.



GCSE HISTORY

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION CODE: 1H10

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM DR SUMNER

What Topics Will I Study?

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Exam

Specification: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

Paper 1 – Thematic Study and historic environment

Crime and punishment through time, c.1000-present

Themes throughout the topic: This is a thematic study that focuses on Britain over 1,000 years in reference to:

- How definitions of **crimes** change over time
- How **law enforcement** changes over time
- How **punishment**, and the purpose of punishment changes over time

Topic List:

- **Medieval Period 1000-1500**
- **Early Modern Britain 1500-1700**
- **Industrial Britain 1700-1900**
- **Modern Britain 1900-**

Paper 2 – British Depth Study

Anglo Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-1088

Themes throughout the topic:

This is a depth study that focuses on a 30 year period in British history

Topic List:

- **Anglo-Saxon England 1060-1066**
- **William I in power: securing the kingdom, 1066-1087**
- **Norman England, 1066-1088**

Paper 2 – Period Study

The American West, c.1835- c.1895

Themes throughout the course:

- This is a **period study** of American history. It focuses on the intertwined stories of Native Americans (Plains Indians) and White Settlers

Topic List:

- **The early settlement of the west, 1835-1862**
- **Development of the Plains, 1862-1876**
- **Conflicts and conquest, 1876-1895**

Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

Themes throughout the course:

- This is a modern depth study at a pivotal point in German history, 1918-1939

Topic List:

- **Weimar Republic, 1918-1929**
- **Hitler's rise to power, 1919-1933**
- **Nazi control and dictatorship, 1933-1939**
- **Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939**

How Will I Be Assessed?

There are three written exams. With a mixture of source and interpretation questions and knowledge based answers (essays)

Paper 1:

- Crime and Punishment 1000- present
- 1 hour 20 minutes

Paper 2:

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060- 1088
- The American West, 1835-1895
- 1 hour 50 minutes

Paper 3:

- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39
- 1 hour 30 minutes

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

A Level History, A level Law, A level Politics and A level English and Drama, A Level Sociology

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Law, Journalism, Teaching, Politics, Medicine, Business, Finance / Accountancy, Media, Tourism, Education, Museum Service, Police and Acting.

Need To Know

During the course you will develop transferable skills such as critical thinking skills, evaluating viewpoints and historical evidence, constructing persuasive arguments and carrying out independent research.

All exams require good literacy skills. You will need to be good at both reading and writing.





GCSE GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE: 8035

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MRS BANNING

What topics will I study?

- The GCSE course covers a range of human and physical geography topics:
- Unit 1: Living with the Physical World. Topics include tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems including tropical rainforests and hot deserts, UK physical landscape including rivers and coasts.
- Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. Topics include urban issues and challenges, global development and economic growth, and resource management.

How will I be assessed?

All external exams are completed at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Living with the physical World

1 hr 30 min – 35%

This paper assesses the physical topics: The challenge of natural hazards, The living world, Physical landscapes in the UK as well as Geographical skills.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

1 hr 30 min – 35%

This paper assesses the human topics: Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management as well as Geographical skills.

Paper 3: Geographical applications

1 hr 30 min – 30%

The paper assesses geographical fieldwork, geographical skills and a decision-making exercise which use a pre-released resource booklet.

What courses could this help me study after Year 11?

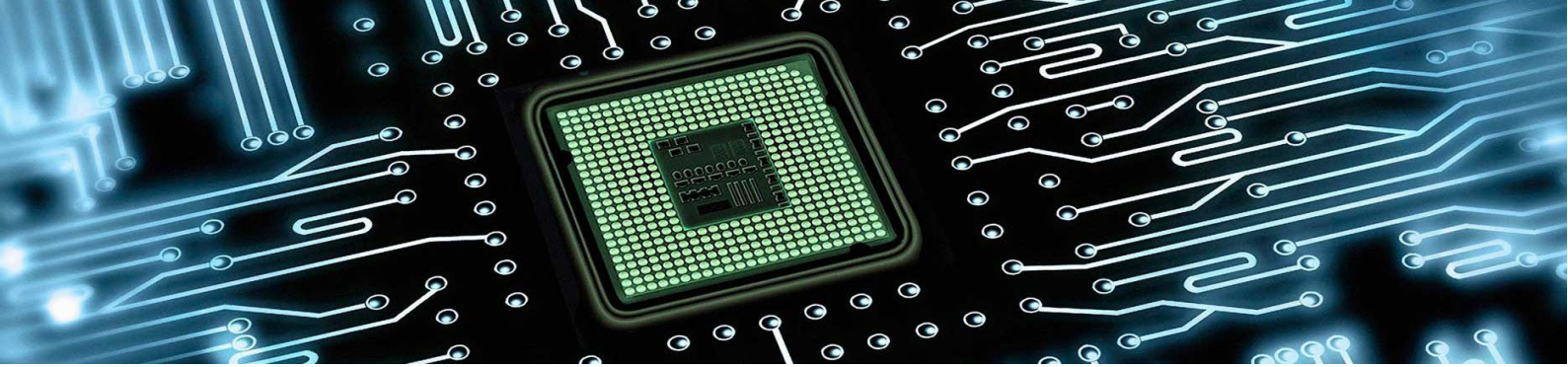
A Level Geography, A Level Sociology, A Level Biology, BTEC Business, BTEC Travel and Tourism,

What careers could this help me with?

Geography is highly regarded by many employers and combines well with both arts and science-based careers. You could work in leisure and tourism, business management, planning, conservation, meteorology, flood management, research, landscape architecture, cartography and much more.

Need to know

Geography is a broad subject that covers a range of different topics and helps you develop a large variety of transferable skills. These skills include conducting investigations, analysing and interpreting data and results, extended writing, problems solving and independent research. As a result Geography is a facilitating subject allowing you to progress to both science and arts based subjects at A Level or degree level.



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD: OCR
SPECIFICATION CODE: J277

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MR SHERGILL

What Topics Will I Study?

While studying Computer Science at Ash Green, you will be covering the following topics:

- E-safety
- The History of Computing
- Computer systems
- Hardware
- Software
- Representation of data
- Databases
- Communications
- Networking
- Programming
- Coding

How Will I Be Assessed?

- 1 Theory Exam: Computer Systems 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks in total. (50% of total GCSE).
- 1 Theory exam: Computation Thinking, Programming and Algorithms. (50% of total GCSE)

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Computer Science lends itself to a wide variety of subjects post Year 11.

The technology aspect would not only be well suited to further advanced Computer Science or IT based courses, it would also support students in courses such as Games Design, Graphics and Media Technology.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Technology is impacting our world more and more as everyday passes. Self-driving cars, simulations, medicine research a qualification in Computer Science is now more valuable than ever.

Need To Know

Students typically spend 3-4 lessons on theory and 1-2 lessons on practical depending on the topic. Students use programs that provide a live update to the course completion percentage, it's a great way to see how they are performing. You will also complete a programming.



GCSE FRENCH

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE: 8652

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MRS BENFORD

<https://www.all-languages.org.uk/research-practice/why-study-languages/>

What Topics Will I Study?

The emphasis of the GCSE course is to develop your ability to communicate in the target language through a range of relevant contexts. The three themes will include:

- People and Lifestyle: covering aspects such as identity and relationships with others, healthy living and lifestyle and education and work.
- Popular Culture: covering aspects such as free-time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations and celebrity culture.
- Communication and the world around us: covering aspects such as: travel and tourism, including places of interest, media and technology, the environment and where people live.
- The speaking examination will be conducted by the student's teacher.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is based on the four language skills; all four equally weighted (25%) with the final examinations as a linear course. All examinations will be externally marked.

Unit 1: Listening

Unit 2: Reading

Unit 3: Speaking*

Unit 4: Writing

This GCSE has two tiers: Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 4-9).

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Language skills are beneficial for a whole range of professions and so will help you to study on a range of courses in further and higher educational establishments.

Studying a language at GCSE is highly rated and equips students to go on to study joint degrees at university in subjects ranging from archaeology and business to interpreting and translating.

In addition to this, it will help the student to better understand their own language and improve communication and confidence across all areas.

A qualification in a foreign language is essential for working in a company that deals with foreign clients.



What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Keep your career options open and continue with a foreign language in further education; in college, in an apprenticeship, in sixth form, or at university. Colleges and employers recognise language learners as committed workers. In an ever changing world of work the knowledge of a foreign language will set you apart from other competitors and will give you a huge advantage.

Specific career ideas are:

- Diplomatic Services Operational Officer
- English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- International Aid/Development Worker
- Logistics and Distribution Manager
- Marketing Executive
- Patent Examiner
- Sales Executive
- Broadcast Journalist
- Tour Manager
- Interpreter
- Translator
- Secondary School Teacher

Some careers are not directly related to this subject but there is the opportunity to use the highly valued language skills acquired in:

- Charity work
- Engineering
- Media
- Museums and libraries
- Public administration
- Teaching
- Tourism
- Transport and logistics
- Business

Need To Know

A GCSE course in a Modern Foreign Language gives you the basic skills you need to communicate with a native speaker, both at work and on holiday.

Being able to communicate in another language will add to your confidence and help you to develop a wide variety of personal skills; team building, independent learning, communication and thinking skills, which all employers rate as being the essential skills for any position of work.



GCSE SPANISH

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE: 8692

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MS PEREZ CRUZ OR MRS BENFORD

<https://www.all-languages.org.uk/research-practice/why-study-languages/>

What Topics Will I Study?

The emphasis of the GCSE course is to develop your ability to communicate in the target language through a range of relevant contexts. The three themes will include:

- People and Lifestyle: covering aspects such as identity and relationships with others, healthy living and lifestyle and education and work.
- Popular Culture: covering aspects such as free-time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations and celebrity culture.
- Communication and the world around us: covering aspects such as: travel and tourism, including places of interest, media and technology, the environment and where people live.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is based on the four language skills; all four equally weighted (25%) with the final examinations as a linear course. All examinations will be externally marked.

- Unit 1: Listening
- Unit 2: Reading
- Unit 3: Speaking*
- Unit 4: Writing

*The speaking examination will be conducted by the student's teacher.

This GCSE has two tiers: Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 4-9).

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Language skills are beneficial for a whole range of professions and so will help you to study on a range of courses in further and higher educational establishments.

Studying a language at GCSE is highly rated and equips students to go on to study joint degrees at university in subjects ranging from archaeology and business to interpreting and translating.

In addition to this it will help the student to better understand their own language and improve communication and confidence across all areas.

A qualification in a foreign language is essential for working in a company that deals with foreign clients.



What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Keep your career options open and continue with a foreign language in further education; in college, in an apprenticeship, in sixth form, or at university.

Colleges and employers recognise language learners as committed workers. In an ever changing world of work the knowledge of a foreign language will set you apart from other competitors and will give you a huge advantage.

Specific career ideas are:

- Diplomatic Services Operational Officer
- English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- International Aid/Development Worker
- Logistics and Distribution Manager
- Marketing Executive
- Patent Examiner
- Sales Executive
- Broadcast Journalist
- Tour Manager
- Interpreter
- Translator
- Secondary School Teacher

Some careers are not directly related to this subject but there is the opportunity to use the highly valued language skills acquired in:

- Charity work
- Engineering
- Media
- Museums and libraries
- Public administration
- Teaching
- Tourism
- Transport and logistics
- Business

Need To Know

A GCSE course in a Modern Foreign Language gives you the basic skills you need to communicate with a native speaker, both at work and on holiday.

Being able to communicate in another language will add to your confidence and help you to develop a wide variety of personal skills; team building, independent learning, communication and thinking skills, which all employers rate as being the essential skills for any position of work.



GCSE ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

EXAM BOARD: OCR
SPECIFICATION CODE: J170

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MRS WALKER

What Topics Will I Study?

Students must specialise within at least two of the following titles; Art, Craft and Design. Fine Art, Graphics, Textile Design, 3D Design and Photography.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Component 1: Personal Portfolio:
This component allows students opportunities to present personal responses to themes – 60% overall grade.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment:
The ESA consists of one externally set, broad-based thematic starting point, developed through a series of suggested starting points – 40% overall grade.

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Students can continue their study in the area of Art and Design as a BTEC or A Level at college.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

There are many career options available for those who can envisage, design and create things such as; Architect, Photographer, Graphic Designer, Interior Designer, Illustrator, Set Design, Industrial Designer, Games Designer, Art Conservationist, Museum Curator, Personal Stylist, Fashion Designer, Art Therapist, App Designer, Animator, Potter/ Ceramics Designer, Museum Curator, Art Teacher...to name a few!

develop their classwork further in a supportive and creative environment. Art students are offered extracurricular opportunities to develop their learning outside of the classroom environment. Students in previous years have attended trips to London, New York and Barcelona.

Need To Know

Being part of the Creative Education Trust gives Arts students opportunities to take part in CET planned activities. This year, Year 10 students have been involved in designing the set and costumes for Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Further Information

Art Club runs after school, allowing students to



GCSE ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN (GRAPHICS)

EXAM BOARD: OCR
SPECIFICATION CODE: J174

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MRS WALKER

What Topics Will I Study?

- Constructed textiles
- Digital textiles
- Dyed fabrics
- Printed fabrics
- Fashion design
- Installed textiles
- Soft furnishings
- Stitched and/or embellished textiles

How Will I Be Assessed?

Component 1: Personal Portfolio: This component allows students opportunities to present personal responses to themes – 60% overall grade.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment:
The ESA consists of one externally set, broad-based thematic starting point, developed through a series of suggested starting points – 40% overall grade.

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Students can continue their study in the area of Textiles as a BTEC or A Level at college

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

• There are many career options available for those who can envisage, design and create things such as;

- Clothing/textile technologist

- Colour technologist
- Illustrator
- Interior and spatial designer
- Fashion designer
- Printmaker
- Textile designer

Need To Know

Textiles Club runs after school, allowing students to develop their classwork further in a supportive and creative environment. Textiles students are offered extracurricular opportunities to develop their learning outside of the classroom environment.

In year 10 students will take part in a range of skill building workshops introducing students to new processes and techniques, this will lead on to a personalised project where you select a starting point to create a portfolio of work in your chosen area of textiles.

Textiles will give you a range of transferable skills you can use in further study and future careers



GCSE BUSINESS

EXAM BOARD: OCR SPECIFICATION CODE: J204

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MRS SANDAL

Would you like...

- To be your own boss running your own business?
- To understand just what goes on in the world of work?
- To know what businesses look for when they recruit staff?
- To see how a business gets its money to operate?
- To know why so many adverts are aimed at teenagers?
- To understand why the same big businesses operate around the world?

What Topics Will I Study?

- Marketing, including advertising, development of products, setting the best price.
- Recruitment, including how businesses get the right staff and keep them working well.
- Business structures, including different ways to set up a business.
- Finance, including how businesses get the money to set up and operate and how they make a profit.
- Business operations, including how businesses produce things.
- Influences on businesses, including the environment and how many businesses operate around the world.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Two exams at the end of the course, each 90 minutes long. Some questions will be multiple choice, some will be extended writing to test your ability to explain why you made a particular decision.

Need To Know

- Want to understand and succeed in the world of business?
- Think that being your own boss at work would be a great idea?
- Want to make better decisions?

Then **OCR GCSE Business** is the subject for you.

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

- You will be able to understand the business world which you will enter after finishing school/college/university.
- You will be able to make informed decisions and put forward arguments to persuade others.
- You will have knowledge to help you set up a business.
- The skills you learn such as evaluation and problem-solving will be useful throughout your life.
- Business is a good stepping stone to A-Level and BTEC study in Year 12 including **Travel and Tourism**, and of course **Business**.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

When you leave school you may be working for a business or another type of organisation. After studying Business you will have an insight into how businesses operate, including how to set up a business of your own. So why should you not be the next Karren Brady or Richard Branson?



GCSE DRAMA

EXAM BOARD: AQA SPECIFICATION CODE: 8261

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MISS JOHNSON

What Topics Will I Study?

Component 1 - Understanding Drama - Written Exam:
For your written paper, you will gain an understanding of theatre through exploring performance skills and design elements through written questions and answers. To prepare for the exam, you will study a set text (*Blood Brothers*), understand the roles within theatre and Analyse and Evaluate Live Theatre productions.

Component 2- Devising Drama- Internally examined performance with written coursework:

In this component, you will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with your peers to create an original performance piece. You will be developing your devising skills either through performance or design and marked practically on your final performance. Through the component, you will explore Theatre practitioners, styles and genres of theatre. Individually you will write about experimenting and examining stimuli, rehearsing and developing your performance or design roles and finally analyse and evaluate your final performance.

Component 3- Texts in Practice- Externally examined performance:

In this component you will study a chosen text and perform a role or create a design for two key extracts from the script to an examiner and audience. You will look at the play in depth considering the context and playwright's intentions and develop your skills as either a performer or designer.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Component 1 (40%) – 1hr 45 minute written exam. You will answer nine questions in the exam.

Section A – Theatre Roles and configuration (multiple choice question and answers).

Section B – *Blood Brothers* set text (3 compulsory extended answers. 1 final extended answer – choice of two questions)

Section C – Live Theatre Analysis and Evaluation (1 extended answer – choice of three questions)

Component 2 (40%) – Non Examined Assessment (devising)

Practical performance or design option – 10% marked on your acting or design skills in a final performance
Portfolio – 30% Written 2500 words (or audio response) on three set sections. These refer to the devising process.

Component 3 (20%) Externally examined practical performance

Extract 1 = 10% one performance or design from a chosen play

Extract 2 = 10% one performance or design from the same play



What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

This course could lead onto apprenticeships within the theatre or live performance sector. It could also lead into a BTEC or A level route, focusing on Drama and Theatre or Performing Arts.

Drama compliments many other subjects, with correlation to English, History, Media, Music, Sociology and Politics

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

You can use your GCSE Drama skills to enter into a variety of professions; such as performing arts, media, business, law, advertising, sales, hospitality and tourism. GCSE Drama will compliment any role where you need excellent communication and teamwork skills, a creative outlook, organisational skills, the ability to meet deadlines and the ability to lead.

Need To Know

This GCSE Drama course offers a fantastic opportunity to develop your understanding of theatre and drama both historically and in the modern world. You will build skills in performance and/or design alongside becoming a critical audience member of theatre being able to analyse and evaluate performances and design features. It will also give you wider skills such as building confidence in presenting ideas and performances to peers, problem solving and teamwork skills.



GCSE GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

- EXAM BOARD: OCR
- SPECIFICATION CODE: J172

● *FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MRS WALKER*

- ***What Topics Will I Study?***

- Candidates are required to work in one or more area(s) of Graphic Communication. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations or areas:

- Illustration
- Advertising
- Packaging design
- Communication graphics
- Design for print
- Animation
- Digital media
- Web Design, Television, Multimedia.
- Lens-based and light-based media: film, animation, video and photography
- New media practices, such as CGI (Computer Generated Imagery)

- ***How Will I Be Assessed?***

- Unit 1: Portfolio of Work (80 marks – 60%)
Controlled Assessment – set and marked by centre and moderated by AQA.
- Candidate portfolio selected from work undertaken during course of study and must include more than one project.

- Unit 2: Externally Set Task (80 marks – 40%)
Question papers issued from 1 January.

- Marked by centre and moderated by AQA. Unlimited preparation time. 10 hours of sustained focused study. Candidates respond to their chosen starting point.

- ***What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?***

- A-Level AQA Graphic Communication (offered at AGS), Graphic Design (National Diploma/BTEC), or Fine Art.

- ***What Careers Could This Help Me With?***

- Graphic Design, Interior Design, Advertising, Marketing and Architecture.

- ***Need To Know***

- This is an Art and Design course with an emphasis on the communication of an idea or message. The course will contain hand rendered and computer-generated outcomes, depending on ability, strengths and aspirations.

- In year 10 students will take part in a range of skill building workshops introducing students to new processes and techniques, this will lead on to a personalised project where you select a starting point to create a portfolio of work in your chosen area of Graphics

- Graphics will give you a range of transferable skills you can use in further study and future careers.



EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 8585

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MISS CLEGG

What Topics Will I Study?

AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and encouragement they need to prepare and cook food.

It will give students the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Food Preparation and Nutrition allows students to utilise a problem-solving approach, developing solutions in relation to real time briefs using flair and creativity.

Pupils develop expertise in the following areas:

- *Food Provenance*
- *Food Choice*
- *Food Nutrition and Health*
- *Food Science*
- *Food Safety*

How Will I Be Assessed?

Paper 1: Food and Nutrition

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of GCSE

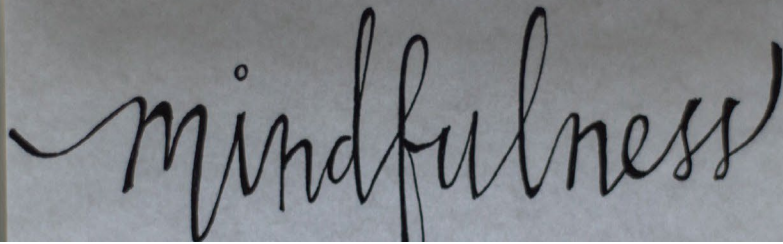
Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Students will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways, developing vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.



mindfulness

BTEC LEVEL 1 / LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

EXAM BOARD: PEARSON / EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION CODE: BYNR5

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MISS CATLING

What Topics Will I Study?

How do people grow and develop throughout their lives? How can factors such as lifestyle choices, relationships and life events affect your growth and development? This will provide you with the opportunity to explore how we grow and develop throughout our lives and to investigate the factors that affect this growth and development. You will go on to consider how these factors are interrelated.

What is good practice in health and social care? What ensures that good practice is applied to support individuals who use health and social care services? Health and social care values underpin good practice within the sector.

How Will I Be Assessed?

There are four units to complete. We study:
Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development

Component 2 – Health and Social Care Services and Values

Component 3 – Health and Well-being help you into a job in the health and social care sector. It will work well with sociology, psychology and sport.

Component 1 and 2 are through coursework, they will be internally assessed and sent off for sampling. Component 3 – Synoptic Paper that is externally assessed.

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

This will help you go on to Level 3 BTEC Health and Social Care as well as any subject that will.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Studying Health and Social Care will help you get into a huge range of jobs within this large sector.

If you are wanting to work in any job in a hospital, or the social care sector, for example: Nursing, midwifery, social worker, teacher, physiotherapist, councillor, mental health worker and many more.

Need To Know

This course will require you to have a good interest in the health and social care sector, you will need to follow current affairs on the news and understand issues with the NHS.



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION CODE: 8062

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM MR LENTON

What Topics Will I Study?

A variety of religious and thematic topics will be included.

Pupils will study Christian and Islamic beliefs. Key relevant themes will include:

- Relationships and families
- Religion and life
- Peace and conflict
- Human rights linking to social justice.

How Will I Be Assessed?

There are two written exams (each worth 50% of GCSE), comprising 96 marks each.

Component 1

The study of religions: beliefs, teaching and practices

- Component 2
- Thematic Studies
- Relationship and families
- Religion and life
- Peace and conflict
- Human rights and social justice

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Ethics, Law, History, Geography, Sociology and Psychology.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Teacher, Civil Service, Counsellor, Police Officer, Advice Worker, Lawyer and Solicitor.

Need To Know

Religious studies will allow pupils to improve clear and logical thinking skills, evaluation, literacy and expression, and research skills.

Religious studies is great for pupils who are interested in issues that affect them and the surrounding world. Pupils will learn about key issues to do with religion, law and rights.



CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL LEVEL 1/2 SPORTS SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD: CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL
SPECIFICATION CODE: J828

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

What Topics Will I Study?

Cambridge national is designed to give learners an insight into a broad range of jobs and careers in sport. All assessments have a vocational aspect to them with tasks that are common in the work place. Cambridge national courses cover a wide range of topic areas and allow students to be more Independent in their study, developing their own research skills.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will complete 3 units over the next two years;

R181

Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance.

R182

The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this.

R180

Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions.

How Will I Be Assessed?

R181

Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance. 80MARKS

R182

The body's response to physical activity and how and how technology informs this 40 MARKS

R180

Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions. 80 MARKS

What Courses Could This Help Me Study After Year 11?

Students can use this course to progress onto Level 3 Sport Science or Level 3 BTEC Sport either at College or Ash Green Sixth Form. Students can then progress onto university. Alternatively, students could go onto apprenticeships, using this course as a base to build from.

What Careers Could This Help Me With?

Students will be able to progress into a wide range of career opportunities. Sport Science is a good course for developing key skills within the sporting sector.

Need To Know

The course allows students to be assessed in many ways and assignment briefs are developed with individual student needs in mind. The structure of the course allows students to access both level 1 and level 2 standards.

ASH GREEN SCHOOL
ASH GREEN LANE
COVENTRY
CV7 9AH

Tel: 0247 636 6772
Email: enquiries@ashgreenschool.org.uk
Website: www.ashgreenschool.org.uk

