

Key Stage 4

Options Information



2023

A row of six 3D-style arrows pointing upwards, each a different color: yellow, grey, purple, blue, red, and green. They are arranged in a slightly overlapping, receding perspective from left to right.

The future
is yours
to
choose...

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Options Information

Dear Parents and Students,

Year 9 Options Process

Having the opportunity to choose the subjects that will make up your curriculum in KS4 is an exciting one. It can also be daunting as it is important to make sure that your choices allow you to pursue interests and career aspirations in the future.

At Gateacre **we offer an ambitious and exciting range of options** to suit all abilities, skills and interests. The courses on offer to you are designed to ensure that you are able to **meet your full potential and progress** onto the next stage of your educational journey. Therefore, you will study English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science and choose one subject from Spanish **or** History **or** Geography. You will then **choose three other subjects** to make from a **wide variety of subjects that include a range of GCSEs, BTECs, CIDA, NCFE and Cambridge Nationals – all of which are L2 qualifications**. However, the DfE highly recommend that students study a humanities subjects (History **or** Geography) along with a language thus achieving the English Baccalaureate—so bear his in mind when choosing your options.

As well as your core and ‘chosen’ examination subjects, you will also study: Personal Development (that includes PSHE/RSE and Citizenship), RS, PE and Computing as non-examination subjects to ensure you have a broad and balanced educational experience.

We will try and give you every **help in making your decisions** about your options. You will be take part in a **dedicated careers programme during Academic Tutor Time**. You will also attend a **Careers & and Employability Fayre** that will give you the opportunity to meet businesses, universities and other educational institutions to discuss different careers. Also, you will complete a variety of online questionnaires about your preferences that will help you choose your options subjects.

In addition to this, **you can ask me**, your **Ms Ward** (Head of Year), your **Ms Melling** (Assistant Head of Year), your **Academic Tutor**, your **subject teachers** or Assistant Headteacher, **Mrs Boyd** (who coordinates our Careers Programme). You may also find it useful to **discuss the matter with older students** or the **Careers Connect service in school**.

Please be aware that whilst we will endeavour to provide the courses on offer in this booklet, we do reserve the right to amend or cancel courses that we feel are not viable due to low take up by students, cost, or logistical problems. We also have to work within changes which occur nationally; however, rest assured, we always strive to provide you with the very best opportunities to ensure you are successful.

I hope that you will **enjoy making these choices and coming to decisions about your future curriculum**.

Yours faithfully,

Ms C Chapman

Deputy Headteacher

Options Information

Finding your way around this booklet.

In this booklet you will find information on all of the subjects available to you. See the table below:

CORE Subjects All students will study these externally examined GCSE subjects:	EBACC Subjects (English Baccalaureate) Students MUST select 1 subject from this column:	OPEN Subjects Students MUST select 3 options from this column:
English Language English Literature Mathematics Combined Science (this includes equal weighting of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	Geography ¹ History ¹ Spanish ¹	Art & Design ² Business Studies Computing & IT Drama Engineering Food & Cookery Drama Geography Graphic Design ² Health & Social Care History Media Studies Music Photography Religious Studies Sociology Spanish Sports Science
Non-Examined Subjects All students will continue to study these non-examined subjects:		
Personal Development: Personal, Social and Health Education – including Sex and Relationships & Citizenship Computing Religious Studies		

1. Please note **you can**, if you wish, **more than 1 of the EBACC** subjects from the **Open Subjects Column**.

2. Please note you **CANNOT** choose both **Art & Graphic Design**.

Subjects in **RED** are Technical/Vocational Awards, the rest are GCSEs. **All subjects are the same level.** All are Level1/2 qualifications:

L1 = Grades 1-3

L2 = Grades 4-9

	Extended Writing		Working with my Hands	This key highlights the various skills and types of activities used in different subjects. The symbols will be blanked out if a subject does not use a certain skill; for example, English has 'Using Numbers' blanked out. You can use this as one way of helping you choose subjects you might enjoy studying.
	Using Numbers		Performing Activities	
	Design & Create Projects		Using ICT (Not Gaming)	
	Short Written Tasks		Speaking in front of Others	

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How many Option choices do I make?

A: In addition to core subjects, you will choose **one subject** from Geography **or** History **or** Spanish. You then have choose **three 'Other Choices'** and you must make **one** reserve choice.

Q Will I get all of my first choices?

A. While most students do get their first choices, we do have to allocate some back-up choices, so it is important that you select a reserve choice that you are willing and able to do.

Q: If there aren't enough students opting for a subject, that subject will not run. Is this true?

A: Yes. Unfortunately, we cannot run a course for a small number of students. If this happens, students will liaise closely with Ms Chapman to ensure that the next most suitable option is elected for.

Q: If I can't decide between 2 subjects, who should I talk to?

A: Talk to your teachers, parents, form teachers or Ms Chapman. Remember to consider your own strengths, interests, needs and career plans in making your final choice.

Q: Can I change my mind later?

A: The subjects you choose are for the next two years. Therefore, it is very important that the right choice is made at the outset. It is only in exceptional circumstances (and only up to three week into the course) that students are permitted to change their courses once they have begun in September. Please bear this in mind and think carefully about your choices.

Q. What is a BTEC, CIDA or Cambridge National subject and what is the main difference between that and a GCSE?

BTEC, CIDA and Cambridge Nationals are Technical Awards and are subjects that are partly assessed using coursework. Typically, it suits students who perform better in classwork than in examinations, providing they work to complete all the tasks set. Most GCSEs are examined at the end of the course. They are the equivalent to GCSEs.

Q. What is a Cambridge National qualification?

A These are broad and engaging level 1 and level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. Similar to a BTEC qualification, they will have a coursework element to them. They are the equivalent to GCSEs.

Q. What is a NCFE qualification?

A These are broad and engaging level 1 and level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. Similar to a BTEC, Camb. Nationals and CISA qualification, they will have a coursework element to them. They are the equivalent to GCSEs.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (cont.)

Q. Are BTEC, NCFE and Cambridge National subjects the same as GCSE subjects?

A. All subjects are worth the same see the following table:

L1/L2 Grades	
GCSE	BTEC; NCFE; Camb. National etc.
8/9	Level 2 Distinction* (D* or LD2*)
7/8	Level 2 Distinction (D or LD2)
5/6	Level 2 Merit (M or L2M)
4/5	Level 2 Pass (P or L2P)
3	Level 1 Distinction (LD1)
2	Level 1 Merit (L1M)
1	Level 1 Pass (L1)

Q. Can I do a mixture of BTEC, NCFE and Cambridge National and GCSE subjects?

A. Yes, that is absolutely fine.

Q. Can I do a mixture of BTEC, NCFE and Cambridge National and GCSE subjects?

A. Yes, that is absolutely fine.

Q. If I do BTEC, NCFE and Cambridge National subjects, can I still get into Gateacre School Sixth Form?

A. Yes, as long as you have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 and above including Maths and English Language. You should have a grade 5 in the subject you will to study at A Level, although some subjects require a grade 6 (see Mrs Kinder, Assistant Headteacher, for more information about 6th form).

Q: If I want to go on to study at Gateacre Sixth Form, which subjects would be best?

A: There are no 'best' Options to prepare you for further study. Keep your options broad and balanced. If you wish to study L3 (A Level, BTEC etc.) subjects at Gateacre, then you will need to gain a minimum of 5 GCSE (or equivalent) passes grade 4 and above including Maths and English Language. You should have a grade 5 in the subject you will to study at A Level, although some subjects require a grade 6.

Q. When do I find out which subjects I have been given from my choices?

A. You will find out which subjects you have been allocated in the summer term.

Q. Will I have to do more homework and Independent study?

A. Yes. You will have to spend more on homework for each subject as the courses you are following involve more independent study. Regular work at school and home and good study habits will be essential to relieve the pressure and help you to achieve success.

We hope that these 'Questions and Answers'. If your question isn't answered here, please contact the school by email or directly to Ms Chapman (Deputy Headteacher) at c.chapman@gateacre.org

Why is high attendance and good punctuality important to my child's education?

As a parent/carer **you want the best for your child**. Having a good education is an important factor in opening up more opportunities in adult life. As research suggests:

'In a competitive job market, academic and vocational qualifications are increasingly important. Those without qualifications are at a higher risk of being unemployed or having low incomes.'

(Exclusion, employment and opportunity, Case Paper No. 4, Atkinson. A and Hills. J (eds)

Further:

- At least 1 million children take at least one half day off a year without permission
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence
- **Poor examination results limit young people's options** and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable
- **Punctuality is as important as attendance.** If your child is **ten minutes late** for school every day they will have **missed 6.5 days** of school by the end of that year—see the graph below).
- A child who is absent **one day per week** misses an **equivalent of two years** of their school life
- **Only 26.7%** of students with absence rates **below 88%** achieve **five or more good grades of GCSE** compared to **96.7%** of students who have **good attendance (97%)**.



The Impact of Attendance on Attainment	
Attendance	Chances of gaining 5 GCSEs grade 9-4 (A*-C)
97+	96.7%
95%-96%	74.3%
93-94	60.4
92%-93%	53.1
88% and below	26.7

Punctuality to School is Vital	
Minutes Late Each Day	Days of Learning Lost
5	3
10	6.5
15	10
20	13
30	19

IF YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL THEY CAN LEARN AND ACHIEVE
- IF NOT, THEY WILL UNDERACHIEVE.

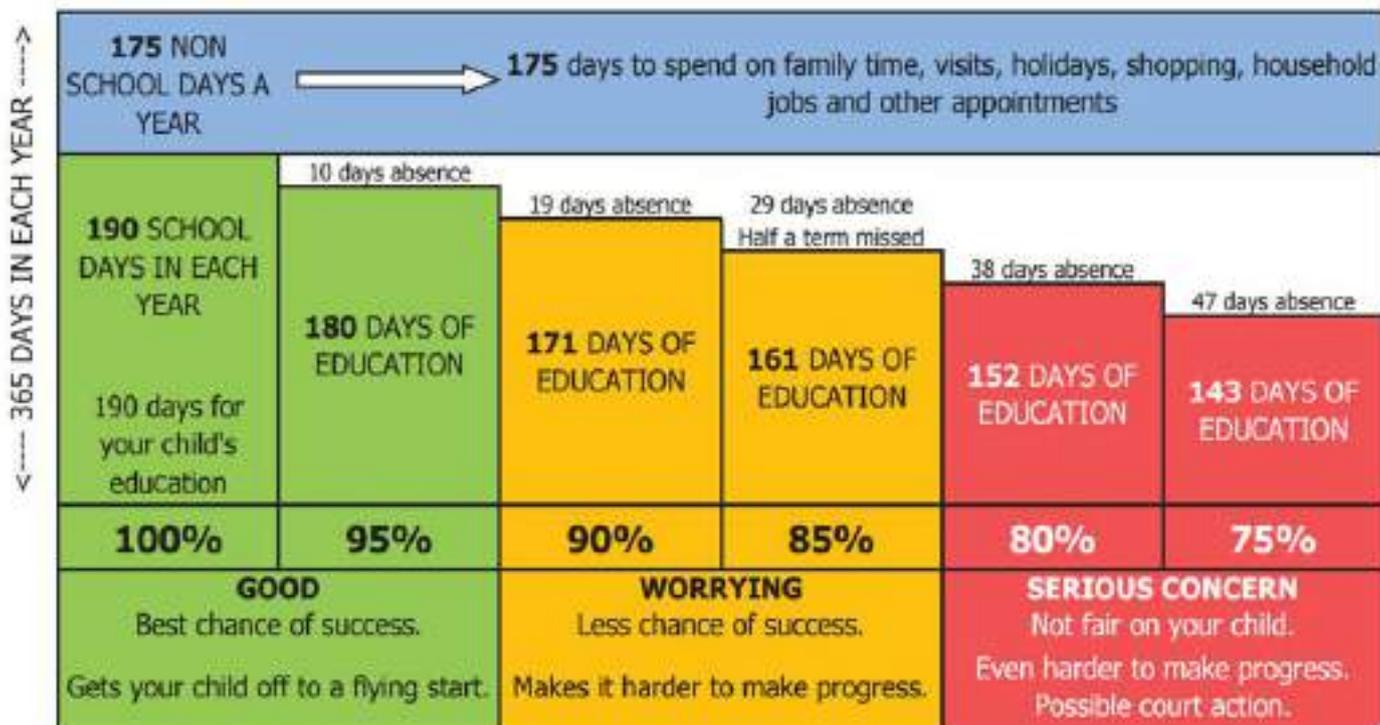


What You Can Do To Support Your Child

You can help prevent your child missing school by:

- making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality; taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities;
- discussing any problems they may have at school - inform Ms Ward (HoY) or Ms Melling (AHoY) about anything serious;
- not letting them take time off school for minor ailments, particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work; and
- arranging appointments and outings after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays will help to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school.

As the graphic below depicts: students only attend school for 190 days per year so have a 175 days to do other things such as shopping, visiting family, holiday etc.



Support YOUR child in Achieving GCSE SUCCESS - make sure they

EVERY DAY MATTERS



EVERY HALF-DAY MATTERS



EVERY LESSON MATTERS





Gateacre have gained the Quality Award for Careers Guidance. Careers advice is available to students inside and outside of school. Careers advice is available every day at lunch time in the Atrium from Mrs Boyd (AHT) and in a careers clinic after school on a Thursday Evening. Independent careers advice is also available two days per week with Career Connect.

Careers staff at school

Careers Leader: Mrs J Boyd

Careers Admin Officer : Fiona Hassell

Careers Connect Advisor: Carol Byrne

Access to independent careers advice is provided by Career Connect. Students at Gateacre **receive impartial independent careers advice** with qualified Careers Advisor, Carol Byrne who work in school two days per week.

Our Students also have **access to out of hours careers advice** with a dedicated portal and helpline to help them when they are out of school. We also work with the **National Careers Service** and students are shown how to access the National Careers Services facilities so that they can speak to advisor and gain information on jobs, vacancies and up to date labour market information wherever they are.

Careers Information Advice and Guidance focus events

During year 9 students **explore careers software and IAG websites to support them in their transition to Key Stage 4.** Prior to choosing options our students have the opportunity to spend time **focussing on Future Career Opportunities/paths** in order to help with their choices. Also, students have access to a variety of different **software tools to explore the world of work and employment.** Further, students work with other year 9 students and are **supported through the process by their Academic Tutor.**

Students carry out job studies looking at the skills and qualities required and the entry routes into careers of their choice to help them **make informed decisions.** They will also have the opportunity to **work with staff** and other students to look at ways of **making informed decisions about their options.**

career connect



The Career Connect Service has a personal advisor available in school to help students with their career choices. **Carol Byrne is our personal advisor** and is available to give information and guidance on subject choice, qualifications and future careers. Students can request to see her and have a quick chat or a more **in depth face to face interview;** students can speak to Mrs Boyd (AHT) to make the appointment. Carol is **available in school each Monday.**

All year nine students are invited to the **Careers & employability Fair on February 7th.** Over the next few weeks students will receive instructions on how to register on to the 'connected portal', this is a quality assured web portal where you and your parent/carer have access to the latest relevant information on career paths and choices



The following pages give you more information about your 'Core' Curriculum Subjects. You study all of these subjects during KS4.



Computing (Core)

What does this lesson offer me?

As part of the Computing National Curriculum at Key Stage 4, you will learn about the following:

- Staying safe online and learning how to use modern technology, apps and various hardware and software safely.
- Understanding how changes in technology can affect your safety, including new ways to protect your online privacy and identity, and how to identify and report a range of concerns.
- Developing your skills and understanding in computer science, digital media and information technology.
- Developing your analytic, problem-solving, design, and computational thinking skills.
- Investigating various careers in Computing and developing your transferable skills that are valued by employers

What does this series of lessons involve?

What you will study:

- Online safety, Computer Science, IT and Careers.

Core - Non-examined

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- **This is a non-examination subject.** It will NOT lead to a qualification at the end of Year 11.
- If you wish to gain a qualification in Computing, you will need to choose it as an option subject.
- You will be checked on your progress and understanding throughout the year on the range of topics studied and work produced in lessons.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Using Numbers



Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Working with my Hands



Performing Activities



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Speaking in front of Others

BEYOND Core Computing

Proficiency in computing and understanding how to stay safe online is vital and may enhance your job prospects. Further, it will teach you to stay safe online. And allow you to continue with your careers education.



Citizenship (Core)

What does the course offer me?

Our citizenship curriculum helps to provide students with knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society, in particular, fostering an awareness and understanding of democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. We work towards equipping students with the skills and knowledge to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, debate and make reasoned arguments.

The curriculum also aims to promote British values, encouraging respect and tolerance across different cultures. Citizenship is covered within the during Academic Tutor Time and across the curriculum subject areas such as History, English, Social Sciences and Religious Studies

What does this series of lessons involve?

How the United Kingdom is governed, its political system and how citizens participate actively in its democratic systems of government.

Knowledge and understanding of the role of law and the justice system in our society and how laws are shaped and enforced.

Money on a day-to-day basis, and plan for future financial needs.

Understand British values to include respect and tolerance towards others

Core - Non-examined

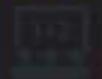
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- **This is a non-examination subject.** It will NOT lead to a qualification at the end of Year 11.
- Whilst there is no formal examined assessment for this subject, there are some opportunities for in class assessment and self-evaluations.
- The skills of critical thinking are actively encouraged with a great emphasis on debate, justification of choices and evaluation.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Using Numbers



Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Working with my Hands



Performing Activities



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



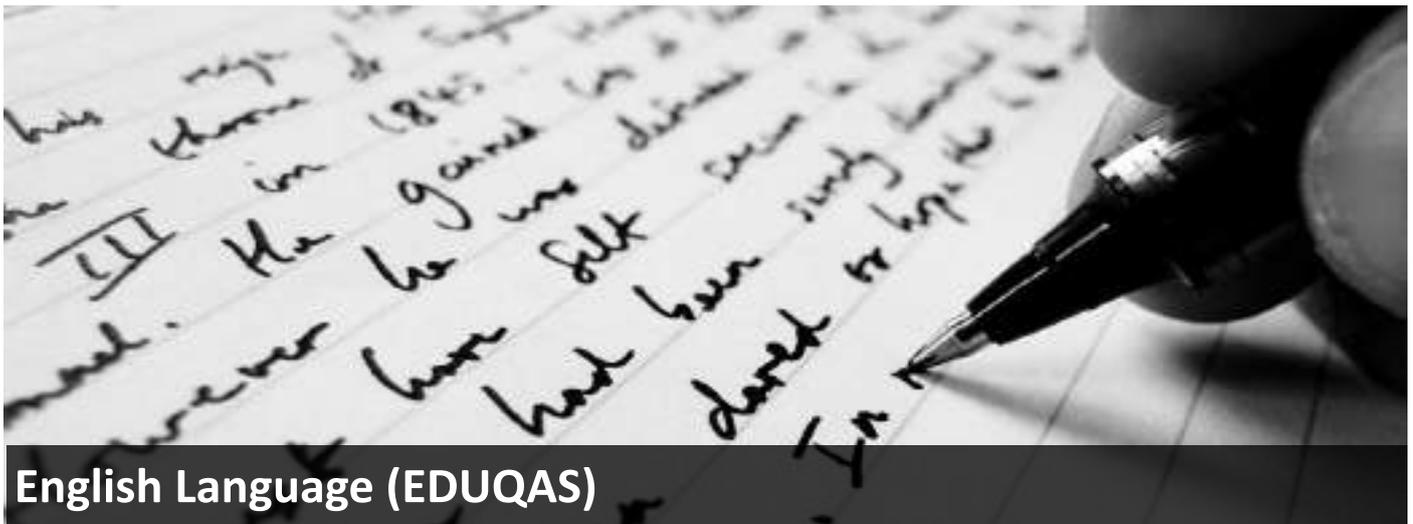
Speaking in front of Others

BEYOND Core Citizenship

Citizenship Studies will teach you how to take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally. #

Citizenship can be studied at Level 3 and at university. The knowledge and skills you learn can be applied to many careers in law, policing and Civil Service.

Options Information



English Language (EDUQAS)

What does the course offer me?

- Clearly structured papers which allow you to show what they know, understand and can do.
- Tasks covering a range of writing skills.
- Prose reading from the 20th century.
- Thematically linked 19th and 21st century non-fiction reading tasks which are accessible whilst offering appropriate stretch and challenge.
- A focused approach to spoken language.
- This skills-based specification allows breadth of study and flexible teaching approaches, and offers excellent co-teachability with GCSE English Literature.
- A course that helps students develop skills, knowledge and understanding they will need for further study, work and everyday life.

What does the course involve?

You will:

- read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding
- read critically, and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.

GCSE

Core

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1:

20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing. Written examination: **1 hour 45 minutes. 40%** of qualification

- Section A (**20%**) - Reading
- Section B (**20%**) - Prose writing

Component 2:

19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing. Written examination: **2 hours. 60%** of qualification.

- Section A (**30%**) - Reading
- Section B (**30%**) - Writing

Component 3:

Spoken Language. Non-exam assessment: Unweighted

One presentation/speech, including responses to questions and feedback.

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SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Using Numbers



Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Working with my Hands



Performing Activities



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



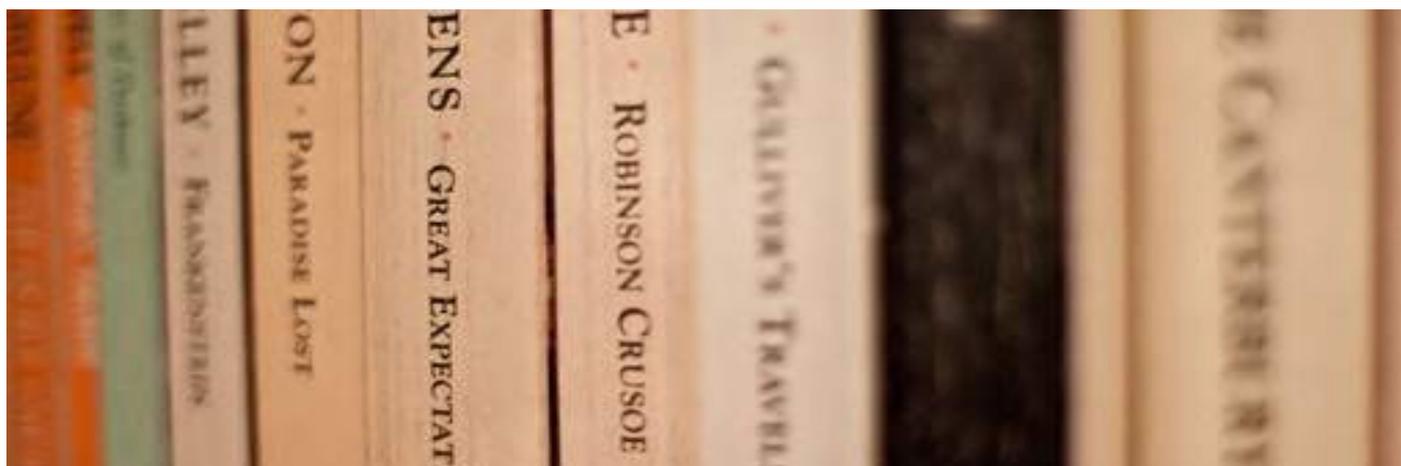
Speaking in front of Others

Future Careers Opportunities

A good qualification in English Language is essential for many careers where strong communication and written skills are needed such as in media, advertising, law, retail and leisure careers. Such as: Author • Copywriter • Editor • Journalist • Lawyer • Librarian • Museum Curator • Paralegal • Public Relations Manager • Social Media Manager • Teacher • Web editor • Writer

Next steps

A Level English Literature ; A level English Language ; **Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme.



English Literature (EDUQAS)

What does the course offer me?

“I can’t imagine a man really enjoying a book and reading it only once.” – C.S. Lewis

- Clearly structured papers which allow you to show what you know, understand and can do including opportunities for close analysis of texts and opportunities for extended writing.
- A skills-based approach which allows for breadth of study and flexible teaching, and offers excellent co-teachability with GCSE English Language.
- You will analyse how language, form and structure are used to create meaning and effects, using relevant terminology where appropriate. You will maintain a critical and informed response and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between a text and the context in which it was written.

What does the course involve?

- You will read and analyse Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth’
- You will read and analyse an exciting poetry anthology that covers poetry from 1789, including Romantic poetry, and includes some of Britain’s best loved poems alongside some less well-known works.
- You will read and analyse a 19th century novel, Stevenson’s ‘Jekyll & Hyde’.
- You will read and analyse 20th century drama: Priestley’s ‘An Inspector Calls’
- You will also encounter a range of other poems, prose and drama throughout the course.

GCSE

Core

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1

Shakespeare and Poetry
Written examination

2 hours 40% of qualification

- Section A—**20%** - Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth’
- Section B—**20%** - Poetry from 1789 to present day

Component 2

Post 1914 Prose/Drama, Century
Prose and Unseen Poetry

Written examination

2 hours and 30 minutes 60% of qualification

- Section A—**20%** Post 1914 drama, Priestley’s ‘An Inspector Calls’
- Section B—**20%** 19th century prose: Stevenson’s ‘Jekyll & Hyde’
- Section C—**20%** Unseen poetry from the 20th/21st century

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

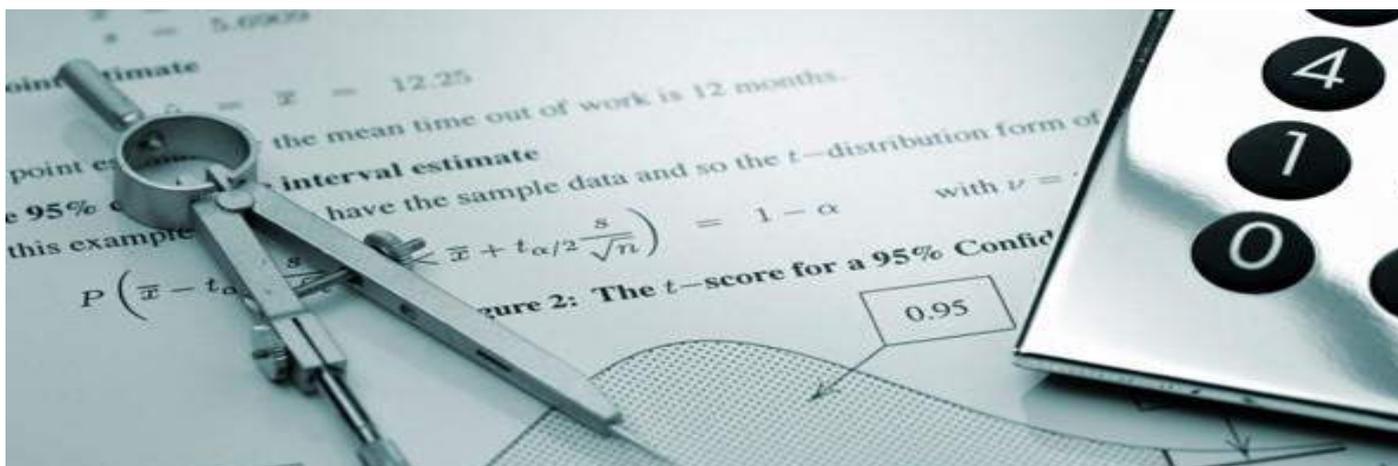
Future Career Opportunities

Analytical and communications skills you use in English Literature are useful for many careers such as in media, advertising, law, retail and leisure careers. Examples occupations are: Author • Copywriter • Editor • Journalist • Lawyer • Librarian • Museum Curator • Paralegal • Public Relations Manager • Social Media Manager • Teacher • Web editor • Writer

Next steps

A Level English Literature ; A level English Language ; **Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme.

Options Information



Mathematics (EDEXCEL)

What does the course offer me?

This course will enable students to appreciate the uses of Maths in society and with an increased emphasis on the functional aspects of the subject, whilst enabling them to acquire skills essential for advancement in their chosen path after leaving school.

Here at Gateacre we follow the Edexcel GCSE Specification. This involves a linear approach to GCSE with the students completing two exams at the end of year 11.

As with other GCSE Mathematic's courses there are two tiers of entry, higher and foundation.

What does the course involve?

The Maths course will cover the following areas:

- Using and Applying Mathematics
- Number and Algebra
- Geometry Measure
- Statistics

GCSE	Core
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?	
There are two tiers:	
• Higher	4–9
• Foundation	1–4
A final decision on tier of entry will be made after the mock examination in November of year 11. It is very important that students regard the GCSE as a two-year course as it is very difficult to catch up if they fall behind in year 10.	
The final grade awarded will be based on the 3 exams all 1hour 30 minutes in length.	
Paper 1: Non-calculator: 33%	
Paper 2: Calculator: 33%	
Paper 3: Calculator: 33%	

SKILLS INVOLVED



Future Career Opportunities

Accountant • Aerospace Engineer • Banker • Biosciences • Business • Construction • Data Analysis • Engineering • Financial Risk Analyst • Financial Services • Government • Healthcare • Insurance • Investment Analyst • Manufacturing • Meteorologist • Higher Education Lecturer • Teacher

Next steps

A Level Mathematics; A Level Statistics;
Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Personal Development (RHSE, Careers, Enrichment)

What does the course offer me?

Our Personal Development curriculum covers PSHE and the statutory programmes of study for Relationships, Sex and Health Education. PSHE supports individual young people to make safe and informed choices. Sessions are based around three core themes relationships, health and wellbeing and living in the wider world.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) focuses on providing young people with the information and the skills and attitudes they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including: Families; respectful relationships including friendships; Online and Media; Being safe; Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health.

Health Education provides young people with the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise. Students will learn about mental wellbeing; internet safety and harms; physical health and fitness; healthy eating; drugs, alcohol and tobacco, health and prevention , basic first aid and the changing adolescent body

What does the course involve?

PSHE, Relationships, Sex and Health Education is taught as part of Personal Development Curriculum. It is delivered by our Personal Development tutors. Our curriculum aims to support individual young people to make safe and informed choices and to equip them with the skills to have happy healthy relationships throughout their lives . Key topics are also covered across the curriculum in all subjects such as: Drama, English, computing , Active lifestyles, Science and Food Technology

Core

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This is non—examined subject

Although this is not examined, there are opportunities for in class assessment and self-evaluations. Skills and attitudes acquired through PSHE education have a significant impact on students' academic achievement, employability and future life chances.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

BEYOND Core PD

Personal development helps you to develop character, confidence resilience and knowledge of how to keep yourself healthy and have respectful relationships. These skills and attributes will support your learning throughout school and beyond. Personal development subjects can be studied further and link closely with careers in counselling , health and social care , recruitment , education and training .



PE

What does the course offer me?

Core PE (Active Lifestyles) will allow all students to undertake a range of activities which will allow students to develop practical skills in their chosen field as well as develop and maintain a healthy and active life style through their participation in a physical activity.

What does the course involve?

Students will be given a choice of activities which they will be able to undertake for a double lesson per week in order to keep themselves both physically and mentally fit given the increasing emphasis on healthy lifestyle and establishing good habits for life.

This is not optional at year 10 and 11 but will not be formally assessed.

Core

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There is no formal assessment in this subject.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



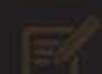
Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Physical Activity

BEYOND PE Core

PE is a core subject in the National Curriculum. It will help you learn about how to stay healthy and fit and hopefully inspire you to continue being active and healthy after you leave school.



Religious Studies (Core)

What does the course offer me?

This once a week lesson is an opportunity to explore ethical and moral debates. **It encourages you to consider an issue from many sides and understand the beliefs and experiences that lie behind people’s opinions.** It will give you an insight into the choices that people make and help you to reflect on, evaluate and justify your own beliefs and opinions.

Skills learnt in Religious Studies provide a good foundation for many careers, particularly within healthcare, law or the media. The course helps you develop the ability to consider a range of ideas and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your conclusions.

What does the course involve?

Topics will include:

- Animal Rights
- Crime & Punishment
- Life after Death

We will investigate the topics from a range of ethical and religious perspectives using debates, questioning and reflective activities.

Core

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be a mixture of self assessment, peer assessment and whole-class feedback but no formal examinations.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

BEYOND Core RS

This is not a GCSE but employers, Colleges and Universities value Religious Studies as a ‘thinkers’ qualification which develops **reasoning and debating skills** and shows a **balanced knowledge** of the modern world. The skills you learn can be applied to many careers in law, policing, the media and health and social care. It also compliments and builds on the skills you learn in GCSE subjects such as **English, Sociology and History.**



Combined Science: Trilogy (AQA)

What does the course offer me?

- The opportunity to study a core subject in the National Curriculum.
- Knowledge and understanding of the Universe.
- A combination of a practical and academic subject.

A qualification in Science continues to be highly desirable to employers and is part of the English Baccalaureate qualification that universities and employers now consider to be an important indicator of a fully rounded student.

What does the course involve?

Biology: Study of human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment.

Chemistry: Study of the nature of substances and how they react together, how chemistry is used in business and industry and how our use of fuels affect the local and global environment.

Physics: Study of the use and transfer of energy, as well as an insight into the nature of waves, radiation and space. They'll also learn about the application of physics in the real world they live in.

Core (GCSE)

How will I be assessed?

Combined Science: Trilogy GCSE will count as **2 GCSEs** and will be examined in 2020 across:

6 x 75 minute papers each worth **16.7%**.

Investigational skills will be examined across all 6 papers and is worth **15%**.

There are two tiers:

Foundation: 1-5

Higher: 4-9

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

Science can lead to many careers such as:

Chemical Engineer • Dentist • Forensic Scientist • Marine Conservationist • Medicine • Nurse • Mid-wife • Pharmacist • Physiotherapist • Radiographer • Vet

Next Steps

Study: A Level Biology; A Level Chemistry; A Level Physics; **Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



The following pages give you more information about the 'EBACC'

Curriculum Subjects:

you **MUST choose 1 from Geography OR History OR Spanish**

(Remember you can also choose any of these subjects from the Open Subject section too—so you study all 3 if you wish!)



Geography (Edexcel A)

What does the course offer me?

The GCSE Geography course aims to stimulate students' interest in Geography; develop a sense of place and an appreciation of the environment; and help them to act in an informed and responsible way. Students acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of places, environments and geographical patterns, and develop their understanding of the physical and human processes, including decision-making, which affect their development. You will acquire a range of skills through field, map and atlas work using IT, graphic and presentational work, discussion and group work using a number of different resources.

What does the course involve?

Component 1: The Physical Environment

- Topic 1—The changing landscapes of the UK (including sub topics which students choose 2 from three: 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes, 1B: River landscapes and processes or 1C: Glaciated upland landscapes and processes)
- Topic 2—Weather hazards and climate change
- Topic 3— Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Component 2: The Human Environment

- Topic 4—Changing cities
- Topic 5—Global development
- Topic 6— Resource management including sub-topics from which students choose 1 from 2: 6A: Energy resource management or Water resource management

Component 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

- Topic 7—Geographical investigations—fieldwork
- Topic 8—Geographical investigations—UK challenges

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Physical Environment exam paper: 1 hour 30 minutes worth **37.5% of grade**
- Human Environment exam paper: 1 hour 30 minutes worth **37.5% of grade**
- Geographical Investigations exam paper: **1 hour 30 minutes worth 25% of grade.**

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Using Numbers



Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Working with My Hands



Performing Activities



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Speaking in front of Others

Future Careers Opportunities

Geography is a multi-disciplinary course that includes science and maths. It can lead to many careers in/as: Cartographer • Development and Global Field • Marketing • Travel/Tourism • Urban Planning • Data Analyst • Environmental Scientist • Ecology/Marine Biologist • Public Services • Conservation • Teaching

Next Steps

Study: A Level Geography;

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme

Options Information



History (Edexcel)



What does the course offer me?

History will develop a depth of knowledge that links to the modern world. Importantly it allows students to deepen a range of highly valued skills that support many other areas of study and beyond. For example, studying history helps develop:

- A range of communication skills including debate and persuasion.
- The ability to organise and categorise.
- Decision making skills.

Students will have the opportunity to learn in a well resourced environment. In recent years there have been a number of enrichment opportunities. For example, before the pandemic, the History Department has conducted yearly trips to destinations linked to topics of study including Krakow and Amsterdam. We are very much looking forward to re-establishing a GCSE History trip as soon as it is possible and safe to do so.

Learning is supported by the fact that many students have found the topics to be interesting and relevant. Some questions raised studying the course include:

- Why did Elizabeth I have her cousin murdered?
- How has medicine enabled us to live so much longer than our recent ancestors?
- Why are there divisions in society?

What does the course involve?

In History we work in a variety of ways in order to develop core knowledge and subject skills. These include independent research, oral presentations, debate and discussion, ICT, and the study of filmed events including newsreels, documentaries and feature films.

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The History course is divided into three units:

Paper 1

British Thematic Study with Historical Environment (30%) (1hr 15min)

- Medicine in Britain, c1250 - present.
- Medicine on the Western Front, 1914-18.

Paper 2

A period study and British depth study (40%) (1hr 45min)

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91.
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558—1588.

Paper 3

Modern Depth Study. (30%) (1hr 20min)

- The USA, 1954-75, conflict at home and abroad

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing

Using Numbers

Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Working with my Hands

Performing Activities

Using ICT and Games

Future Careers

History develops many skills such as research, examining evidence and presenting an argument. Therefore, it is useful for many careers such as: Archaeology • Business • Historian • Journalist • Lawyer • Museum Curator • Police • Politician • Researcher • Teaching • Tourism •

Next Steps

Study: A Level History

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Spanish (AQA)

What does the course offer me?

Learning a language opens doors to lots of opportunities such as travel, work opportunities, promotion and further study. The course we offer gives students the chance to see progress quickly and gain the confidence to communicate effectively in a variety of situations. Successful linguists are good communicators, problem solvers and intelligent thinkers.

What does the course involve?

Topics covered are:

Health	Home and local area
Relationships and choices	Environment
Free time and the media	School and future plans
Holidays	Current and future jobs

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are **two tiers of entry:**
Foundation—grades 1-4
Higher—grades 4-9

All four skills:

Listening
Speaking
Reading
Writing

All are assessed by terminal exam at the end of year 11.

Each skill is worth 25% of the final grade.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

Employers and businesses seek applicants who can navigate the modern global economy; so Spanish is great for a number of careers such as: Cabin Crew • Journalist • Immigration Officer • Lawyer • Pilot • Public Services • Travel/Tourism • Teacher • Translator/ Interpreter

Next Steps

Study: A Level Spanish

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



**The following pages give you more information about the other Option Subjects you can choose. You can choose 3 subjects from this section. These can include Geography, History or Spanish too if you haven't picked them in the EBACC section
(see previous section).**

Options Information



Art & Design (AQA)

What does the course offer me?

Is art something you enjoy? Do you like practical activities that allow you to show off your individuality? If so you would be choosing the right option in Art. Art as an option is fantastic as it allows you to creatively express yourself. It gives you the chance to experiment with new media, learn and develop new skills and produce personal responses along the way. Ultimately Art provides you with a creative outlet.

What does the course involve?

What will you be studying for Art GCSE?

The course runs over two years and is comprised of three projects. During lessons, students are actively encouraged to explore a wide range of materials, techniques and processes which include clay, textiles, drawing, painting, printing, mixed media, digital and many more. Throughout the GCSE art course, students will develop confidence and independence by exploring and developing their art skills, creating a personal portfolio which showcases the artwork and projects they have completed.

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to respond to a subject, theme or task in a creative and personal way, preparing them for the externally set which forms the third and final project.

Art is an irreplaceable way of understanding and expressing the world!

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The has two components:

Coursework (60%)

This is broken into 2 main projects:

Project 1: Sweets and Treats

Project 2: Personal Response

Exam (Externally Set Assignment)

'Seen' exam (40%)

Students respond to an exam question set prior to the exam at least six-eight weeks before. The exam is then completed over 2 days and takes 10 hours to complete.

In the art department we pride ourselves on the excellent GCSE exam results achieved year upon year. If you are interested in further information about this, please feel free to speak to any member of staff and/or our GCSE students.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

Artist • Teacher • Curator • Art • Fashion Designer • Clothing/Textile Technologist • Colour Technologist • Interior and Spatial Designer • Textile Designer • Graphic Designer • Printmaker

Next Steps

A Level Art;

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Business Studies (AQA)

What does the course offer me?

Studying Business will allow you to develop a broad range of skills and explore a variety of topics including:

- How businesses are run, considering both internal and external influences
- An awareness of the opportunities and needs of different markets
- The skills to create your own business in the future or study further business related courses in the Sixth Form
- Development of practical and logical thinking skills
- Development of a skillset that employers see as essential

What does the course involve?

The course will involve studying all aspects of a business, and will develop your analytical and evaluative skills through the study of real life business examples. The course is split into six units of study:

- Unit 1: Business in the real world** looks at enterprise and being an entrepreneur, reasons for starting a business along with the basic functions of a business, types of ownership and aims and objectives
- Unit 2: Influences of business** identifies the importance of external factors and how businesses change in response to these.
- Unit 3: Business operations** looks at how businesses make products including the production and quality control process.
- Unit 4: Human Resources** identifies organisational structures and the role of recruitment and selection in a business along with training and development
- Unit 5: Marketing** investigates the 4Ps, market research and the importance of market segmentation.
- Unit 6: Finance** looks at the purpose of finance and its role in business activity

GCSE	Option
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?	
2 Written examination papers	
AQA Examination Board	
Component 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business in the real world • Influences on business • Business Operations • Human Resources 	
Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minute	
50% of GCSE	
Components 2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business in the real world • Influences on business • Marketing • Finance 	
Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	
50% of GCSE	

SKILLS INVOLVED	Future Career Opportunities
 Extended Writing  Working with my Hands	This subject develops analytical, presentation and communication skills; problem solving and the ability to think logically and can lead to careers such as: Entrepreneur, Management, Accounting, Marketing, Human Resources.
 Using Numbers  Performing Activities	
 Design & Create Projects  Using ICT (Not Gaming)	
 Short Written Tasks  Speaking in front of others	
Next Steps A Level Business Studies; Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme	



Computing and IT - Cambridge National in IT (OCR L1/L2)

What does the course offer me?

This exciting and new qualification will inspire you with confidence to learn and use new Computing skills that are crucial to the world of IT. Some of the topics you will study are:

- Augmented Reality - real world and computer generated content!
- Cybersecurity;
- Mobile Apps;
- Internet of Everything (smart devices e.g. Amazon Alexa);
- Cloud technology ; How 4G/5G and WIFI work
- Hacking, DOS, DDOS, Malware, Trojan Horse, Worms and Viruses

What does the course involve?

What you will study: R050 : IT in the digital world (written exam)

- Human Computer Interface (HCI)
- Cybersecurity, digital communications, data, legislation
- Digital devices, hardware, software, smartphones, laptops

R060 : Data manipulation using spreadsheets (coursework)

- Planning and creating the spreadsheet solution
- Testing and reviewing the spreadsheet solution

R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information (coursework)

- What is Augmented Reality (AR)
- Planning and creating an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype
- Testing and reviewing your Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype

Camb. Nat.	Option
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre-assessed 60% - this is marked by your teacher in class and checked by the exam board. (R060 and R070) • Exam 40% - this is a written exam which is externally assessed by the exam board. (R050) • This course is equivalent to one GCSE. It is a new, engaging and practical IT course. • You can work in the IT rooms and the IT pods throughout the 2 years to complete and improve your work/grades. 	

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Careers Opportunities

The knowledge and skills learned on this course are useful for many careers such as: CAD Designer • Computer Programmer • Cyber Security Analyst • Data Analyst • Day Trader • Digital Media Analyst • Engineer • Games Developer • Programmer • Software Developer •

Next Steps

Study: A Level /L3 Computing;

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Drama (AQA)

What does the course offer me?

In our state of the art theatre, you will be taught how to:

- Express yourself in an active and exciting way;
- Work in a group;
- Contribute your ideas and take on board those of others;
- Explore ideas by putting yourself in other people's shoes;
- Play many parts in different imaginary situations;
- Create your own drama work;
- Study plays written by other people.

GCSE Drama encourages students to develop critical thinking skills and become effective and independent learners. With the focus on working imaginatively, collaborating creatively and communicating effectively, GCSE Drama provides a solid foundation for further academic studies as well as vocational opportunities.

What does the course involve?

You will create and develop characters, explore fascinating themes and topics, devise your own plays and explore the importance of backstage roles. You will learn how drama is created from an actor, director and designer perspective. You will learn how to create a character and put it into a performance. You will learn many skills that are very important in all walks of life and how to develop confidence and present yourself in public. The department runs several theatre trips a year and regularly invites professional actors and theatre companies to come and work with our GCSE students. There is also the opportunity to participate in showcase events, school productions and theatre in education projects.

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Understanding Drama (40% of GCSE) —

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre — **1hr 45 min exam**

Component 2 (40% of GCSE) —

Process of creating devised drama; **performance of devised drama** (students may contribute as a performer or a designer); complete an analysis of own work—the resultant performance is marked by our teachers and moderated by the AQA.

Component 3 (20% of GCSE) —

Performance of two extracts from one scripted play (students may contribute as a performer or a designer)- marked by AQA

*Follow us on Twitter and Instagram
@GateacreDrama*

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Using Numbers



Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Working with my Hands



Performing Activities



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

The skills you gain from drama can lead to careers in: performing art, media, business, law, sales, hospitality and tourism. Specific Jobs include: Actor • Singer • Producer • Director • Choreographer • Stage Manager • Lighting Technician • Theatre Manager • Arts Marketer • Presenter • Teacher

Next Steps

Study: A Level Drama; L3 Performing Arts;
Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Engineering

What does the course offer me?

“As engineers, we were going to be in a position to change the world – not just study it.” - Henry Petroski

Do you ever look around your home and think of handy products that could improve people’s lives or get amazed by amazing feats of engineering all around you? Are you creative and want to start building skills you will need for a successful career in industry?

Engineering is a large and growing sector of employment in the UK with almost half a million people currently working as engineers in the UK, and millions more worldwide. It is an interesting, and well-paid job with opportunities across the globe in a wide range of disciplines.

What does the course involve?

Unit 1: Manufacturing engineering products

- Interpret different types of engineering information to plan how to manufacture engineering products
- Develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment to manufacture and test a final product

Unit 2: Designing engineering products

- Explore how engineered products are adapted and improved over time and apply your knowledge to adapt a product you will have manufactured in Unit 1.

Unit 3: Solving engineering problems

- You will learn about a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering impacts on everyday life.

Vocational

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed by a **mixture of exams and project work.**

Unit 1 will involve producing a manufacturing product that is worth **40%**. This product will need to be developed over 20 hours.

Unit 2 is assessed through project work that is worth **20%**. Here you will apply your problem-solving skills to answer a brief and produce a solution. You will produce this solution over 10 hours.

Unit 3 will involve 1 exam that lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes. This is worth **40%** and is made up of multiple choice questions and short and extended answers.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

There are a wide range of opportunities within the field of engineering, for example: Aerospace Engineer; Bio-medical Engineer; Civil/Structural Engineer; Computer Engineer; environmental Engineer; Mechanical Engineer; Product Engineer

Next Steps

Study A Level /level 3 Engineering; A Level/Level 3 Design Technology; Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships **Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Food & Cookery (NCFE VCert L1/2 Technical Award)

What does the course offer me?

This course offers the perfect opportunity for you to develop your food & cookery skills ready for further study at college or an entry route into the industry.

The course will teach you many new advanced skills alongside the science behind them. This will result in being able to create successful dishes every time and will give you the opportunity to design food products for specific customers. You will also be required to plan your cooking for a specific outcome/event.

Alongside the practical element of the course you will gain a valuable insight into the world of hospitality. You will understand where food comes from, food laws and what a food business should be doing to protect its staff and customers. Perfect preparation for further study and entry into the industry.

What does the course involve?

The course has 7 modules;

- 1) Health & Safety relating to food, nutrition and the cooking environment.
- 2) Food legislation & Food Provenance.
- 3) Food groups, key nutrients and a balanced diet.
- 4) Factors affecting food choice.
- 5) Food preparation, cooking skills and techniques.
- 6) Recipe amendment, development and evaluation.
- 7) Menu and action planning for completed dishes.

Technical

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The main assessment for this course comes in the second year.

You will sit a paper **examination worth 40%** of the overall qualification. This assessment **covers the science and theory which is taught during year 1.**

There is also an NEA (**non exam assessment**). This is **project based** and is worth **60%** of the overall qualification. This project will involve both **practical skills and elements of food science/theory.**

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

This course equips you for many careers and life itself! Careers include: Agricultural Engineer; Baker; Barista; Butcher; Chef; Farmer; Food Factory Worker; food Manufacturing Inspector; Food Packaging Operative; Food Scientist; Head Chef; Hotel Manager; Meat Process Worker; Nutritionist; Nutritional Therapist; Packaging Technologist; Restaurant Manager; Teacher

Next Steps

Study A Level ; T Level in Catering, Level 3 Applied Certificate/Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition, or an Advanced Technical Diploma in Professional Cookery Apprenticeships/Traineeships/Internships: as a production chef, commis chef or chef de partie.



Geography (Edexcel A)

What does the course offer me?

The GCSE Geography course aims to stimulate students' interest in Geography; develop a sense of place and an appreciation of the environment; and help them to act in an informed and responsible way. Students acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of places, environments and geographical patterns, and develop their understanding of the physical and human processes, including decision-making, which affect their development. You will acquire a range of skills through field, map and atlas work using IT, graphic and presentational work, discussion and group work using a number of different resources.

What does the course involve?

Component 1: The Physical Environment

- Topic 1—The changing landscapes of the UK (including sub topics which students choose 2 from three: 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes, 1B: River landscapes and processes or 1C: Glaciated upland landscapes and processes)
- Topic 2—Weather hazards and climate change
- Topic 3— Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Component 2: The Human Environment

- Topic 4—Changing cities
- Topic 5—Global development
- Topic 6— Resource management including sub-topics from which students choose 1 from 2: 6A: Energy resource management or Water resource management

Component 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

- Topic 7—Geographical investigations—fieldwork
- Topic 8—Geographical investigations—UK challenges

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Physical Environment exam paper: 1 hour 30 minutes worth **37.5% of grade**
- Human Environment exam paper: 1 hour 30 minutes worth **37.5% of grade**
- Geographical Investigations exam paper: **1 hour 30 minutes worth 25% of grade.**

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Using Numbers



Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Working with My Hands



Performing Activities



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Speaking in front of Others

Future Careers Opportunities

Geography is a multi-disciplinary course that includes science and maths. It can lead to many careers in/as: Cartographer • Development and Global Field • Marketing • Travel/Tourism • Urban Planning • Data Analyst • Environmental Scientist • Ecology/Marine Biologist • Public Services • Conservation • Teaching

Next Steps

Study: A Level Geography;

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Graphic Design (AQA)

What does the course offer me?

Do you consider yourself an “ideas” person? Do you like working towards a brief? Do you want to use your artistic skills in a business and industry environment? If so, opting for GCSE Graphic Design would be a perfect fit for you. Graphic Design allows you to use all of your creative thinking, art work and personal ideas to produce amazing, professional work that meets the needs of a client. Graphic Design could be a stepping stone onto many different career pathways. This option would fit perfectly with GCSE Photography.

What does the course involve?

What will you be studying for Graphic Design GCSE?

The course is run over 2 years and is comprised of a minimum of three projects. We complete two projects which are marked as coursework; these allow students to learn the basics of a wide variety of skills within Graphic Design including: Advertising, Logo Design, Multi-media, Interactive Design and Typography. Within the second project and the exam project we then encourage students to build on these skills and enhance their portfolio with illustration and layout design.

Students are given set briefs to respond to as they would in industry for a client; however students are encouraged to make this work personal and bring their own creative flair and ideas. As part of the course, students will have the opportunity to partake in trips to gather research for the set briefs they are responding to.

Why not pick an option where you are not only completing a GCSE qualification, but you are also building practical skills which can be used in industry and a portfolio of work to showcase your skills, ready for employment.

“Graphic Design is thinking made visible.”

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course breakdown:

- **Coursework 60%**
This is broken into 2 main projects:
Project 1: “Music Festivals”
Project 2: “Murals”
- **Exam 40%**

The exam is 10 hours and normally runs over 2 days. The exam generally takes place on computers, but would suit the skill set of the individual student.

The exam paper is given at least six weeks prior to the exam, to allow the students to complete prep work in the lead up to their exam.

Graphic Design is housed within the Art Department and we pride ourselves on the excellent GCSE exam results achieved year upon year. If you are interested in further information about this, please feel free to speak to any member of staff and/or our GCSE students.

N.B. you cannot choose both Art & Graphics

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

This subject teaches you to communicate, work as a team and develop your graphic communication. It can lead to many careers, such as: Graphic Designer • Packaging Designer • Illustrator • Advertising • Video Games Development • Concept/Prop Design • Animator • Interior Designer

Next Steps

Study A Level Graphic Design

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Health & Social Care (BTEC)

What does the course offer me?

To apply health and social values to everyday situations, and to develop an understanding of the part that health and social care plays to the world around us and how people should be treated fairly and equally. To solve problems, present solutions clearly and to demonstrate the ability to handle tasks with confidence. You will gain valuable skills such as communication, team and interpersonal skills, problem solving, planning and organisation as well as time management.

What does the course involve?

The course will involve you working individually, in pairs and in groups to research, present and demonstrate a wealth of knowledge about people and their roles and needs in our society.

The areas you will study are:

- Human Lifespan Development—internal assessment
- Health & Social Care Services and Values— Internal assessment
- Health and Wellbeing—External assessment

BTEC

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Coursework (60%):

Coursework will be completed during lessons. Coursework assessment can take the form of posters, essays, presentations, photographs, observations, role plays and leaflets etc.

Final examination (40%):

You will be given two scenarios and questions relating to them. These are designed so that you can demonstrate and apply your health and social care knowledge to different situations. This exam will be taken in May of the final year, at the end of the course.

We aim to have a variety to suit all learners.

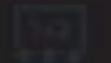
SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

The knowledge skills you learn in Health & Social Care can be useful for a number of careers such as: Care Assistant • Counsellor • Dental Nurse • Health Promotion • Nursing • Mental Health Worker • Paramedic • Radiographer • Social Work • Youth Worker

Next Steps

BTEc Health & Social Care

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme

Options Information



History (Edexcel)



What does the course offer me?

History will develop a depth of knowledge that links to the modern world. Importantly it allows students to deepen a range of highly valued skills that support many other areas of study and beyond. For example, studying history helps develop:

- A range of communication skills including debate and persuasion.
- The ability to organise and categorise.
- Decision making skills.

Students will have the opportunity to learn in a well resourced environment. In recent years there have been a number of enrichment opportunities. For example, before the pandemic, the History Department has conducted yearly trips to destinations linked to topics of study including Krakow and Amsterdam. We are very much looking forward to re-establishing a GCSE History trip as soon as it is possible and safe to do so.

Learning is supported by the fact that many students have found the topics to be interesting and relevant. Some questions raised studying the course include:

- Why did Elizabeth I have her cousin murdered?
- How has medicine enabled us to live so much longer than our recent ancestors?
- Why are there divisions in society?

What does the course involve?

In History we work in a variety of ways in order to develop core knowledge and subject skills. These include independent research, oral presentations, debate and discussion, ICT, and the study of filmed events including newsreels, documentaries and feature films.

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The History course is divided into three units:

Paper 1

British Thematic Study with Historical Environment (30%) (1hr 15min)

- Medicine in Britain, c1250 - present.
- Medicine on the Western Front, 1914-18.

Paper 2

A period study and British depth study (40%) (1hr 45min)

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91.
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558—1588.

Paper 3

Modern Depth Study. (30%) (1hr 20min)

- The USA, 1954-75, conflict at home and abroad

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing

Using Numbers

Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Working with my Hands

Performing Activities

Using ICT and Games

Future Careers

History develops many skills such as research, examining evidence and presenting an argument. Therefore, it is useful for many careers such as: Archaeology • Business • Historian • Journalist • Lawyer • Museum Curator • Police • Politician • Researcher • Teaching • Tourism •

Next Steps

Study: A Level History

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Media Studies (EDUQAS)

What does the course offer me?

- Media Studies course makes learning interesting, challenging, creative and fun.
- It develops skills of enquiry, critical thinking and decision making through consideration of issues that are relevant, real and important for understanding the world they experience.
- It also offers an appreciation and critical understanding of the media and its role in daily lives, whilst promoting the development of practical skills, through opportunities for personal engagement and creativity.
- The course promotes the use of ICT and software such as Adobe Photoshop.

What does the course involve?

As well as producing written examinations of media products, students will also be given the opportunity to develop their own projects, creating film, graphic products.

A variety of topics are covered through the course including music, television drama, advertising and gaming. As well as examining these topics production skills using photography, Photoshop and special effects production are introduced and developed through each student's projects for controlled assessment.

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Exploring the Media: here you analyse media language and representation and media industries and audiences. **1hr 30 mins exam. 40% of final grade.**

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products: this assesses all areas of media in relation to television and music. **1hr 30 mins exam. 30% of final grade.**

Component 3: Creating Media Products: An individual media production for an intended audience in response to a choice of briefs set by EDUCAS. **30% of final grade.**

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

Media Studies will equip you for a wide range of jobs in media, cultural and creative industries, including as a: Advertising Media Buyer • Broadcaster • Copywriter • Media Researcher • Presenter • Journalist • Social Media Manager • Writer

Next Steps

Study: A Level /BTEc Media Studies
Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme

Options Information



Music (OCR)

What does the course offer me?

GCSE Music is suitable for all students with a love of and interest in music. Free instrumental lessons are provided in order to support students in the practical, performance-based elements of the course. The Department boasts some of the best facilities in the city and has a history of high achievement.

What does the course involve?

GCSE Music (OCR) focuses on the three key areas of Listening, Composing and Performing. Students will explore a wide range of musical styles and genres, including Popular music, Brazilian Samba, the concerto and film music. They will also compose and record their own pieces and improve their performance skills both as a soloist and as part of a group.

It must be stressed that the principal qualifications for success in this subject are enthusiasm and hard work. *It is not necessary to have started learning an instrument before starting the course* and whilst the school cannot provide instruments, free lessons with a peripatetic specialist are provided. It should also be noted that voice is regarded as an instrument, though you **do not** have to sing as part of the course. The GCSE course allows students to pursue their own musical interests-be it a particular instrument, a love of certain genre or musical style or an interest in composition using music ICT-and all GCSE students are actively encouraged to participate fully in this lively department and to take advantage of the many opportunities available.

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Performing—30%

Students select and record two pieces; one solo and one group performance. These may be recorded at any time during the course.

Composing—30%

Students compose two pieces; one piece of descriptive music using Music ICT and the other in a style or genre of their choice.

Listening exam—40%

1 hour 30 minute listening exam covering a wide range of music. Students listen to musical excerpts and answer questions in a booklet.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

GCSE Music can lead to many careers such as: Band Manager • Classroom Teaching • Composer • Event Manager • Instrumental Teacher • Music Performer • Musician • Musical Historian • Music Journalist • Music Therapist • Sound/Light Technician • Sound Engineer • Teacher

Next Steps

Study A Level Music; BTEc Music Technology
Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Photography (AQA)

What does the course offer me?

Do you love showing off your individuality? Do you like using new technology and media to create artwork? Do you love telling stories, in a visual way? If so, opting for GCSE Photography would be a perfect fit for you. Photography is so much more than taking photos, it is about independent work, your own ideas and working to deadlines. Photography unlocks a variety of doors in the creative job sector.

What does the course involve?

What will you be studying for Photography GCSE?

The course is run over 2 years and students will complete a minimum of three projects. We complete two projects which are marked towards coursework. Within these projects we give students opportunities to experiment with digital and light-based photography processes. Within school we have access to digital SLR cameras and even a dark room! Our second project and our exam project give students the opportunity to develop their skills and progress into a chosen specialism, for example; photo-journalism, landscape photography, editorial photography and moving image.

Students will have a range of stimulus materials to respond to and the course provides opportunities for each student to recognise and develop their own creative ability and to appreciate the relevance of Photography to everyday life and the wider environment. As part of the photography course, students can expect to partake in a variety of trips to various locations to obtain the best photographs possible.

Practical skills and creative flair go hand-in-hand with this option which is a perfect fit for you if you are creative, expressive and have lots of your own ideas. This option would fit perfectly with GCSE Art or GCSE Graphic Design.

“Photography is the only language that can be understood anywhere in the world.”

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course breakdown:

- **Coursework 60%**
This is broken into 2 main projects:
Project 1: “Covert and Obscure”
Project 2: “Texture”
- **Exam 40%**
The exam is 10 hours and normally runs over 2 days. The exam generally takes place on computers, but would suit the skill set of the individual student.
The exam paper is given at least six weeks prior to the exam, to allow the students to complete prep work in the lead up to their exam.

Photography is housed within the Art Department and we pride ourselves on the excellent GCSE exam results achieved year upon year. If you are interested in further information about this, please feel free to speak to Miss Cullen and/or our GCSE students.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

You develop a mixture of creative and technical skills in this subject and it can lead to careers such as: Commercial Photographer • Graphic Designer • Freelance Photographer • Magazine Features Editor • Photo Journalist • Portrait Photographer • Scientific Photographer • Television Camera Operator

Next Steps

Study A Level /BTEc Photography
Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Religious Studies (WJEC)

What does the course offer me?

If you are naturally curious and a little argumentative then this course should suit you, as it gives an opportunity to examine subjects which affect us all in a little more depth with discussions, research and a chance to evaluate the influence of the media on our understanding. **The course encourages you to consider an issue from many sides and understand the beliefs and experiences that lie behind people's opinions.**

A qualification in Religious Studies is a good foundation, particularly if you are looking to work within healthcare, law or the media. It helps you develop the ability to consider a range of ideas and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your conclusions.

What does the course involve?

The course is based around two units which explore **ethical and philosophical themes**. This means you discuss the rights and wrongs and the meanings and beliefs around issues such as: **Good and Evil; Life And Death; Relationships and Human Rights**. Each of these topics is considered from a **secular, Christian and Muslim perspective** and you will gain a valuable insight into **the core beliefs and practices** of these religions. It's also a good opportunity to address common misconceptions about world religions.

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Examination (100%)
(2hrs)**

You will sit two papers:

- Religion and Ethical Issues
- Religion and Philosophical Themes.

There is no coursework in this subject.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



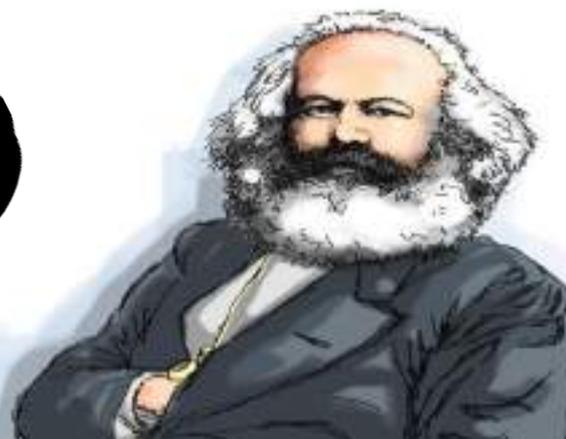
Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

RS deepens your knowledge of the world around you and can lead to careers such as: Activist • Author • Charity Coordinator • Entrepreneur • Human Rights Advocate • Lawyer • Human Resources • Social Worker • Teaching • Youth Worker

Next Steps

A Level RS; A Level Philosophy
Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Sociology (Eduqas)

What does the course offer me?

Sociology is one of the most interesting and relevant of all GCSE subjects as it is the study of people and the world we live in. A sociologist seeks to explain why people think and act in the way they do.

In sociology, you will develop an understanding of society and how society works. You will be able to understand and reflect on your role in the society and will begin to understand how and why society

What does the course involve?

Cultural Transmission: You will study how we learn our culture and develop a sense of identity. You will question whether human behaviour is inherited through our genes or nurtured by our upbringing. You will examine children brought up by animals and analyse identical twin studies. We will also look at how sociologists carry out research.

Families: You will study the importance of the family and how it can shape a child's personality. You will look at how the family has changed over the years, the types of relationship we have and examine who holds power in the home - do we really have equality between men and women?

Education: You will examine why we have an education system and evaluate how successful and fair the education system has been. You will examine the impact of setting and labelling in school. You will also look at patterns of educational achievement (e.g. why do richer people do better than the poor and why do girls outperform boys in exams?).

Social Differentiation: Sociologists study inequality in society - its causes and consequences. You will study the way societies are divided by money, power and status. You will also examine forms of social difference in Britain (such as social class, gender, ethnicity and age) and how they can impact on a person's chances to do well in life.

Crime & Deviance: Sociologists investigate the causes of crime and deviance. You will study who commits crime and why. You will also study how the government and the police try to reduce the level of crime, how accurate official statistics on crime are and what factors effect your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are **two exams**. Both exams last one hour and thirty minutes. There is **no coursework**.

Unit 1 Exam (50%):

1 hour, 45 minutes

⇒ Cultural Transmission

⇒ Families

⇒ Education

Unit 2 Exam (50%):

1 hour, 45 minutes

⇒ Social Differentiation

⇒ Crime and Deviance

⇒ Research Methods

⇒ Crime and Deviance

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Using Numbers



Design & Create Projects



Short Written Tasks



Working with My Hands



Performing Activities



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

You will develop a range of skills including critical thinking. This can lead to many careers such as: Charities Administrator • Civil Servant • HR Officer • Journalist • Lawyer • Marketing • Politician • Police Officer • Teacher • Solicitor • Youth Worker

Next Steps

Study: A Level Sociology

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



Spanish (AQA)

What does the course offer me?

Learning a language opens doors to lots of opportunities such as travel, work opportunities, promotion and further study. The course we offer gives students the chance to see progress quickly and gain the confidence to communicate effectively in a variety of situations. Successful linguists are good communicators, problem solvers and intelligent thinkers.

What does the course involve?

Topics covered are:

Health	Home and local area
Relationships and choices	Environment
Free time and the media	School and future plans
Holidays	Current and future jobs

GCSE

Option

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are **two tiers of entry**:
Foundation—grades 1-4
Higher—grades 4-9

All four skills:

Listening
Speaking
Reading
Writing

All are assessed by terminal exam at the end of year 11.

Each skill is worth 25% of the final grade.

SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

Future Career Opportunities

Employers and businesses seek applicants who can navigate the modern global economy; so Spanish is great for a number of careers such as: Cabin Crew • Journalist • Immigration Officer • Lawyer • Pilot • Public Services • Travel/Tourism • Teacher • Translator/ Interpreter

Next Steps

Study: A Level Spanish

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme

Options Information

Date	Activity
Monday 5 th December- ongoing	Dedicated Careers Programme – using a number of careers mapping software programmes.
Tuesday 10 th January	Students' Option Assembly
Monday 16 th January	Y9 Parents Options Information Presentation Presentations will be sent home via EduLink Ms Chapman
Wednesday 11 th January – Wednesday 18 th January	Assemblies for KS4 Optional Subjects Weds, 11th Jan: Art, Music, RS Thurs, 12th Jan: DT/Engineering, Media Studies, Computing Fri 13th Jan: H&S, Geography & Spanish Mon, 16th Jan: Photography, Graphic Design, Food Technology Tues, 17th Jan: Sociology, Business Studies, Drama Wed, 18th Jan: History, PE
Thursday 26 th January	Parents' Evening – a chance to talk to your child's subject teachers about their progress and suitability for GCSE in their subject. Also, a chance to speak to teachers of KS4 subjects that students have not studied during KS3. Ms Chapman (DHT Curriculum) & Ms Boyd (AHT Careers) will be available to discuss options choices.
Friday 3rd February	Option Choice Forms will be sent via Edu-Link to students. Students discuss options with parents, choose their options and submit their forms via Edu-link. Form Tutors to encourage completion of forms via Edu-Link throughout this process. Any questions or queries can be addressed to Ms Chapman or Mrs Boyd (Careers lead)
7 th February	Gateacre Careers and Employability Fair – a chance to meet and
Thursday 9th February	Deadline for submission of option forms via Edu-Link
Monday 13 th Feb – 22 nd February	Student interviews re. option choices – with Ms Chapman, Mrs
Friday 24 th February	Option block format is decided.
Summer Term	Option allocations finalised