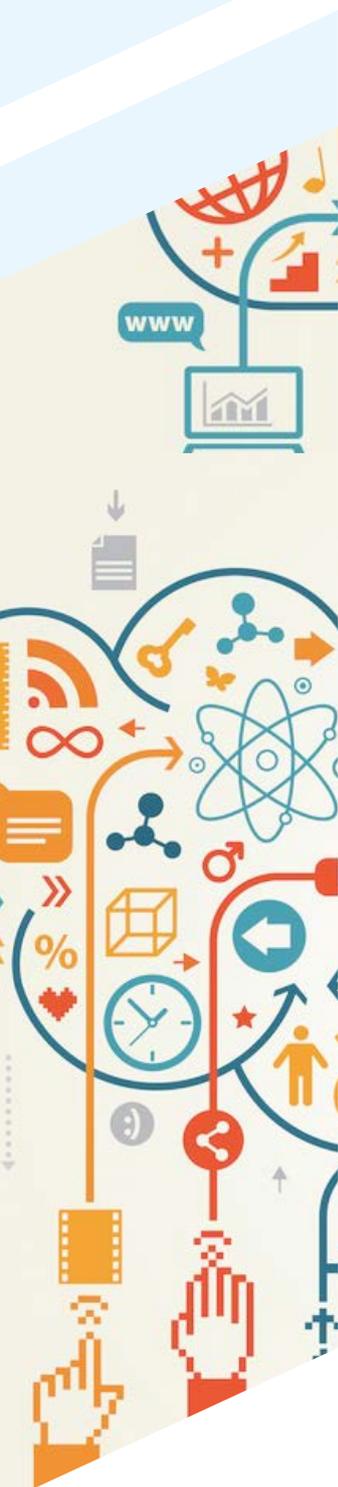




2020-21 **KS4**
OPTIONS

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Dear students

As you approach the next three years of your education, you will be able to make some choices about which courses you wish to pursue to GCSE. This is one of the most important decisions you will make during your time at Brooke Weston Academy. The choices you make now start to shape your future opportunities for University and employment. It is important that you think carefully about your options and talk widely with your parents and teachers.

The options process presents you with a genuine opportunity to compile a personalised curriculum appropriate to you. In creating the range of optional subjects, we have attempted to consider every interest and enthusiasm. Students of different aptitudes and abilities should be able to create a selection of courses that fulfil their ambitions and interests. Along with this, the compulsory core subjects, such as English, mathematics and science, will enable you to follow any future career pathways.

You will be aware that if you chose a route, which combines English, mathematics, science, history or geography and a modern foreign language, then you will be eligible to secure the English Baccalaureate. This will be an important qualification for students thinking of going to University in the future.

Genuine interest and enthusiasm in a subject is always a sound basis from which to start the selection process. The choices are for you and your parents to make. We will always be happy to provide you with advice and guidance; but we are insistent that the choice is yours.

I do hope you find the information in this booklet helpful. If you need to seek clarification from me, staff in subject departments or from any of my senior colleagues, please do not hesitate in approaching any of us. Mrs Scott, the careers advisor, is also available to help you.

I am immensely proud of your achievements in your first two years at Brooke Weston. I am very confident that you will go on to achieve high levels of success in this very important phase of your studies and we will be here to support you in every way that we can.

Good luck.

Shaun Strydom
Associate Principal

Introduction

This Key Stage 4 course booklet sets out the subjects available. It introduces a range of additional academic and vocationally-related choices for you to select in readiness for the final phase of your compulsory secondary education. The subjects that Brooke Weston students are required to study up to 16 years of age ensure that the doors of opportunity for most careers and vocations will remain open to you. Nevertheless, some choices must be made.

How much science must I study? How many subjects can I realistically pursue to examination level? What subjects must I definitely prioritise for my career ambitions? Should I select some courses which are more for pleasure than academic purposes? All of these questions will need answering and much counselling, advice-seeking and consultation will be necessary before you can make the most relevant decision for you.

The opportunities we offer our students during Key Stage 4 will include:

- ▶ General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in a range of subjects
- ▶ Vocationally-related qualifications
- ▶ A clear progression of courses into the Sixth Form and then on to Higher Education through academic or vocational routes
- ▶ Additional recreational activities such as residential experiences, competitive and individual sports, music tuition, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Combined Cadet Force.

Brooke Weston's curriculum aims to provide opportunities beyond the minimum National Curriculum requirements.

Time allocation

In apportioning time to the curriculum, Brooke Weston is conscious of the fact that its day and year are significantly longer than other schools. Consequently, students are able to spend more time on particular subjects.

An average school curriculum is based on 25 hours per week. This does not, of course, include tutor time and assemblies. The Brooke Weston curriculum is 31.25 hours per week and for seven or eight days more per year than local schools (this depends on Bank Holiday dates). The net effect of this is that our students study more than 325 extra hours each year.

Much of this extra time is absorbed in improving the quality of what is learned, but some is devoted to the

quantity. The extra time in Years 7, 8 and 9 was allocated to broadening Key Stage 3 experiences whilst building confident, socially and morally astute individuals ready to embrace Key Stage 4.

The investment of time into the core subjects identifies our priorities; it is in the subjects of English, mathematics, science, humanities and modern foreign languages that we expect GCSE entry for everyone.

We wish to emphasise that it is not our intention to compel every student to pursue as many GCSEs as possible, particularly if this influences the quality of their work.



Structure

Brooke Weston has a two year key stage 4, meaning that at the end of Year 9 students will be required to select their options. They will be required to select two options in addition to the range of core subjects on offer. The curriculum offering is detailed below.

Core Subjects (21 lessons per week)

English (4 lessons)

GCSE English Language with GCSE English Literature. All students will pursue a course leading to two GCSEs in English.

Mathematics (5 lessons)

GCSE mathematics.

All students will pursue a course leading to one GCSE in mathematics. (Those students aiming for a grade 8 will have the opportunity to pursue a course in 'Further Maths' alongside their mathematics GCSE).

Science (4 lessons)

All students will study combined science (2 GCSEs) in Year 9 and have the opportunity to opt for the separate sciences in biology, chemistry and physics in Year 10 (3 GCSEs so it replaces one of the option selections).

Personal Health and Fitness (2 lessons)

All students are expected to follow an individualised programme of physical education. This will be negotiated between the students and their teacher.

Humanities (3 lessons)

Students will be required to select either geography or history in Year 10 and continue this into Year 11.

Modern Foreign Languages (3 lessons)

Students will continue studying either French or Spanish as in the previous year.

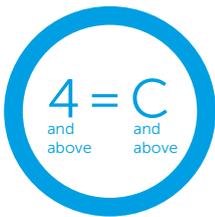
Optional Subjects (4 lessons)

There is a wide and varied choice of optional subjects available to students covering the arts, humanities-based subjects, business-related subjects, sports studies and creative-based options. These courses are all offered at GCSE or equivalent level, being taught in two lessons per week.

The new 9-1 GCSE grading system

Due to government changes, new GCSEs were introduced in 2015. The new GCSEs have a grading system of 9-1 with grade 9 representing the highest level of attainment and 1 the lowest. The following points and accompanying diagram helps to explain this new approach:

- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve C and above. A grade 4 is considered a standard pass, whilst a grade 5 is a strong pass.
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above.
- For each examination, the top 20% of those who get grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest performers.
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.



New GCSE grading structure									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Current GCSE grading structure									

English Baccalaureate

The Government believes that schools should offer students a broad range of academic subjects to age 16, and the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is designed to ensure this happens. The EBacc is not a new qualification in itself. It recognises students' achievements across a core of selected academic subjects. The English Baccalaureate will cover achievement in English, mathematics, science, a modern foreign language and a humanities subject.



GCSEs and University

The grades you achieve at GCSE and the subject choices you make at this point can have a significant impact on whether or not a future application made to University is successful. The following points should be considered:

- ▶ Virtually all university courses now stipulate a minimum entry requirement of 5 GCSE subjects at grade 5 or above, including English language and mathematics. Several courses require at least a GCSE grade 6 in English language or mathematics and in some cases, both subjects
- ▶ For a degree in English language, universities often look for applicants to have a GCSE grade 5 or above in a modern foreign language
- ▶ A grade 6 in GCSE mathematics, and sometimes a science subject, is often required for certain degrees such as psychology and physiotherapy
- ▶ A number of university medical and veterinary science courses require a minimum of 7 GCSE subjects at grade 8/9

Students are strongly advised to carefully check entry requirements for each of their preferred university choices using university websites and prospectuses. If in any doubt, students should contact the relevant admissions tutor to seek clarification.

Further information regarding GCSE entry requirements to university courses can be found in the 'Course Search' section of the UCAS Website.



Additional Opportunities

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

At Brooke Weston we offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award to anyone in Year 10 and above. It is a programme that is enjoyable, challenging at times and rewarding to all who take part.

The Award is tailor-made to reflect a student's abilities, interests and commitment plus local provision. Each level of the award (Bronze, Silver or Gold) has 4 sections to it (5 at gold).

- ▶ Volunteering - unpaid work that gives something back to a less fortunate individual or a whole community
- ▶ Skills - development of a personal interest or social and practical skills
- ▶ Physical recreation - an activity that improves the level of physical fitness of the individual
- ▶ Expedition - a camping adventure over 1, 2 or 3 nights
- ▶ Residential project (Gold level only) - voluntary service in a residential setting to broaden experience through involvement with others

The award, once gained at any level, shows that a person has interests outside formal education. Students develop their self-belief and confidence; they gain independence and a sense of responsibility; and they become aware of their abilities and potential.

All these qualities produce a more rounded individual which is extremely attractive to over-subscribed universities and then, later in life, to future employers.

Trips and visits

We have a well-established programme of residentials including cultural and activity trips. In the past these have included destinations in Europe and America. For those who are more adventurous we run month-long trips to global destinations that have included Africa, South America and the Galapagos. Students are accompanied by staff members and experienced guides.

Brooke Weston Trust Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Students have the opportunity to join our very successful CCF contingent, made up of cadets from across the Trust schools. The cadet training syllabus includes drill, skill at arms, field craft and navigation and it is physically and mentally demanding.

Once a cadet it is expected that you will commit to the CCF until you finish Year 11.

Training takes place weekly during school time, but there will also be whole day and weekend Field Days and an Annual Camp held at military training areas with cadets from other CCF contingents.

By joining the CCF, you are not committing yourself to a career in the Armed Forces although many cadets go on to join the Armed Forces once they leave school, there is absolutely no pressure for any cadet to do so.

Cadets is limited to a maximum of 30 places per year and, if oversubscribed, places are allocated by a selection process. You will not get a GCSE from CCF so you must therefore be secure with your academic subjects. If students select CCF, they will be required to drop one of their options (the option dropped cannot be chosen in advance due to timetabling restrictions).



You must:

- ▶ Be reasonably fit and healthy
- ▶ Enjoy being outside
- ▶ Have a taste for adventure
- ▶ Be able to follow instructions, especially in challenging situations
- ▶ Enjoy leading teams and being a team player
- ▶ Have the consent of your parents and the support of your tutor

Art Department

Students have the opportunity to specialise in the art subject that best reflects their ability, with artistic techniques ranging from painting and drawing to 3-dimensional ceramic constructions and sculpture in Fine Art and digitally manipulated imagery and moving imagery in Photography. The choice of materials is endless and the support of subject specialist teachers enables students to achieve their best.

Creativity is fostered through exciting assignments that cater for individual interest. The students are encouraged to experiment with ideas and materials within a nurturing environment. Students who have successfully completed a GCSE Fine Art or Photography course have gone on to study A level Fine Art and Photography leading to potential careers as an artist in architecture, graphic design, fashion design and a professional photographer.

Courses offered in Art

- GCSE Fine Art
- GCSE Photography

Trips, Visits and Materials

During the course students have the opportunity to spend a day at an art gallery to experience original works of art first-hand to extend their creative knowledge of Art and Design in the wider world. The trips and visits take place within the normal school day and there is a small charge for transport. While we do provide students with a wide range of Art and Photography materials at school, it is recommended that students purchase their own few essential Art and Photography materials in order to complete homework tasks. The school does offer student material packs at a competitive rate to provide students with the correct equipment.



➤ GCSE Fine Art

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Coursework and practical exam
Overview	Students will learn a variety of Art skills, techniques and processes which include: Drawing; Painting; Printmaking; Ceramics, Sculpture and Mixed media. Students will apply the techniques learnt to explore an idea and respond to a theme in a personal way to produce a body of work with a final outcome for their coursework unit. Students will be given an externally set examination paper during Term 3 of Year 11, culminating in a 10-hour final examination. Work produced in the final exam will be on display at the end of year exhibition.
Units studied	Coursework Unit: Internally set theme (60% of GCSE) Exam Unit: Externally set theme (40% of GCSE)
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level Fine Art.

➤ GCSE Photography

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Coursework and practical exam
Overview	Students will learn a variety of photographic techniques and processes which include: Camera settings; Aperture; Shutter speed; Types of Lighting and Digital manipulation using Photoshop. Students will apply the techniques learnt to explore an idea and respond to a theme in a personal way to produce a body of work and a final outcome for their coursework unit. Students will be given an externally set examination paper during Term 3 of Year 11, culminating in a 10-hour final examination. Work produced in the final exam will be on display at the end of year exhibition.
Units studied	Coursework Unit: Internally set theme (60% of GCSE) Exam Unit: Externally set theme (40% of GCSE)
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level Photography.

Business Department

Business is the lifeblood of any developed nation, whether it is the small sole trader or the massive multinational, all contribute to the way we live and work. Learning business will enable you to develop an array of skills from marketing, finance and human resources and to gain an appreciation of the economic environment. If you want to understand the complexities of a company or to set up your own business, this is an important subject where skills learnt can be transferred to everyday life.

Courses and options offered in Business

- GCSE Business Studies



GCSE Business Studies

Exam Board	Edexcel
Assessment	Two externally set examinations equally weighted (100% exam)
Overview	Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of various aspects of business, including marketing, human resource, production and finance.
Units studied	<p>Theme 1: Investigating Small Business (50%)</p> <p>Topic content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enterprise• Marketing and market research• Business Finance• Aims and Objectives of a business• Ownership of a business• Business plans• Legislation• The economy and business <p>Theme 2: Building a Business (50%)</p> <p>Topic content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business growth• Globalisation• Ethics and business• The marketing mix• Managing stock• Production• Motivation in the workplace• Recruitment and training
Progression to Sixth Form	A GCSE in Business Studies enables students to pursue a wide range of Sixth Form subjects. A-Level Business Studies allows students to build on their knowledge from GCSE, giving them a deeper understanding of all areas of business.

Design & Technology Department

The Design & Technology department has two well-equipped workshops; a specialist electronics room; excellent ICT facilities that include CAD/CAM and a digital printer; a dedicated textiles suite and fully equipped Food Preparation & Nutrition area which give our GCSE students access to a wide variety of manufacturing and catering processes.

Courses and options offered in Design & Technology

- ▶ GCSE Design & Technology (Material Specialism: Timber)
- ▶ GCSE Design & Technology (Material Specialism: Textiles)
- ▶ GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

▶ GCSE Design & Technology (Material Specialism: Timber)

Exam Board	Edexcel
Assessment	Written examination 50% of the qualification covering core content & specialist material (Timber), and contextual design challenge practical & portfolio 50%.
Overview	The GCSE in Design and Technology enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.
Units studied	<p>Component 1: Core content enables students to study a broad range of processes and materials which includes emerging technologies, smart & composite materials, technical textiles, metals, wood, polymers, environmental and social economic challenges. Students also have the opportunity to go into a material strand in more detail, which in this course will be timber.</p> <p>Component 2: Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by the exam board a year before certification. The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level Design Technology.

▶ GCSE Design & Technology (Material Specialism: Textiles)

Exam Board	Edexcel
Assessment	Written examination 50% of the qualification covering core content & specialist material (Textiles), and contextual design challenge practical & portfolio 50%.
Overview	The GCSE in Design and Technology enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.
Units studied	<p>Component 1: Core content enables students to study a broad range of processes and materials which includes emerging technologies, smart & composite materials, technical textiles, metals, wood, polymers, environmental and social economic challenges. Students also have the opportunity to go into a material strand in more detail, which in this course will be textiles.</p> <p>Component 2: Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by the exam board a year before certification. The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level Design Technology or Fashion & Textiles.

➤ GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Written exam 50% and two non-exam assessments; NEA 1 Food Investigation task 15% and NEA 2 Food Preparation Task 35%.
Overview	The GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition helps students develop their creativity and knowledge with the science of food and development of practical skills a vital feature of this specification. There are two non-exam assessments that require students to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. This course has 50% non-exam assessment and 50% written exam in order to recognise the importance of practical skills and the science of food within this subject.
Units studied	<p>Non-exam assessment 1: Food Investigation Task – 15% Research, plan and carry out an investigation into the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.</p> <p>Non-exam assessment 2: Food Preparation Task – 35% Plan, prepare, cook and present three dishes with a 20 page portfolio showcasing a range of skills.</p> <p>Written exam – 50% Consisting of 20 multiple choice questions and 5 long answer questions to test knowledge and understanding of nutrition, food science, food choice, food provenance, food safety cooking and preparation skills.</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This GCSE enables students to pursue a wide range of Sixth Form subjects.



English Department

The principles of effective communication – in reading, writing, speaking and listening – lie at the heart of every aspect of English; our teachers strive to inspire and educate all students in the importance of the subject, not just as part of the curriculum but as a very important life skill for the future.

Courses and options offered in English

- ▶ GCSE English Language
- ▶ GCSE English Literature
- ▶ GCSE Media Studies

Trips and Visits

Students are, when possible, invited to attend theatre performances of the texts they study in lessons. This extends their knowledge and interpretation of the text, enabling greater insight into the playwrights' methods as well as developing an appreciation of the arts.



GCSE English Language

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Two externally set written papers equally weighted (100% exam)
Overview	This is a core subject, taught over four lessons, with GCSE English Literature. It develops students' abilities to communicate effectively in speech and writing, and to listen with understanding. It also enables them to be enthusiastic, responsive and knowledgeable readers of a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts.
Units studied	Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%) Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%) Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level English Language or A-Level English Literature. It will also enable students to access other courses in the Sixth Form such as A-Level Media Studies, A-Level Sociology and A-Level Psychology.

GCSE English Literature

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Two externally set written papers (100% exam)
Overview	This is a core subject, taught over four lessons, with GCSE English Language. It enables students to explore the world of literature and to be enthusiastic, responsive and knowledgeable readers. Students are given the opportunity to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts, to appreciate the ways in which authors achieve their effects and to develop the skills necessary for literary study. Students are also encouraged to be aware of social, historical and cultural contexts and influences in the study of literature and to construct and convey meaning in speech and writing, matching style to audience and purpose.
Units studied	Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel (40% of GCSE English Literature) Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60% of GCSE English Literature)
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A Level English Literature.

GCSE Media Studies

Exam Board	OCR
Assessment	Coursework and exam
Overview	This exciting course allows you to sample aspects of the media industry. Your studies will allow you to explore the media industry from a range of perspectives – both as a creator and an audience of media. You will explore a wide range of media texts and will have the opportunity to be creative by producing media texts.
Units studied	Unit 1: TV and promoting media (written examination) (35% of the GCSE) Unit 2: Music and News (written examination) (35% of the GCSE) Unit 3/4: Creating media (non-exam assessment) (30% of the GCSE)
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level Media Studies.

Humanities Department

The humanities department offers GCSEs in geography, history and religious studies. These subjects develop our knowledge and understanding of human behaviour and its consequences for others and the world we live in. They teach us to appreciate different cultures and beliefs and to understand the world around us. Through studying a humanities subject, you will be learning how to think creatively and critically, to reason and to ask questions, providing you with essential skills that may be applied in other subjects and in everyday life.

The humanities are traditional subjects which are held in high regard as academic disciplines and are therefore looked upon very favourably by both employers and universities. In addition, religious studies may be taken as an optional subject in which you will consider the beliefs and practises of two religions, investigate ethical and philosophical issues and gain knowledge and understanding to make your own informed decisions.

Courses and options offered in Humanities

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Religious Studies: Christianity and Islam

Trips and Visits

The GCSE Geography students are required to undertake two geographical enquiries, each of which must include the use of primary data, collected as part of a fieldwork exercise. Fieldwork takes place outside of the classroom and on two separate occasions. The cost of the field trips vary depending on the distance to the location and duration of the stay (i.e. there is a small charge for fuel and any overnight stays will incur an additional cost). GCSE History students are not required to complete any field work, however students will have the opportunity to see the 'Doctors show' production as part of their study of 'Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day'. Visits to local places of worship and visits from external speakers often forms part of the Religious Studies course.



GCSE Geography

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Three externally set written papers (100% exam)
Overview	Students will study a variety of geographical issues and topics. Students will study two compulsory topics: Living with the physical environment (35%) and Challenges in the human environment (35%) whilst developing various geographical skills (30%).
Units studied	<p>Living with the physical environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The challenge of natural hazards• The living world• Physical landscapes in the UK <p>Challenges in the human environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban issues and challenges• The changing economic world• The challenge of resource management <p>Geographical applications which includes an issue evaluation and fieldwork.</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A Level Geography.

GCSE History

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Two externally set written papers (100% exam)
Overview	Students will study four different historical topics which will be taught using a variety of methods. Through studying these topics, students will develop a knowledge and understanding of the past, of the reasons some of these events took place and how they affect the attitudes of people today. They will also develop important skills, such as the ability to analyse and communicate information.
Units studied	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• America, 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation• Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972• Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day• Norman England, c1066–c1100
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A Level History.

GCSE Religious Studies: Christianity and Islam

Exam Board	EDUQAS
Assessment	Three externally set written papers (100% exam)
Overview	Students will develop important skills such as analytical thinking and debate. Religious Studies also supports skills developed in other subjects such as the ability to communicate information and to understand the points of view of others without necessarily agreeing with them. Through studying the various topics, students will develop a deep knowledge and understanding of different beliefs and the reasons why these views are held. They will also learn how different worldviews affect the attitudes of people today; linking to an understanding of their own personal views on various issues.
Units studied	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity• The Study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam• The Study of four thematic ethical and philosophical issues (Issues of Relationships, Issues of Life and Death, Issues of Good and Evil, Issues of Human Rights)
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A Level Philosophy and Ethics.

ICT Department

ICT is essential in our modern lives and is not only an important subject in its own right but supports many others. The GCSE in Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs. The Level 2 in Interactive Media is designed to provide pupils with the skills, knowledge and understanding of digital media including; combinations of electronic text, graphics, moving images and sound in a structured digital computerised environment.

Courses and options offered in ICT

- GCSE Computer Science
- Level 2 in Interactive Media



GCSE Computer Science

Exam Board	OCR
Assessment	Exam and coursework
Overview	The course is assessed by a combination of examination (100%) and one programming preparation task. It gives students a real and in-depth understanding of how computer technology works, and an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.
Units studied	<p>It should be noted that Ofqual are in the process of making changes to this qualification which may result in some of these figures changing slightly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer systems (Examined unit) 50%• Problem solving and algorithms (Examined unit) 50%• Programming Project (Not Examined – Skills Preparation for Examination)
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level Computer Science.

Level 2 Technical Award in Interactive Media

Exam Board	NCFE
Assessment	Exam and coursework
Overview	To be awarded the NCFE Level 1 or Level 2 Technical Award in Interactive Media, pupils are required to successfully complete four mandatory units for each qualification. Pupils must also achieve a minimum of a 'Pass' in the external assessment.
Units studied	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 1: Investigate interactive media production• Unit 2: Plan and prepare for an interactive media• Unit 3: Development and production of an interactive media product• Unit 4: Present and promote an interactive media product
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in ICT.



GCSE Mathematics

Exam Board	Edexcel
Assessment	Three external examinations at the end of the course (100% exam)
Overview	This core subject is taught over four lessons per week and aims to develop an in depth understanding and fluency across a range of different Mathematical disciplines. In addition it will give students the opportunity to tackle problems in a range of real life contexts.
Units studied	<p>The course is designed to give students a broad and balanced mathematics curriculum covering topics in six key areas, outlined below:</p> <p>Number: Arithmetic, types of number, percentages, fractions, decimals and indices.</p> <p>Algebra: Simplifying, factorising, solving and dealing with complex expressions and equations and being able to see the connection with graphs.</p> <p>Ratio, proportion and rates of change: Ratio, direct and inverse proportion, growth and decay, gradients and rates of change.</p> <p>Geometry and measures: Understanding of shape properties, transformations, trigonometry and Pythagoras and then being able to apply to functional questions</p> <p>Probability: including tree diagrams, Venn diagrams, conditional probabilities, independent trials and mutually exclusive events.</p> <p>Statistics: Collecting, representing and analysing data and developing the ability to state what this means.</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level Mathematics and/or A-Level Further Mathematics in the Sixth Form.



Modern Foreign Languages Department

Success in a Modern Foreign Language is becoming more and more important in the current world due to the rich and diverse culture in which we live. Having a language will improve your chances of getting a good job in the future and a place at a top university. The Languages Department will encourage you to work more independently in preparation for Higher Education and will provide you with learning opportunities so that you can showcase your talents.

The Department is fortunate in having experienced staff including native French and Spanish speakers. The Department also currently has the support of a team of Foreign Language Assistants who are able to give additional help with spoken language and conversation.

Courses and options offered in MFL

- GCSE French
- GCSE Spanish



GCSE in French or Spanish

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Four external examinations all equally weighed at 25% for speaking, reading, writing and listening (100% exam)
Overview	This is a core course, taught over three lessons per week. It seeks to develop an understanding of the chosen language in both its written and spoken form in a number of different contexts. Through their learning of their respective languages, students are encouraged to develop their knowledge of the people and culture in the country where the target language is spoken and thereby to develop a greater understanding of and positive attitudes towards those cultures. As students' awareness of the structure and grammar of the language improves, their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills will also develop.
Units studied	During the study of this course, students will cover a number of topics grouped broadly under the following four themes : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifestyle• Leisure• Work and Education• Home and Environment
Progression to Sixth Form	This course is specifically designed to prepare students for further study of their chosen language at A-Level. Students will also be able to experience a series of AS style lessons during their Year 11 studies to fully prepare them for higher level study of a language. The learning of French or Spanish grammar is of particular importance for higher level study.



Performing Arts Department

A GCSE in any performing arts subject is an excellent qualification to have for many career paths as it shows total commitment to a particular area of study or interest. Performers spend many hours on their own and in groups rehearsing to improve and so valuable skills are developed in all three arts subjects.

As performers, students will develop confidence, self-esteem and presentations skills and through devising and creating personal work, your abilities to sensitively critique, deeply evaluate and act upon feedback to improve will be expanded, all of which are very useful for a number of vocations and the arts also provide an excellent discussion point in interviews.

All performing arts students are exposed to national professional performances, broadening their outlook on life and offering experiences to become a well-rounded individual. If you are creative and are looking for a qualification to express yourself, then you should consider a GCSE in the Performing Arts Department.

Courses and options offered in Performing Arts

- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Drama

Trips and visits

The Performing Arts Department regularly organises a range of local and national theatre trips to support and develop the knowledge, understanding and application of skills.



GCSE Dance

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Exam and coursework
Overview	This is an optional course, taught over two lessons. This course allows students to study this powerful and expressive art form, developing their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity whilst building upon their interest in dance. The areas of study include a wide range of dance styles and dance fusions and is designed to allow the study of dance through performance, composition and appreciation.
Units studied	<p>Unit 1: Performance and choreography – Students will perform a solo performance and a performance in a duo or trio jointly created by the students and teacher. They will also create their own solo or group choreography. (60%)</p> <p>Unit 2: Dance appreciation – A written exam following the study of an anthology of professional dance work. (40%)</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A Level Dance.

GCSE Drama

Exam Board	AQA
Assessment	Exam and coursework
Overview	This is an optional course, taught over two lessons. Students partake in a variety of written and practical lessons aimed at developing their understanding of Drama and Theatre. They will explore practitioners, styles and genres while creating their own devised performances and be develop skills which will enable them to critically analyse a live production. The course allows students of all strengths to flourish they gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.
Units studied	<p>Unit 1: Understanding Drama (40%)</p> <p>Unit 2: Devising Drama (40%)</p> <p>Unit 3: Texts in practice (20%)</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A Level Theatre Studies.



PH&F Department

Students who are enthusiastic about sport and proficient in a variety of areas would be suited to studying a sport-related course that not only develops their practical skills but also introduces them to the theoretical side of Physical Education. Such courses are particularly relevant to students looking at a career in the sports industry or who want to maintain a good level of expertise and fitness in later life.

Courses and options offered in PH&F

- Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate in Sport studies
- Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate in Health and Social Care



➤ Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate in Sport Science

Exam Board	OCR
Assessment	Exam and practical coursework
Overview	This is an optional course, taught over two lessons per week. This course will develop theoretical knowledge and is both portfolio based (75%) and externally examined (25%).
Units studied	<p>Two mandatory units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contemporary issues – assessed by a one hour examination.• Developing Sport Skills – centre assessed tasks that are externally moderated. <p>Two optional units from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor adventurous activities• Sport and the media• Sports Leadership <p>All of these units are centre assessed and externally moderated.</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in Sport.

➤ Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate in Health and Social Care

Exam Board	OCR
Assessment	Exam and coursework
Overview	The course is assessed by a combination of examination (25%) and three externally assessed controlled assessments (75%). It will equip students with sound specialist knowledge of the health and social care sector, and develop skills for everyday use such as first aid in a variety of settings. Students will be introduced to the 'essential values of care', and then given the opportunity to apply their practical skills into developing and delivering an activity into an appropriate setting. They will develop transferable skills and tools to improve their learning in other subjects with the aim of enhancing their employability when they leave education, contributing to both their personal development and future economic well-being.
Units studied	<p>The OCR Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care consists of:</p> <p>Two mandatory units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings.• Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years. <p>Two optional units from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Aid• Understanding life stages.• Understanding the Body Systems and Disorders
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Health and Social Care. It will also provide a sound grounding for a future career in the health and social care sector.



Science Department

We cannot escape the fact that Science is a necessary part of our everyday lives. It studies the things that are happening around and within us and looks for evidence to explain ideas. Advances in technology and science are transforming our world at an incredible pace from the food that we eat and the medicines we take to the clothes that we wear. Having an understanding of the role of science in our lives is important for each of us so therefore, achieving a GCSE in science is an essential requirement for all students. Having an understanding of the role science plays in our lives is also recognised by many universities, as a significant number of degree courses have a qualification in GCSE science as one of the entry requirements.

In relation to the separate sciences, during Term 4, students wishing to take Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) will be required to sit an entry exam. Based on the results of this, students will be invited to take Separate Sciences in years 10 and 11 as one of their options.

Courses and options offered in Science

- GCSE Combined Science
- Separate sciences leading to GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics



GCSE Combined Science

Exam Board	Edexcel
Assessment	Six externally examined papers all equally weighted (100% exam)
Overview	This is the core science course taught over four lessons a week. It is centred on exciting, innovative activities and investigations that are linked to the role of science in our everyday lives. All of the modules studied for combined science are common to the separate science GCSEs, giving students flexibility in their decision to take either triple or combined science.
Units studied	<p>Biology 1: Cells and control; Genetics; Natural selection and genetic modification; Ecosystems and material cycles.</p> <p>Biology 2: Plant structure and their functions; Animal coordination, control and homeostasis; Exchange and transport in animals; Health disease and the development of medicines.</p> <p>Chemistry 1: Atomic structure and the Periodic table, ionic bonding, covalent bonding, types of substance, calculations involving masses; States of matter; methods of separating and purifying substances; Acids; Obtaining and using metals; Electrolytic processes; Reversible reactions and equilibria.</p> <p>Chemistry 2: Rates of reaction; Fuels; Heat energy changes in chemical reactions; The Earth and Atmosphere.</p> <p>Physics 1: Motion, forces and conservation of energy; Waves; Light and the electromagnetic spectrum; Particle model; Radioactivity; Astronomy.</p> <p>Physics 2: Energy – Forces doing work; Forces and their effects; Electricity and circuits; Magnetism and the motor effect; Particle model 2; Forces and matter.</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A-Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics as well as the Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in Health and Social Care.

Separate Sciences leading to GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Exam Board	Edexcel
Assessment	Two externally set examinations in each of the sciences (100% exam)
Overview	Students who opt for triple science will study the separate sciences over six lessons a week. It will appeal to students who wish to study the sciences at A Level and is centred on exciting, innovative activities and investigations that are linked to the role of science in our everyday lives. The units studied during the first year in each of the biology, chemistry and physics qualifications are common to the combined science allowing students the flexibility and choice of course that will maximise their potential.
Units studied	<p>Biology: Overarching concepts in biology; Cells and control; Genetics; Natural selection and genetic modification; Ecosystems and material cycles. Plant structure and their functions; Animal coordination, control and homeostasis; Exchange and transport in animals; Health disease and the development of medicines.</p> <p>Chemistry: Atomic structure and the Periodic table, ionic bonding, covalent bonding, types of substance, calculations involving masses; States of matter; methods of separating and purifying substances; acids; obtaining and using metals; electrolytic processes; reversible reactions and equilibria; Rates of reaction; Fuels; Heat energy changes in chemical reactions; the earth and atmosphere; Transition metals, alloys and corrosion; Quantitative analysis; Dynamic equilibria and calculations involving volumes of gases; Chemical cells and fuel cells; qualitative analysis; hydrocarbons; polymers; Alcohols and carboxylic acids; Bulk and surface properties of matter including nanoparticles.</p> <p>Physics: Waves; Light and the electromagnetic spectrum; Particle model – 1; Radioactivity; Astronomy; Energy - Forces doing work; Forces and their effects; Electricity and circuits; Static electricity; Magnetism and the motor effect; Electromagnetic induction; Particle model – 2; Forces and matter.</p>
Progression to Sixth Form	This course can lead to the study of A Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics as well as the level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in Health and Social Care.

FAQs

How will the teaching groups be organised?

You will, generally, be in groups related to your ability or options selected. When entering GCSE exams, decisions have to be made about the degree of difficulty of the exam you will take. Different students will need to deal with different skills, concepts and knowledge and sets are the most suitable way to cope with these challenges. Differentiation within sets will continue to operate, which means that students who work well in a set can move up and not be 'out of phase' with the new group. Conversely, those who do not work well will move down.

How many lessons per week will I be taught in each subject?

Subject	Year 10	Year 11
English	4	4
Mathematics	5	5
Science	4	4
Humanities	3	3
Languages	3	3
PH&F	2	2
Options	4	4





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