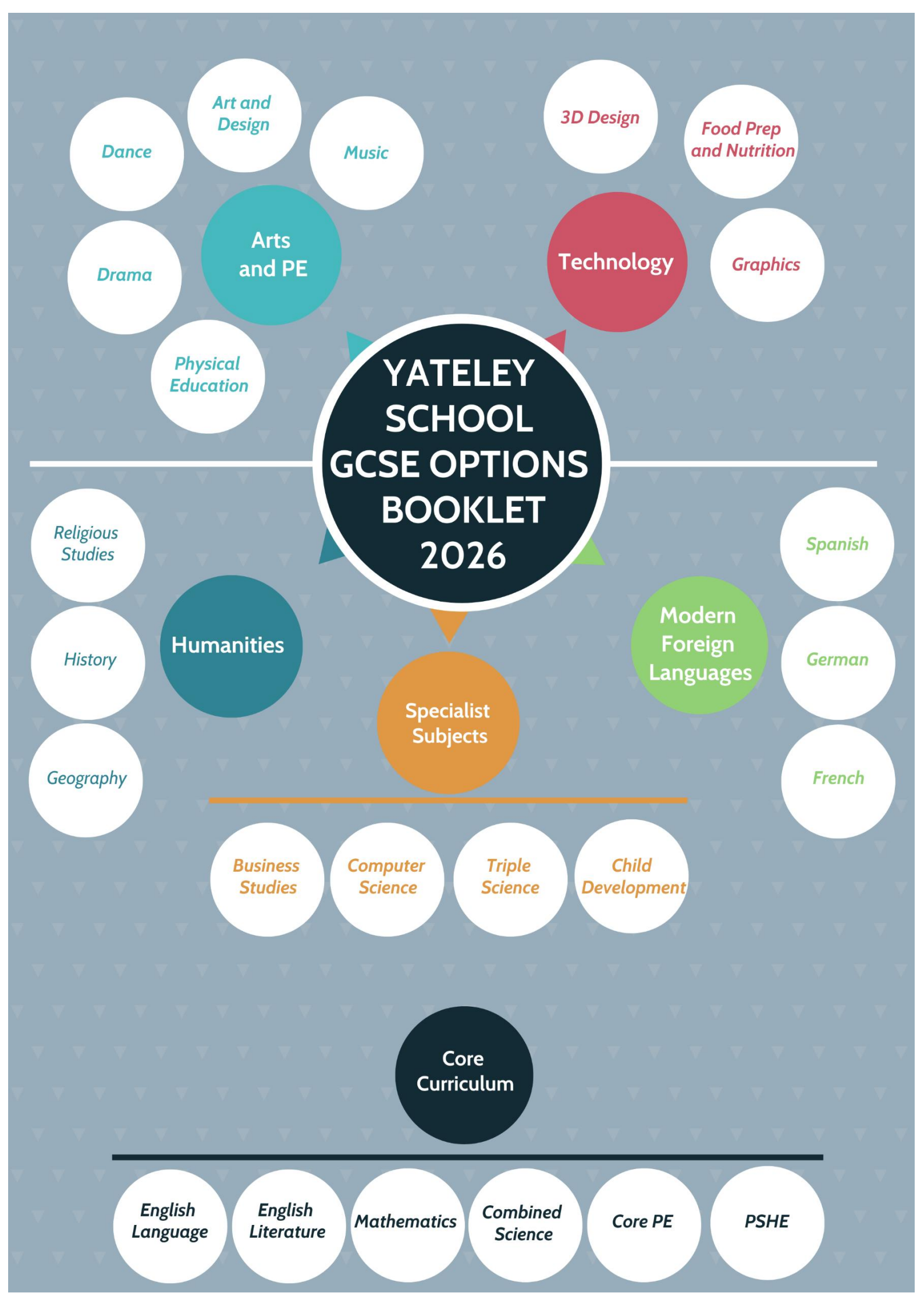




The infographic is set against a grey background with a repeating pattern of small, light-blue triangles pointing downwards. A central dark blue circle with a white border contains the title. It is surrounded by various colored circles representing different subject categories. A horizontal white line separates the top section from the middle section. An orange triangle points from the central circle down to an orange circle. A horizontal orange line separates the middle section from the bottom section. A dark blue circle is positioned below the orange line. At the very bottom, a horizontal black line is above a row of white circles.

YATELEY SCHOOL GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET 2026

Dance

*Art and
Design*

Music

3D Design

*Food Prep
and Nutrition*

Drama

**Arts
and PE**

Technology

Graphics

*Physical
Education*

*Religious
Studies*

Spanish

History

Humanities

**Modern
Foreign
Languages**

German

Geography

**Specialist
Subjects**

French

*Business
Studies*

*Computer
Science*

*Triple
Science*

*Child
Development*

**Core
Curriculum**

**English
Language**

**English
Literature**

Mathematics

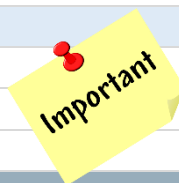
**Combined
Science**

Core PE

PSHE

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Welcome to the GCSE Options!

Welcome to the start of the exciting GCSE Options process! We are pleased to be on this journey as you begin to make important choices about your future studies. This year, we're offering a flexible process with both digital and in-person resources to ensure everyone has the tools and support they need to make the best decisions for their eventual GCSE choices to study from September 2026 onwards.

We've designed a comprehensive programme to guide you, and here are the key dates and resources to help along the way:

Monday 20 October 2025: GCSE Options Assembly

During this assembly, I will guide students through the GCSE options process and introduce the range of subjects available, including exciting "new" subjects such as Business Studies, Graphics, Childcare, and 3D Product Design.

Students will also learn how to book their preferred **taster sessions** (following the assembly) and will have until Wednesday 22 October 2025 to complete their booking via a link which will be shared on Satchel:One.

Monday 10 November + Tuesday 11 November 2025: Taster Sessions

Year 9 students will have the chance to attend taster sessions in subjects that are not offered at Key Stage 3. These include Business Studies, Childcare, 3D Product Design and Graphics. Students will select those they wish to try, and receive their personalised timetable for these sessions during the week beginning **03 November 2025**. Sessions will take place in normal lesson time in the school day.

The taster sessions are designed to give a real flavour of each subject and help address any misconceptions. We tend to run between 4-8 taster sessions in each subject so there are no guarantees that particular combinations of students will be together. As such, we encourage you to only book subjects that are of genuine interest.

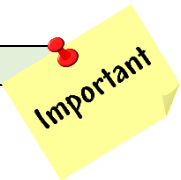
Thursday 13 November: Academic reports issued

Year 9 academic progress reports for the Autumn term will be sent to parents and students via MCAS. These reports give an overview of progress, knowledge and effort across all current subjects, as well as computer-generated FFT target grades that estimate potential GCSE performance. Please remember these targets are based on Year 6 SATs and serve only as a starting point for discussion!

Additionally, please note the pre-GCSE Y9 Parents' Evening which has been scheduled for Thursday 21 May 2026 following the publishing of the Spring reports

Thursday 20 November 2025: GCSE Options Evening (5pm-7pm)

Probably the biggest event on our calendar during this process is our GCSE Options Evening. The evening takes place in person at Yateley School and is designed for **both students and parents/carers** to attend.



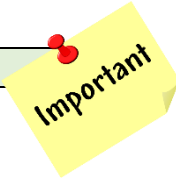
Important

This event offers an excellent opportunity to ask questions about the options process, explore areas of interest, hear from the Headteacher about how to make great choices, meet subject specialists, and start forming those final decisions. You are also very welcome to visit the Options Helpdesk, where I will be available for individual conversations and advice.

Attached to this letter is the planning form for the event, which explains more about what to expect and gives you a flavour of the evening. Although the official timings are 5.00pm to 7.00pm, the event is flexible — you can arrive and leave at times that suit your own needs and the number of subjects you wish to visit.

Options Selection Deadline

From: Monday 05 January 2026
To: Wednesday 14 January 2026



Important

You are issued a paper form on which to record your option choices, with an electronic copy sent to parents via MCAS.

Please note #1: There is no advantage to handing in forms early – you are encouraged to take your time and make thoughtful decisions.

Please note #2: In rare circumstances, parents/carers and their children may disagree over GCSE option choices. As a school, we are happy to provide guidance and mediation to help families reach a shared understanding. However, the final decision on option choices rests with the student, as it is important that they take ownership of their learning and future studies.

Can I make changes after the deadline?

We understand that students occasionally reconsider their choices once the process is complete, and that's perfectly normal. Yes, it's sometimes possible to make changes after the submission deadline, though we can't always guarantee that requests can be accommodated.

If you would like to make a change after submitting your form, please email options@yateley.hants.sch.uk and we'll do our best to help.

If a course is already full, we place students on a waiting list and let you know if a space becomes available. Please note that after Thursday 1 October 2026, no further changes to GCSE options can be made.

And finally...

If you have any questions at all about the GCSE Options process before or after these key events, then please feel free to contact me at peter.hill@yateley.hants.sch.uk, and I will be happy to help.

As you can imagine, we are really are looking forward to supporting you through this important stage of your secondary education.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Hill

Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum and Progress

WHAT DO I STUDY AT GCSE?

How do I choose my options?

There are some subjects that are so important that everyone has to take them (we call this the **core**) but you also have **option** choices that are the first steps in deciding your future.

To start, ask yourself what you enjoy doing and what you're good at!

DO think about:

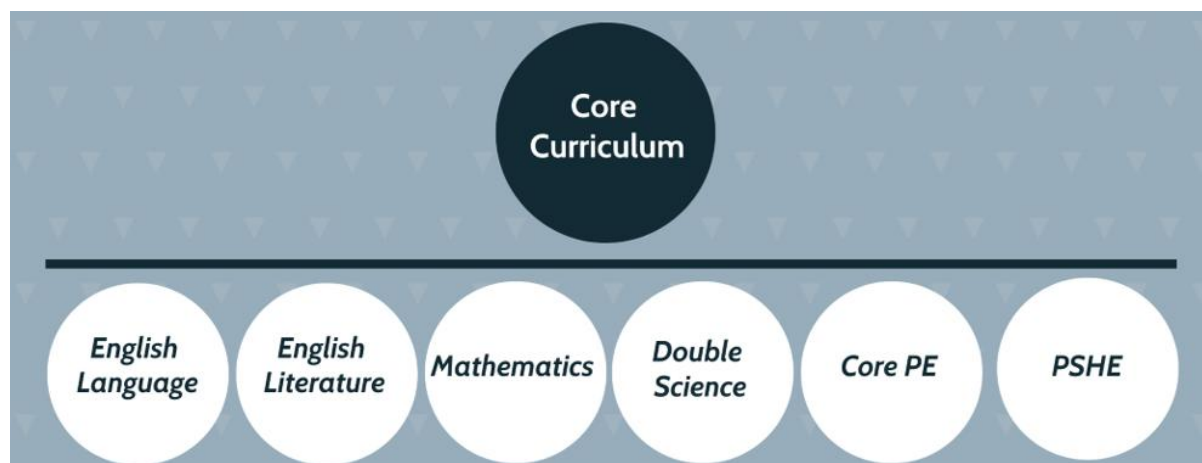
- What you're interested in: it could be other cultures and languages, writing projects, helping people, being outdoors or designing things?
- What types of activity you enjoy most: working things out and thinking them through, practical activities or artistic options like painting, acting, drawing or performing in music events?
- What you're like at home, as well as in school: what skills have you developed following outside interests?

DON'T think about:

- **What your friends are choosing.** Even if you pick the same subjects you are VERY unlikely to be placed in the same class.
 - There are four different options blocks, so the most you will have is a 25% chance of being together, and for larger subjects this drops to about 15% chance.
 - The column that you pick your option subject DOES NOT MATTER either. For example, if you and a friend pick a subject in the "second" column, that has zero impact on which class you are placed in!
- Picking a subject **because you like a particular teacher** (or not picking one because you don't)!
 - We have multiple teachers for every subject, so there is no guarantee who you are going to get.



The Curriculum Offer – All students will study:



The MASTERY Group

A very small number of students will be **invited** to join our **Mastery Group** which supports students to select three options instead of four. During their "fourth" option block, they receive support with functional skills English and Maths, as well as building confidence through Princes Trust, First Aid and Duke of Edinburgh work. Invites to the Mastery Group come from our Student Support team in the Spring Term and are optional to take-up.

ONE SUBJECT COMBINATION YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CHOOSE:

1. The following subject **combination** is not allowed because of the nature and content of the course are too similar to each other.
 - a. 3D Resistant Materials **and** Graphics

WHAT IS THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBACC)?

The EBacc collection of subjects is not a qualification. The EBacc is a collection of subjects that if a student takes them (and passes) they are said to have "achieved the EBacc."

The EBacc is recognised as a significant measure of student achievement by some employers and universities.

At Yateley School we don't insist on the EBacc (some schools do) because we think it's really important that you pick subjects you are passionate about. Nevertheless, we do feel that we should highlight what the EBacc is for you to consider whether it may be important to you.

The Ebaccalaureate

English EBaccalaureate (Ebacc)

- The Ebacc is a collection of subjects a student can study. It is achieved if a student gets:
- Grade 4 (or above) in English, Maths, Sciences, a Language and either History or Geography



Maths



English



Science



Geography or History



German, Spanish or French



A WORD OF CAUTION:

When picking your option subjects, it is essential that you pay attention to the skills required to do well in that course. This is particularly true for subjects like computer science, performing arts and physical education – there may be more than meets the eye:

1. **Computer Science** requires you to be able to think logically, solve problems and have a keen attention to detail. You are coding, not using PowerPoint! Students wishing to study Computing should be targeted at least a GCSE Grade 4 in Mathematics. Computer Science bears very little resemblance to ICT!
2. **Dance, Drama and Music** all have a requirement to perform in front of others. You must be committed to this aspect of the course; students who do not wish to perform cannot enrol on these courses and cannot achieve grades in them.
3. **GCSE PE** course will require all students to submit practical grades in **three** sports. It is highly advisable that students regularly participate in at least one sport to a reasonably high standard and are very capable in at least two others. Don't just pick it because you love football!

If you are thinking of studying these subjects, you should make sure you are clear about the requirements of the course. As with all subjects, it is a good idea to meet with the appropriate teachers at the Subject Review Evening online or in person before making your option choices.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHOICES

Will I get my options?

Although every effort will be made to accommodate all students' choices, it is possible that certain alterations have to be made.

1. In some cases, courses do not run as there are insufficient numbers to make them viable, and in other cases there are a maximum number of students due to staffing.
2. Also, as we offer such a wide range of possible subject combinations it is likely that we will not always be able to meet every student's requests.

If in the event of a course being oversubscribed, students will be selected in the order of:

- Meeting the option form deadline
- Positive behaviour in Year 9 (in all classes, not just those you want to take as an option)
- Good attendance
- Evidence of commitment to the subject both in lessons and beyond the classroom
- Possible career path
- Subject grades
- Teacher recommendation

We will, in the first instance, use the criteria above to decide who will be offered the course. If we can't resolve the situation through the use of the criteria and in the consultation with students and parents, we will use a means of random selection.

We therefore ask every student to pick a **reserve choice** in the 'open choice' block in case we are unable to offer them all their other choices. Any changes that have to be made will be fully discussed with students and their parents, but the school decision is final.

Information about the subjects that are on offer is found on the following pages.

It is important that you and your parents read these, so that you have an understanding of what the courses entail. You will be given help and advice in school about these decisions.

I hope it all goes well, and remember if you are not clear about anything make sure you ask us!

This is an **example** version of the Option Selection Form that you will receive in January 2026

Year 9 GCSE Options Selection – 2026

Please make your options selection using the form below. The deadline to submit to your form tutor is Wednesday 14 January 2026.

Remember, if you want to change your options selection after submitting your form, you must email options@yateley.hants.sch.uk and state which course you want to change from, and which you want to change to.

Option 1

Choose One from:

Computer Science	☐
History	☐
Geography	☐
French	☐
Spanish	☐
German	☐
Triple Science	☐

Option 2

Choose One from:

3D Product Design*	☐
Art and Design	☐
Business Studies	☐
Child Development	☐
Computer Science	☐
Dance	☐
Drama	☐
Food and Nutrition	☐
French	☐
Geography	☐
German	☐
Graphics*	☐
History	☐
Music	☐
Physical Education	☐
Religious Studies	☐
Spanish	☐
Triple Science	☐

Option 3

Choose One from:

3D Product Design*	☐
Art and Design	☐
Business Studies	☐
Child Development	☐
Computer Science	☐
Dance	☐
Drama	☐
Food and Nutrition	☐
French	☐
Geography	☐
German	☐
Graphics*	☐
History	☐
Music	☐
Physical Education	☐
Religious Studies	☐
Spanish	☐
Triple Science	☐

Option 4

Choose One from:

3D Product Design*	☐
Art and Design	☐
Business Studies	☐
Child Development	☐
Computer Science	☐
Dance	☐
Drama	☐
Food and Nutrition	☐
French	☐
Geography	☐
German	☐
Graphics*	☐
History	☐
Music	☐
Physical Education	☐
Religious Studies	☐
Spanish	☐
Triple Science	☐

Reserve Choice

Choose One from:

3D Product Design*	☐
Art and Design	☐
Business Studies	☐
Child Development	☐
Computer Science	☐
Dance	☐
Drama	☐
Food and Nutrition	☐
French	☐
Geography	☐
German	☐
Graphics*	☐
History	☐
Music	☐
Physical Education	☐
Religious Studies	☐
Spanish	☐
Triple Science	☐

3D Product Design and Graphics cannot **both be selected as they are variations of the same qualification*

Reserve Choice:

On some occasions it may not be possible to allocate students to a course. We ask all students to select a reserve option. In the unlikely event of this occurrence it would always be discussed with you in advance.

Mastery Group:

A small number of students (usually 10-12) will be **invited** to join our Mastery Group which focuses on building basic English and Maths Skills in place of a fourth GCSE Option. All students should complete the form above as normal. If you choose to join the Mastery group after being invited, then we will discuss with you which of the options above you wish to de-select.

SUBJECT	GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE and ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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CONTACT MRS S MEADOWS

EXAM BOARDS EDUQAS (LITERATURE) and AQA (LANGUAGE)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assessment will be arranged as follows:

English Language

100% Exam plus a compulsory spoken language assessment completed in Year 10

English Literature

100% Exam

COURSE DESCRIPTION

You will study language and literature in an integrated way throughout the course and will gain two separate GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. You will study a variety of prose, poetry and drama, including a Shakespeare text. You will also learn how to write in a variety of forms and styles to suit specific audiences and tasks.

In preparation for the above examinations you will explore and develop your ability to communicate in a variety of ways, and to understand, analyse and comment on what you read and hear. Written communication will include imaginative, descriptive and personal assignments, as well as more factual writing, such as articles, letters, reports and instructions.

You will be expected to read a wide range of English. All students will study a play by Shakespeare as well as poetry from the EDUQAS anthology, a modern drama text and a 19th century prose text. There will also be opportunities to read modern fiction and study the media. Non-fiction is also an important part of the syllabus, and you will be expected to read and respond to a range of such writing.

The habit of wide personal reading around the subject is encouraged, and students are introduced to the rich and diverse canon of English literature. We certainly believe that this course will be a good foundation for those students wishing to continue with English at A Level, where we offer two separate courses: English Language and Literature and English Literature.

SUBJECT	GCSE MATHEMATICS
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CONTACT	MRS COLLOFF
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EXAM BOARD	OCR
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

External Examination

The course is 100% assessed through three terminal examination papers taken in June. There are two calculator papers and one to be completed without a calculator.

The Mathematics GCSE has two overlapping levels, with the Foundation tier stretching students to a grade 5 and the Higher tier to grade 9.

Foundation Level	Available grades 1-5
Higher Level	Available grades 4-9

Students will be taught and entered for the level that gives them the best chance of achieving their target grade.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

All students will study the same fundamental Mathematics topics. They will pursue these to varying depths. The aim is to have each student challenged with mathematics at the appropriate level for them. The course covers five key areas of Mathematics; Number, Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Ratio/Proportion and builds on previous knowledge throughout, gradually becoming more complex. The course will include the following areas of study:

Number concepts; computation with and without a calculator; ratio, proportion, percentage; measurement using all units in current use; personal and household finance; co-ordinates and graphs; algebra; geometry of lines, angles, polygons and circles; mensuration of shapes; collection, classification and presentation of statistical data; probability.

The course will offer a sound basis for the use of the subject in everyday life and at its highest level will provide good foundation for future work in Mathematics at A level.

SUBJECT	GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE (Double GCSE)
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CONTACT MRS S MCCARTHY

EXAM BOARD AQA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams contributing 100% of the total GCSE grade – 2 Biology exams, 2 Chemistry exams and 2 Physics exams.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

All students will study GCSE Combined Science as minimum, with some students choosing triple science as an option subject (see page 25). Science has the aim of acquiring the knowledge and understanding needed to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues.

During the course you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. You will develop your understanding of the main scientific concepts that provide a framework for making sense of the world. You will also have the opportunity to reflect on scientific knowledge itself, the practices that have produced it; the kinds of reasoning that are used in developing a scientific argument, and the issues that arise when scientific knowledge is put to practical use. Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to plan and carry out a broad range of investigative tasks and to consider and evaluate critically your own data and that obtained from other sources.

Why study Science?

Through your studies you will develop greater scientific knowledge, and the skills needed to apply it in new and changing situations in a range of domestic, industrial and environmental contexts. You will acquire an understanding of scientific ideas, how they develop, the factors which may affect their development and their power limitations. **This course still provides the opportunity to develop the scientific understanding needed to progress to further studies of Science at AS or A level.**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TRIPLE SCIENCE (AS AN OPTION) THEN PLEASE SEE PAGE 26 IN THIS OPTIONS BOOKLET

SUBJECT	GCSE ART AND DESIGN
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CONTACT **MRS BREEN**

EXAM BOARD **AQA**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Coursework (2 projects) 60%

Exam (1 project) 40%

A GCSE Art project consists of four main areas:

- Developing ideas – investigating, analysing and putting in context
- Experimenting and selecting – resources, media and techniques
- Recording – ideas and observations
- Presenting – A formal, personal, and meaningful response to a project.

Students are guided through the first project and given freedom towards the end to focus on strengths and preferred areas of study.

The other projects are based upon themes where students are far more involved in what areas are studied. You still work within the familiar framework but choose how you interpret the theme with guidance from your teacher.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This GCSE is different from most in that it allows you to express yourself in a creative way – it is both enjoyable and challenging. You will be taught a variety of techniques, these may include printing, sculpture, ceramics, digital photography, painting and drawing. You will also be taught how to develop your work to produce exciting and imaginative project work. The work produced in these projects will go towards your exam marks.

For the final exam project, you will be given the paper well in advance, typically the first week in January – this gives you a chance to think through ideas, practise techniques, consult with your teacher and thoroughly prepare for the exam itself.

Why Study Art?

Art and Design is a subject where you learn to develop your creativity. If you enjoy drawing, painting or making things or if you enjoy finding creative ways of solving problems then this is the subject for you. There are many options after GCSE starting with AS and A level and leading to an ever-increasing range of Art related careers. Our society is becoming more visually literate and it needs people who can understand and develop visual ideas.

SUBJECT	GCSE DANCE
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CONTACT MRS WEARING

EXAM BOARD AQA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

60% Practical 40% Theory

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dance GCSE offers students the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as a choreographer, performer and critic. The course is highly practical and therefore you need to be fully fit and committed to all aspects of the course.

The course is open to all students who have a strong interest in creating their own work as well as performing alone and in small groups. Students who opt for dance must be self-disciplined and be prepared to rehearse at lunch times and after school during examination periods. You will be expected to keep a workbook of your theory work throughout the two-year course. Students are assessed in the following areas

Performance (30%)

Set phrases through a solo performance

You will be expected to perform set phrases of approximately 1 minute long.

Duo/Trio performance

You will be expected to perform in a small group dance, lasting 3½ minutes.

Solo or Group Choreography (30%)

You will be expected to choreograph either a solo (2 to 2½ mins) or a group (with 2 to 5 dancers) lasting 3 to 3½ minutes. The dance will be based on a prescribed list of stimuli.

Written Examination (40%)

Dance Appreciation

You will answer questions based on your knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills, critical appreciation of your own and professional works. The paper is marked by the examination board.

Why Study Dance?

- You have a strong interest in performing dance in various styles
- You have a strong interest in creating dances and want to develop your creativity
- You enjoy being challenged and want to develop your skills as a performer
- You are keen to learn about professional dance works and gain a broader understanding of what types of dance and choreographers are working in the UK today

SUBJECT	GCSE DRAMA
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CONTACT MRS AFFLECK-CRUISE

EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The GCSE course has three components.

Component 1: (40%) Students create and develop their own performance based on a stimulus. They create a portfolio of work to support this. This can be written (2000 words) or given as verbal evidence (8-10 minutes).

Component 2: (20%) Students perform in two key extracts from a performance text. Alternatively, students can work as a designer for these extracts. Marked by an external examiner.

Component 3: (40%): A written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. This involves the study of a performance text and the evaluation of a Live Theatre production. Students will explore one performance text practically in lessons; learning how to work as actors, directors and designers in bringing the play to life for an audience. Students will go and watch a Live Theatre performance.

COURSE DESCRIPTION OF GCSE DRAMA

Students will explore Drama from the perspective of an actor, director, designer and audience member. Over the course students will learn a range of techniques and experiment with various performance styles. The course enables students to do both devised and scripted work. There is also a strong written component to this course which students need to commit to fully. Component 2 allows students to create a polished scripted performance which they perform in front of an audience and examiner. They will need to be willing to commit to after-school rehearsals in order to do this.

Why Study Drama?

GCSE Drama is an active and generally fun subject although you must be prepared to complete the written work also as this is 70% of the grade. It encourages creative thinking, teamwork, communication skills and confidence. You will have increased opportunities to watch live theatre, work with professional acting companies and use theatre technology.

GCSE Drama is a challenging, exciting and creative subject which allows students to develop personally, socially, academically and creatively.

SUBJECT	GCSE MUSIC
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CONTACT MR CROFT

EXAM BOARD EDUQAS GCSE MUSIC

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Composing	Coursework	Internally assessed	30%
Performing	Coursework	Externally moderated	30%
Listening and Appraising	Written exam	Externally assessed	40%

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Listening Exam:

You'll answer questions on music played from a CD. The exam lasts about **1 hour 45 minutes**.

Composing:

Create **two original pieces** (2–4 minutes each), which must be **written and recorded**. You may use music technology.

Performing:

Give **two performances** (minimum total 4 minutes) — **one solo** and **one ensemble**. Performances are recorded by your teacher and should be around **Grade 3 level**.

Coursework:

You'll compose and perform several pieces; your **best work** will be chosen for assessment. **60%** of your grade is based on the music you produce.

Other Information:

- Instrumental or vocal lessons are helpful (these can be arranged).
- You'll study and understand a wide range of styles: classical, rock, pop, jazz, musical theatre, film, fusion, and more.
- Understanding music helps you become a **better performer and composer**.

Why Study Music?

- A creative, practical and academic subject.
- Builds confidence, teamwork, and discipline.
- Enhances maths, language, and analytical skills.
- Develops coordination, memory, and logical thinking.
- Employers value musicians for their independence, teamwork, and ability to meet deadlines.
- Musicians use **every part of their brain** — it's great mental training!

For more information, speak to **Mr Croft**.

CONTACT MRS K EVANS

EXAM BOARD AQA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Paper 1 The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Written Exam – 1 hour 15 minutes

78 marks (30% of GCSE)

Paper 2 Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

Written Exam – 1 hour 15 minutes

78 marks (30% of GCSE)

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport **3 different physical activities** in the role of player/performer (one team activity, one individual activity and a third from either) it is useful if you participate to a high level. 75 marks (30% of GCSE)

Written analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. 25 marks (10% of GCSE)

Paper 1 – The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

- Bones, structure of the skeleton, functions of the skeleton
- Muscles of the body
- Structure of synovial joint, types of joints
- Structure and functions of the cardio-respiratory system
- Effective use of warm up and cool down
- The components of fitness, benefits for sport, measurement of fitness
- How to optimize training and prevent injury
- Movement analysis
- Lever systems
- Planes and axes of movement
- Physical Training
- Anaerobic and aerobic exercise
- Principles of training
- Use of data

Paper 2 – Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Sports Psychology
- Goal setting and SMART targets
- Mental preparation for performance
- Basic information processing
- Ethical and socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport
- Socio-cultural influences
- Commercialisation of physical activity and sport
- Guidance and feedback on performance
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Nutrition

Why study GCSE Physical Education?

A GCSE qualification in PE may be useful in the following career areas: Leisure/Recreation Centre work, Recreation/Sports Management, Armed Services, Teaching, Police and Physiotherapy.

CONTACT

MISS SELF

EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL (Specification B)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will complete 3 units in this GCSE. Each one is assessed by an **examination**. There is **no controlled assessment** anymore in Geography GCSE (used to be known as coursework). There is still a requirement to do 2 compulsory days **field work** during the GCSE course, one concentrating on physical geography, the other on human geography. For each of the exams we provide interactive revision materials and a revision guide.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Unit 1: Global Geographical Issues • Hazardous earth – studies of tropical storms and tectonic hazards; • Development dynamics – a study of an emerging country; • Challenges of an urbanising world – a study of a mega city in a developing or emerging country.	Unit 2: UK Geographical Issues • The UK's evolving physical landscape – studies of coastal and river landscapes including physical fieldwork investigation; • The UK's evolving human landscape – studies of dynamic inner-cities and changing rural settlements including human fieldwork investigation.	Unit 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions • People and the biosphere; • Forests under threat; • Consuming energy resources.
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Why study Geography at GCSE?

Geography helps you make sense of the world around you. It is hands-on, relevant and fun. The course gives you the chance to explore big questions about our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces that shape it.

It takes you on a journey through unusual places, fascinating natural events and the actions of people facing life-changing situations. You will be active in lessons, exploring Geography through practical group and pair work. You'll develop excellent investigative, decision-making and ICT skills (using satellite images, street views and AEGIS – a Geographical Information System) and learn to argue your viewpoints effectively in speech and writing.

Geography is widely respected by employers and supports A Levels and further study. It forms part of the Ebacc and is highly regarded by top universities. There has never been a better time to study Geography – make the choice to go places with GCSE Geography.

CONTACT

MISS VINCI

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is an exciting course that covers a range of topics from modern history.

- **Paper One** –Written exam 2 hours, 84 marks, section A- 6 compulsory questions, section B- 4 compulsory questions (50% of GCSE)
- **Paper Two**– Written exam 2 hours, 84 marks, section A- 4 compulsory questions, section B- 4 compulsory questions. (50% of GCSE)

COURSE DESCRIPTION**Paper One– Understanding the Modern World**

- **Section A– America, 1920–1973– Opportunity and Inequality**

This period study focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent half century of change. Some Americans lived the 'American Dream' whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice.

- **Section B– Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950–1975**

This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of different states and individuals and the ideologies they represented. It focuses on the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam.

Paper Two– Shaping a Nation

- **Section A– Britain: Health and the People c.1000 to the present day**

This thematic study will enable students to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. It considers the causes, scale, nature and consequences of short and long term developments, their impact on British society.

- **Section B– Elizabethan England, 1558 – 1603**

This option allows students to study in depth the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign. The study will focus on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints.

Why study History?

History plays a powerful part in your general education. It provides you with the skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation and communication which are very much in demand in the workplace and is a highly valued subject on any application form. There are a very large number of successful people in the worlds of business and public affairs who have studied History well beyond GCSE. Due to its study of human action History is regarded as of great value in any fields of employment involving contact with real people. History is well respected and gives you the opportunity to hone invaluable skills.

CONTACT	MR BRISTOW
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EXAM BOARD	EDUQAS
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

100% exam. No coursework.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Religious Studies is a rigorous academic subject that teaches students skills in analysis, evaluation and persuasive writing. The subject covers the main World Religions of Christianity and Islam and also asks students to consider a wide range of Philosophical and Ethics topics and concepts. Religious Studies at GCSE is thought provoking, interesting and an insightful subject to study at GCSE and has a high uptake.

We look at issues that affect everyone and ask the sort of questions many of you will be already asking yourselves.

- Should we go to war?
- Is abortion murder?
- Should we help people in pain to die?
- Should divorcees be allowed to remarry in church?
- Can it ever be right to end a life even for the most serious crimes?

When we study Christianity as a world religion, we discover why people want their children baptised, examine Christmas as a religious or commercial festival; discover why Christians pray and assess how effective they think it is. What is Pilgrimage?

We also study a number of contemporary moral issues including racism, abortion, crime and punishment, war and peace, divorce, and medical technology. These topics always lead to heated debates!

Religious Studies teaches students to evaluate important moral issues by examining different viewpoints and gives students the skills to draw informed opinions.

The subject is not only widely accepted but welcomed as an entry qualification for further and higher education courses. It develops a wide range of skills, including those essential for enquiry, interpretation, reasoning, evaluation and communication.

Why Study Religious Studies?

Students who take Religious Studies show better than average abilities in reading and writing – skills that are essential in life.

SUBJECTS	GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES
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GCSE FRENCH, GCSE GERMAN AND GCSE SPANISH

CONTACT MRS McCABE

EXAM BOARD AQA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are four key skills tested at GCSE – listening, speaking, reading and writing. All four skills are tested at the end of the course, all via external examinations. These examinations can be taken at Foundation or Higher tier. It is worth noting that the speaking assessment is carried out 1:1 by the class teacher and is marked by the examination board.

It is important to remember that being successful in a language will involve a lot of independent work and resilience. The more you put into your lessons, the more you will get out of them.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The GCSE course builds on work done in KS3 and aims to develop:

- understanding the language in a range of situations including my family, my free-time, where I live, holidays and leisure, my education and future plans.
- the ability to communicate effectively in speech and writing;
- knowledge and understanding of grammar and the ability to apply it;
- knowledge and understanding of the countries and communities where French, Spanish and German are spoken;
- positive attitudes to language learning which will help in study of other languages or academic disciplines later in life.

There will be opportunities for you to use the internet and various authentic materials. There may also be visits organised to France, Spain and Germany to support your language learning.

Why study a language?

A foreign language opens new horizons and will be extremely useful no matter what career you envisage doing. Those who have foreign language skills will always have the edge in the job market; it is also possible to combine the study of a language with a wide range of other subjects in further education. Also, a language makes traveling abroad much easier and far more interesting!

Please note...

French, Spanish and German are offered at GCSE, however, you can only study the language at GCSE that you have studied at Key Stage 3, unless you have previous knowledge from outside school. You cannot start a GCSE language from scratch. It is possible, and for those who have the ability and aptitude, to study two languages at GCSE if they choose this option combination.

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE IN THE EARLY YEARS
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CONTACT MRS D'ALTON

EXAM BOARD NCFE CACHE

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The level 1/2 Technical Award is designed for students who want an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational element.

If you enjoy being with children and are interested in working with them as either a nursery nurse, Primary school teacher, social worker or in child Psychology then this is a good choice for you. It would also serve as another GCSE qualification for the future.

The qualification has 2 assessments externally set:

- One non-exam assessment
- One externally set and marked written exam paper.

The qualification is graded as pass/merit /distinction and distinction*

The course content includes:

- The development of children from conception to birth.
- Child Development – key areas – physical, social, emotional, and intellectual.
- Factors that influence a child's development.
- Everyday care routines and the type of activities that can support the development of independence.
- Early years provision – An introduction to working with children in a variety of settings.
- Expectations of the Early year's practitioner.
- An understanding of the key roles and responsibilities in childcare settings.
- The observation of children and how we use them to plan age-appropriate activities to help progress development.
- Transitions – types and how they affect children.
- Legislation, Policies and procedures in the Early years setting.

Students opting for this course could go on to study at level 3 (Sixth Form) in:

- Early years Education and Care
- Health and Social Care
- Health Science

SUBJECT	GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION
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CONTACT MISS WILLIAMS/MRS BUTTLE
EXAM BOARD EDUQAS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Written Theory exam (50% of final grade taken in Summer of Year 11) and two Non-Exam Assessments (50% in total carried out throughout Year 11)

NON-EXAM ASSESSMENTS

- Task 1: A Food Science investigation: 15% of final grade carried out between September and November of Year 11
- Task 2: A practical exam of three dishes with accompaniments: 35% (15% written folder and 20% practical exam) carried out between January to March of Year 11

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The EDUQAS GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

Students are expected to cook every week in one lesson, and the standard of presentation is high. A combination of practical and theory lessons will be taught in Year 10 to prepare the students for the assessments in Year 11.

Practical work will include making dishes to learn practical skills, functions of ingredients and different methods of cooking.

The students are required to provide their own ingredients, labelled container and apron.

Theory work covers 6 main areas:

1. Food commodities,
2. Principles of nutrition,
3. Diet and good health,
4. The science of food,
5. Where food comes from,
6. Cooking and food preparation.

For more information about whether Food Preparation and Nutrition is a suitable option for you, please speak to any of the teachers in the Food Technology Department.

CONTACT

MISS WILLIAMS

EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Coursework project (50% of the total mark)

Examination (50% of the total mark)

Coursework Project (NEA): You will undertake a contextual challenge to design and create a graphic product that meets the needs of a specific client and user group. This project will involve using a variety of design techniques and materials such as card, paper, foam board, polymers, and fabrics. Past projects include packaging, pop-up books, board games, point of sale display stands, table talkers, adverts, posters, and promotional merchandise.

Examination: The written exam tests your knowledge of core drawing fundamentals, graphic techniques, product analysis, and issues relating to materials and sustainability. You will also study a range of materials including papers, boards, timbers, polymers, textiles, and smart materials.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course teaches you the essential principles of design and the design process, empowering you to create innovative solutions to real-world briefs. You will develop skills in product analysis, problem-solving, and creative thinking. You will learn a variety of drawing methods including isometric, perspective, planometric, and orthographic projection, selecting the best techniques to present your ideas effectively.

You will also gain hands-on experience using both traditional handcraft techniques and modern technologies such as CAD/CAM, alongside industry-standard software including Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Techsoft 2D Design, SketchUp, and Microsoft Publisher.

In Year 10, you will complete mini-projects that build your skills in drawing, construction, and design, covering topics such as packaging, mechanical toys, board games, interior design, and logo creation. Year 11 focuses on the NEA coursework project, where you will produce a detailed design folder and a 3D prototype using CAD and a variety of materials.

Why Study Graphics?

If you have a passion for creativity and an interest in design, GCSE Graphics offers an exciting opportunity to develop your skills and apply them to real-world challenges. By choosing Graphics, you will build a strong foundation in design principles that can lead to further study and career opportunities in a range of creative industries.

Graphics develops your creativity, problem-solving, and communication skills. You will become confident using professional design software and modelling techniques, preparing you for A Level Graphics or careers in graphic design, advertising, architecture, product design, illustration, animation, and more.

SUBJECT	GCSE 3D PRODUCT DESIGN
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CONTACT MRS COFFEY

EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Innovation Challenge coursework project (50% of the total mark)
Examination (50% of the total mark)

The Innovation Challenge tasks students with researching, designing, making and evaluating the success of a Product for a real client/end user. To complete this the students may use textiles, card, foam board, metals, thermoplastics or timbers. There is no common outcome, every project is unique and uses the widest possible range of skills.

The examination paper consists of questions based on Product Design Core knowledge of textiles, thermoplastics, paper and board, metals, timbers and maths as well as specialist questions on timber-based products; maths is a significant part of the paper.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Year 10, you will build on your KS3 learning to develop all the skills needed to undertake your major project in Year 11. You will complete three mini projects - **Industry** designing and making a prototype of a toy for a disabled child, **Disaster** designing and making a model of a Textiles based shelter for refugees and **Production** Techniques focused on Injection Moulding. In all you will be working in Textiles, Polymers, Card and Board, Metals and Timbers, visualising your ideas using sketch up, isometric grids and card models. You will learn how to create files in 2D Design which can then be laser cut in Acrylic or MDF, you will also spend time developing your researching, creative design, drawing and presentation skills. In year 11, you will undertake a single design and make activity (major project) in response to a Contextual Challenge set by the exam board. You will need to submit a 3-dimensional outcome in a combination of materials and a concise design folder of 25 pages of A3 packed with information.

Why study 3D Product Design?

This course is for you if you are creative, prepared to take on a challenge, are inventive, an independent learner and hard-working. Do NOT consider this course if you do not carry out homework and home study which in Year 10 should be of about two hours a week. Do NOT consider this course if you want to merely make - manufacture is about 10% of the course, the rest is research, design and exam preparation.

A GCSE in 3D Product Design will give insight into working practices in the real world, gives you the opportunity to produce designs to the highest standard as well as giving you valuable experience needed for the A Level course. All in all, it's a very rigorous, exciting, relevant, and challenging choice as well as being great fun. It provides a strong foundation for further education and careers in the creative industries as a Product Designer, Architect, Industrial or Interior Designer.

SUBJECT	GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES
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CONTACT	MISS NICHOLSON
EXAM BOARD	AQA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The GCSE Business Studies course consists of six main topic areas:

1. Business in the Real World
2. Influences on Business
3. Business Operations
4. Human Resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

Assessment is through two external exams consisting of a range of multiple choice, short-answer and longer-answer questions from case study analysis. Exams are sat at the end of Year 11.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

GCSE Business Studies gives students the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. The variety of topics studied gives students the opportunity to explore concepts by looking at real business examples ranging from small enterprises to large, global companies. Students can gain an understanding of all areas of business along with an awareness of how the economy and the changing world around us affects the decisions businesses make.

Why study GCSE Business Studies?

Business affects every aspect of modern life — from the products you buy to the jobs you'll one day do. This course helps you think like an entrepreneur and understand how ideas become successful enterprises. You'll develop **decision-making, problem-solving and evaluation skills**, applying them to real-world scenarios.

Whether you plan to run your own business, lead a team, or simply want to understand the forces shaping today's world, **GCSE Business Studies gives you the insight and confidence to succeed in the future of work.**

OPTION SUBJECT	GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE
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BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS (3 X GCSE)

CONTACT MRS S MCCARTHY

EXAM BOARD AQA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH GCSE:

Two exams contributing 100% of each GCSE (six exams).
Available as **Higher and Foundation** depending on ability.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

To take 'triple science' you will need to put in the necessary work and commitment to ensure that you succeed in this additional GCSE.

During the course you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. You will develop your understanding of the main scientific concepts that provide a framework for making sense of the world. You will also have the opportunity to reflect on scientific knowledge itself, the practices that have produced it; the kinds of reasoning that are used in developing a scientific argument, and the issues that arise when scientific knowledge is put to practical use. Through the study of extra topics you will have the opportunity to further develop an understanding of science explanations, how science works and the study of elements of applied science, with particular relevance to professional scientists. The extra topics covered introduce new scientific ideas while illustrating important features of their applications.

Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to plan and carry out a broad range of investigative tasks and to consider and evaluate critically your own data and that obtained from other sources.

Why study for the separate science qualification?

Through an extended study you will gain an insight into what is involved in being a practitioner of science. You will learn how scientists develop scientific understanding of ourselves and the world we inhabit and how these understandings can be applied to the benefit of humanity.

You will have the opportunity to develop the scientific knowledge and understanding required to progress to further study of the Sciences at AS or A-level (should you wish to and depending on attainment).

SUBJECT	GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE
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CONTACT MRS COBBOLD

EXAM BOARD OCR

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exam 100%

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course that has real relevance in our modern world. It will give students an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. There are two components in this GCSE:

Component 01 – Computer Systems (Exam 50%)

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Component 02 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (Exam 50%)

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Practical Programming

Students will be given the opportunity to undertake programming tasks to solve problems during their course of study.

Why Study Computer Science?

This course will help you to develop computational thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills. These skills can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. If you want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science then this course will provide a sound underpinning knowledge of this subject.

Note:

Computer programming is challenging and requires attention to detail and logical thinking. Whilst we will be teaching the programming skills required on this course, it is important that students enjoyed the programming they did in KS3 and enjoy problem solving and working independently if they are to do well.

SUBJECT	PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH & ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHE) INCLUDING RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) & CAREERS
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CONTACT MRS WESSON

This subject is compulsory but is not an examination subject; it is taught in a single timetabled lesson throughout Years 10 and 11.

In addition, all students complete a planned programme of study during Tutor Time over the course of the two years covering additional aspects of RSE and Careers Education.

Why Study PSHE?

Any society depends on good citizens for its success and good PSHE education ensures that young people grow up able to contribute wisely and thoughtfully to their community. The skills developed during PSHE and RSE are the so called “soft skills” so valued by universities and employers.

PSHE allows our students to acquire a range of important skills vital for personal effectiveness in an increasingly complex world, where sensible judgements require increasingly higher levels of knowledge, skill and understanding. Through our Careers programme, we aim to help students envision their future, set goals for themselves and gain information and understanding of the world that awaits them.

We also seek to give students the capacity to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of various life choices and thereby make informed and well considered decisions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We cover six core themes within PSHE lessons;

- Rights, Responsibilities and British Values
- Celebrating Diversity and Equality
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Staying Safe Online and Offline
- Health and Wellbeing
- Life Beyond School

PSHE at Yateley School is designed to meet the needs of the young people in our community and builds on the themes covered and work undertaken in Years 7, 8 & 9.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Remember that everyone is individual and will have different strengths and weaknesses from someone else. For example, some people are very creative and can put that creativity into words when others are excellent at drawing or painting or designing and making. You need to think about what you are really good at in order to succeed and to enjoy the subject. We want you to keep as many choices open as possible and there will be some subjects that you will have to study – and this is detailed at the front of this booklet – but we will also help you to choose the right subject for you.

Look at the careers software (Unifrog), and decide what skills are required, how jobs that interest you might affect your life and which subjects will help you achieve your ambitions.

Why do you think people choose certain subjects? Try to answer these questions for yourself – please circle ✓ or x as it might apply to you.

Like or am interested in the subject	✓	x
Help in future job	✓	x
Want subjects which can be passed at GCSE	✓	x
Good at the subject	✓	x
Would help in home or hobbies	✓	x
Want a variety of subjects – leave career open	✓	x
Would help understand the world	✓	x
Do not like other options	✓	x
Do not want to waste three years' work	✓	x
High exam marks in subjects in year 9	✓	x
Want to do new subjects	✓	x
Parents want me to choose a certain subject(s)	✓	x
No good at other options	✓	x
Like the teachers who teach the subject	✓	x
Teachers advise me to choose their subject	✓	x
Want some easy subjects	✓	x
Not able to choose the subjects I wanted to	✓	x
Cannot think what else to do	✓	x