



SUMMERHILL SCHOOL



INFORMATION FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENT/CARERS
ON THE COURSES AVAILABLE IN YEARS 10 AND 11

COURSE GUIDE 2024

Name

House Tutor Group

Contents

USEFUL INFORMATION

- 2 Core & Options
- 3 Types of Courses
 - English Baccalaureate
 - Curriculum Variations
- 4 Non-Examination Assessment
 - Homework
 - Grading System
 - Extra Classes
- 5 Targets and Reporting
 - Pastoral Care
 - Learning Centre
 - Additional Educational Needs
 - Homework Club
- 6 Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance
 - Pathways after Summerhill
- 7 Careers & Enterprise
 - Work Experience

CORE

- 8 English Language
- 9 English Literature
- 10 Mathematics
- 11 Science
- 12 Global Learning
- 13 Core PE

OPTIONS

- 14 Art
- 15 Business
- 16 Computer Science
- 17 Construction
- 18 Dance
- 19 Design Technology
- 20 Drama
- 21 Film Studies
- 22 Food Preparation & Nutrition
- 23 French
- 24 Geography
- 25 Health & Social Care
- 26 History
- 27 ICT
- 28 Music
- 29 Physical Education
- 30 Religious Studies
- 31 Spanish
- 32 Textiles
- 33 Triple Science

Next Steps

- 34 What Happens Next...?
- 36 FAQs
- 37 Examples of Choices
- 39 Reply Slip

Welcome

February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

This booklet has been designed to give you the information you will need to order to make informed decisions about the courses being offered in Year 10 and 11.

Students will be supported throughout the process by their subject teachers and Head of House. Every student will have a personal interview to confirm their choices.

If at any stage you have any queries or concerns then please contact the school. If you have a subject-specific query then email addresses for our Heads of Departments are available on the school website. Your House Office may be able to help with general queries or you are welcome to contact me too.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. Cresswell
Deputy Headteacher
acresswell@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

Useful Information

CORE SUBJECTS

As they start Year 10, students will have greater choice in the subjects they study, allowing them to personalise their learning in preparation for their intended career. There are still certain subjects that are key to future success whatever students are planning, so all students must take exam-based courses in the core subjects:

- English Language
 - English Literature
 - Mathematics
 - Science
- Please see pages 8-11 (red heading) for more information about the exam-based core subjects.

All students will also study these core subjects where there are no exams:

- Careers
- Citizenship
- E-safety
- Computing
- Personal, Social, Health & Enterprise Education
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

Core PE will be delivered as a timetabled lesson (in the same way as all students have studied PE during Y7-9). Computing will be delivered during reflection time. The remaining subjects will be delivered through Global Learning lessons or as part of other curriculum areas. Please see pages 12-13 (red heading) for more information.

OPTIONS

Students will have 4 option choices.

Every student must choose Geography and/or History.

We strongly encourage students to study at least one Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish) if they can do so. There may be a small number of students for whom this is not appropriate but for most students it will give them a good foundation for the future. Increasingly, students from other schools are studying languages and this means that our students could be at a disadvantage if they don't obtain a GCSE in a language when they are capable of doing so.

There are two restrictions on the options choices. Students can't study:

- both Art and Textiles
- both Construction and Health & Social Care

We will set up timetable blocks to match students' preferences as closely as possible, taking into account constraints such as staffing and rooming. The process should enable us to give the best possible overall fit, but we must emphasise that it is extremely unlikely that we will be able to match every student's preferences exactly, especially if a student makes an unusual combination of choices or if demand is extremely high (or low) for a particular subject. Please see page 34 for a timeline of the options process.

Useful Information

TYPES OF COURSES

Most of the courses we offer lead to a GCSE qualification, which is the standard qualification gained by most students across England at the end of Year 11. In some cases, there is no suitable GCSE course available. We therefore offer selected non-GCSE courses such as Health & Social Care, ICT and Construction.

These non-GCSE courses tend to be heavily vocational (they help students to develop their skills ready to work in a particular industry). This means that they can give high quality skill development in specialist areas, but a student taking a large number of vocational qualifications might find it difficult to progress along an academic route at 16+.

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

If students choose French or Spanish as an option, together with Geography and/or History and their core subjects, they can achieve the English Baccalaureate. This doesn't mean that students will get any extra certificate but is a collection of subjects that are recommended for academic students who may wish to go to a top university.

Selecting a language can have benefits for other students, too. Communications with others across the global economy is a useful skill in a wide range of careers. GCSEs in Languages are highly valued by many employers and could give students a competitive advantage when applying for jobs or courses in the future

CURRICULUM VARIATIONS

Not all students learn at the same rate. Some students will benefit from learning support and extra classes, while others could be offered a slightly reduced timetable via the Supported Study programme.

In French, Spanish, Maths and Science, students can be entered at different tiers (Foundation or Higher) according to their predicted grade. This is designed to make sure that students are not faced by questions that are much too easy/difficult for them.

Every student will study Science. Most students will achieve a Combined Science qualification, which is equivalent to two GCSEs. Students who opt for Triple Science will achieve three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Useful Information

NON-EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) is a way that students may be assessed for a qualification without using exams. Students work on a series of tasks, usually in school. The rules vary for each course but can be very strict about how much time is allowed, where tasks can be done and how much help can be given.

NEA is a very important way of gaining marks towards a qualification. It must be treated just as seriously as exams. The standard of work that is expected in NEAs is often higher than the standard expected during exams, because students have more time to complete the NEA.

HOMEWORK

Exam courses make increasing demands on students with many courses having research and/or NEA components.

It is important that students use time management and study skills to ensure that they manage their work effectively and keep up to date with homework and project work. Planned revision timetables will play their part in helping students achieve success in all examination subjects. Parents/carers can help by making sure that students have a suitable place to work at home and by using SatchelOne to see the expected homework.

GRADING SYSTEMS

GCSEs are now graded on a scale from 9 (the highest) to 1 (the lowest). If a student doesn't reach the standard for a pass, they will receive a grade 0.

Current GCSE Grades	Equivalent Old GCSE Grades
9,8,7	A*, A
6,5	B,C
4,3,2,1	D,E,F,G
0	U

Level 2 vocational courses are equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4.

EXTRA CLASSES

Many subject staff run extra lessons at certain times during the two years: before school, during lunchtime, after school, at weekends or during holiday periods. These classes may help students with revision or the completion of NEA. Students will be given information about these classes at the appropriate time and it is important that they make use of these opportunities to improve.

Useful Information

TARGETS & REPORTING

Students are monitored and tracked against targets that are set based on students' prior attainment and the performance of similar students in the best schools across the country. Students' predicted grades will be shared regularly with parents/carers. There will be Progress Evenings in Years 10 and 11 at which progress in individual subjects can be discussed with subject teachers.

PASTORAL CARE

In Years 10 and 11, even more emphasis is put on self-discipline, both in attitude and management of study time. All students are encouraged to accept more responsibility for their own learning.

Careers review and guidance is increasingly important. In addition to time spent on specific careers events, students will be supported to prepare a CV, personal statement and make applications for their next stage of education/training.

LEARNING CENTRE

All students have access to the Learning Centre to support their work after school (until 4.30 pm Monday to Thursday, until 4.00 pm on Friday). Students will also be able to use the Learning Centre for independent work before the start of school.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Students who need additional support may receive this directly from the Learning Support Department or through the setting arrangements and differentiated work organised by departments. Some support may be available from outside agencies. Learning support staff will guide students towards selecting appropriate courses to suit their individual needs and capabilities. Any questions regarding support for students with Additional Educational Needs should be addressed to Miss Mohamed (SENDCO).

HOMEWORK CLUB

Students are welcome to attend Homework Club in Learning Support on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2.50-3.45 pm where advice from Learning Support staff can be sought regarding any aspect of work.

Careers

CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Careers Education enables learners to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and experience of opportunities, to manage their career development, and make relevant informed choices. It helps our students to make a successful transition into education, training or employment at post-16 and become lifelong learners.

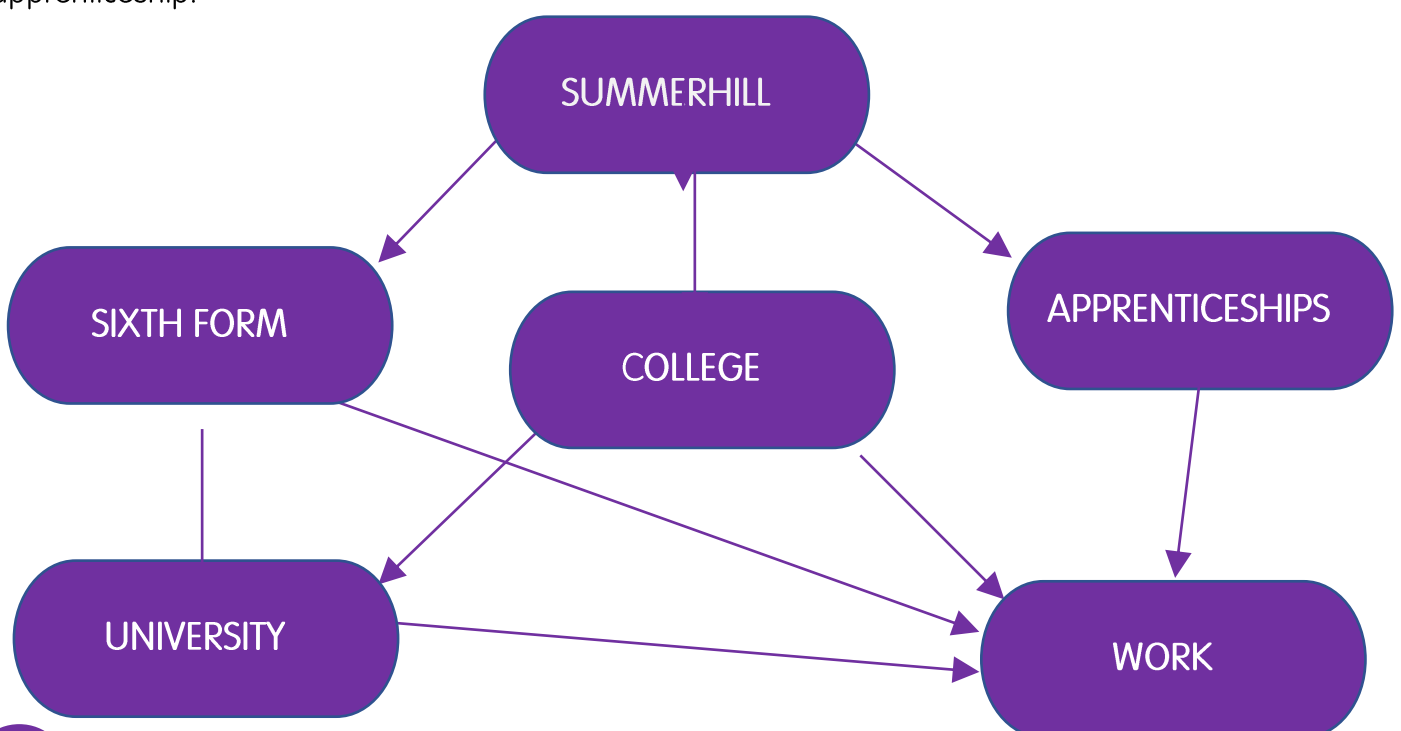
Careers education at Summerhill includes timetabled sessions which provide valuable opportunities for personal career planning; realistic and meaningful cross curricular opportunities for development of employability skills; and opportunities for planned and relevant work-related learning experience.

The school is committed to promoting awareness of;

- Career pathways
- Local labour market information
- Further education opportunities (eg sixth form and colleges)
- Higher education opportunities (eg universities)
- Training qualifications
- Industry and business
- Skills for the workplace
- Diversity in the workplace

PATHWAYS AFTER SUMMERHILL

All young people will be expected to stay in some form of learning until they are 18. This could be following the traditional academic route, or employment with training such as a modern apprenticeship.



CAREERS INFORMATION

A range of resources, guides and information are available via the school library and on the school website. These include:

- Careers updates
- Applying for further education
- Apprenticeship opportunities
- College Open Day calendar
- Guidance for CVs and interviews
- Other useful websites and resources
- Careers and Enterprise trips

We also have a linked Connexions advisor, Wendy Lowe, who is available for individual mentoring sessions. Appointments may be booked via Mr Morgan in the library.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experiences are the opportunity for planned and appropriate experiences of the world of work to increase learners' motivation, develop their employability skills and give relevance to their learning programme. Appropriate experiences of the world of work can increase learners' motivation to learn across the curriculum and give relevance to their learning programme and increase their knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the world of work. Year 10 participate in a week of work experience, usually during the summer term.

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

National Careers Service
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Dudley Careers Advice Website
www.connexionsdudley.org

National Apprenticeship Service
www.apprenticeships.org.uk


Learn Live
<https://learnliveuk.com/channel/>

A-Z of Apprenticeships
www.gov.uk/become-apprentice

Careers Springboard
www.mycareerspringboard.org

University admissions
www.ucas.com

Sacu (Quiz to match you to possible careers)
https://sacu-student.com/?page_id=2850



Not sure what career
you're interested in?
Try Sacu...

English Language

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE English Language (AQA 8700)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will learn how to use English Language accurately and effectively when writing or speaking. They will also learn to appreciate the use of English in written texts. In addition, they will be taught how to give a presentation.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be two terminal examinations:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes
Contributes 50% of the final mark

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives, written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes
Contributes 50% of the final mark

NEA: Students will be assessed on their ability to give a presentation and respond to questions. A level for speaking and listening will be reported separately from the main GCSE grade.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

A good grade in GCSE English Language will help a student get a place in further education or employment.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Students will follow an integrated English Language and English Literature course leading to the award of two separate GCSEs.

English Literature

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE English Literature (AQA 8702)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will experience a range of literature. They will learn how to approach the study of literature and how to make engaged personal responses to plays, poetry and prose.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be two terminal examinations:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes. Contributes 40% of the final mark

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Written exam, 2 hours 15 minutes. Contributes 60% of the final mark

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

A GCSE in English Literature complements GCSE English Language and is useful for students wishing to progress to studying either subject at a higher level. It demonstrates an ability to read and analyse a range of challenging texts.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Access to film or audio versions of set texts may be useful. Students will be advised of revision materials online which they can access. AQA provides a free copy of a poetry anthology for students to use throughout the course.

In addition to the poetry, three other set texts will be studied, chosen from a list provided by AQA:

- Animal Farm
- An Inspector Calls
- Macbeth
- A Christmas Carol

It would be beneficial to purchase a copy of the GCSE texts as advised by students' classroom teachers.

Students will follow an integrated English Language and English Literature course leading to the award of two separate GCSEs.

Mathematics

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Mathematics (Pearson 1MA1)

Two tiers are available:

- Higher: grades 9 to 3
- Foundation: grades 5 to 1

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will study and be assessed on:

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will take three written examinations at the end of the course:

Paper 1: Non Calculator, written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes, contributing 33.3% of the final mark

Paper 2: Calculator, written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes, contributing 33.3% of the final mark

Paper 3: Calculator, written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes, contributing 33.3% of the final mark

HOW COULD THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

A good grade in GCSE Maths is a key requirement for many forms of employment or entry onto many courses. Good numeracy is an important skill for everyday life.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Student will need a scientific calculator. We recommend a Casio fx-83GT CW.

There is a formulae sheet which you must learn before your exam.

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Combined Science (AQA 8464)

This qualification is equivalent to two GCSE awards with linked grades being awarded. Both higher tier, (grades 9-9 to 5-5), and foundation tier, (grades 5-5 to 1-1) are available.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Biology

Cell Biology
Organisation
Infection and Response
Bioenergetics
Homeostasis and Response
Inheritance and Variation
Evolution
Ecology

Chemistry

Atomic Structure
Periodic Table
Bonding and Structure
Properties of Matter
Quantitative Chemistry
Chemical Changes
Energy Changes
The Rate and Extent of
Chemical Change
Organic Chemistry
Chemical Analysis
Chemistry of the Atmosphere
Using Resources

Physics

Forces
Energy
Waves
Electricity
Magnetism
Electromagnetism
Particle Model of Matter
Atomic Structure

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be 6 exams (2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics), each lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. Each paper equals 16.7% of the final GCSE.

HOW COULD THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

From trainee chef to nuclear physicist, construction apprentice to cancer researcher, everyone needs some level of science understanding. Science qualifications can support applications for a whole range of wider study. GCSE qualifications in Science are also highly valued by employers and are extremely useful in a competitive employment market.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

There are 21 Required Practical Activities that all students must take part in. If a practical is missed, the student will be asked to join a planned session at lunchtime or after school to ensure they can conduct and understand the principles of the activity.

Students with an interest in studying Science post-16 should consider opting for Triple Science (see page 33).

Global Learning

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

Global Learning will be studied by all students in Years 10 and 11 as part of the core curriculum. There is no formal qualification.

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN GLOBAL LEARNING?

Our Global Learning programme will deliver lessons on Relationships and sex education; Physical health and wellbeing; Citizenship; Careers; Religious Studies and Revision skills. Fundamental British Values and SMSC are embedded and taught explicitly throughout the curriculum.

Year 10

Same sex families	Self-harm	Government accountability
Parenting styles	Suicide	Free press
Harassment and stalking	Social media and self esteem	Activism
Revenge porn	The benefits of exercise	Volunteering and community engagement
Consent and rape	Prescription drugs	Employability - interviews
Safe sex and contraception	Class B drugs	Employability - CVs and personal statements
STIs	Binge drinking	Post 16 options and planning
CCE	The dangers of long-term alcohol consumption	Common and civil law
Prevent - terrorism and the far right	Cancer awareness and self-examination	Legal powers
Religious Studies	First aid	

Year 11

Role models	How can we make ourselves feel more positive?	University aspirations
Internet safety - the dark web	How others affect our mental health	University applications
Pornography	Managing exam stress	Employability - earning power
Fertility	Class A drugs	Insurance
Pregnancy	Addiction - the dangers of long-term drug use	Savings
Religious Studies		Pensions
		The separation of powers
		Human rights and international law

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

All students in Years 10 and 11 will take part in Core PE as part of the core curriculum. There is no formal qualification.

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN CORE PE?

Core PE builds on the skills developed during Key Stage 3 and provides students with the opportunity to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

Year 10 & 11 students will continue to carry out a number of activities, similar to those in KS3. They will experience a variety of roles, including performer, leader, coach and official. Students will become involved in increasingly challenging and complex tasks.

Students will be assessed in three key areas of Physical Education: Doing, Thinking and Social/Emotional. This form of assessment enables all learners to achieve in Physical Education and aims to develop the national aim of 'Participation for all' & 'Lifelong Participation'.

Throughout KS4, students will be discovering what they like to do, what their aptitudes are in different sports, and how/where to get involved in physical activity. This will help students make informed choices about lifelong physical activity.

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Art & Design: Fine Art (OCR J171) You cannot opt for both Art and Textiles.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course will start with a skills-based project which will serve as an introduction to all the materials and equipment we have on offer. After this, students will use their knowledge and areas of expertise to produce a portfolio. Areas covered will include:

Drawing	Photography	3D media	Use of iPads
Painting	Graphics	Mixed media	Use of ICT

You will be introduced to different styles of Art with many modern themes and skills being addressed and investigated. Photography and image manipulation will be covered with an emphasis on personal starting points.

You will need to show personal and imaginative responses to ideas and themes and follow an idea through from your initial thought to the completion of the work. Your work must be supported by material showing its research and development. Drawing will form an important part of each project leading to work in a variety of media. You will be given opportunities to discover what kind of artist you are through guided and supported individual studies.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will produce a portfolio of work which contributes 60% of the final mark.

The externally set task contributes 40% of the final mark. The preparation time is unlimited, followed by 10 hours of practical exam (spread over 2 days).

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

This is a practical course developing skills in Art and Design. You could attend local Art colleges and universities leading to careers such as Architect, Product Designer, Fashion Designer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Interior Designer, Computer Games Designer and Make-up Artist.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

To achieve good results in Art you will need to be independent, have a desire to lead your own work in a personal direction and an ability to hit deadlines. Art will be a lot of fun and hugely rewarding but requires high quality drawing skills to succeed.

You will be required to complete work at home so you will be offered the opportunity to purchase an Art pack filled with materials. This optional pack will cost roughly £45. You will also need a device to take photographs- a camera phone is perfectly adequate.

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Business (Pearson 1BS0)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Business is structured into two themes, taking students from how entrepreneurs start businesses (Theme 1) through to growing and global businesses (Theme 2).

Theme 1: Investigating Small Businesses concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

Theme 2: Building a Business examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business must make as it grows.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two equally weighted exam papers, focusing on each specification theme:

Paper 1: Investigating Small Businesses

Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes, contributes 50% of the final mark

Paper 2: Building a Business

Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes, contributes 50% of the final mark

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

GCSE Business is an introduction to the world of work. It explains what businesses are and how they work. The course will be useful for further study at college (A-Levels/vocational courses) and also for an apprenticeship.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Lessons are split between the delivery and assessment of new content and the use of retrieval, revision skills and exam techniques. Homework is set weekly and in class tests are set following the completion of each unit. A calculator will be required for the use of finance and formulae.

Computer Science

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Computer Science (AQA 8525)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Computer Science helps you think about how technology is created. It allows you to understand how people work together with computers to develop world-changing applications like Facebook, Spotify and eBay. You'll gain the skills to enable you to understand how to design and build apps, investigate how algorithms help create computer programs, how the components inside computers work together and the importance of cyber security.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Computational Thinking and Programming

Written exam, 2 hours, contributes 50% of the final mark

Paper 2: Computing Concepts

Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes, contributes 50% of the final mark

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Computer Science is an exciting subject and can provide you with opportunities across lots of industries. An exponential growth in technology is all around us. Organisations pay well for talented Computer Scientists to create devices and their software.

Fancy making the next smash-hit computer game rather than just playing it? Want to work for Apple or Google rather than just using an Android Phone or iPhone? See yourself as the next Mark Zuckerberg or Bill Gates, innovating technology in your own business and making profits for yourself?

Studying Computer Science also develops important skills such as logical thinking and problem solving that colleges, universities and employers are looking for – they'll be valuable for the rest of your life, no matter what choices you make.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Computer Science is a rewarding but demanding course with an emphasis on Maths, especially algebra and logical thinking. Students will be using a programming language named Python. This is available free-of-charge. There are a number of emulators online (try trinket.io) and free courses that students can use to develop their skills; examples of these are codecademy.com or hourofcode.com.

It would be unusual (but it is not impossible) to take this Computer Science course as well as the Vocational Award in ICT. You should only consider taking both courses if you are certain that your future career will be entirely based around working with computers, for example as a Computer Technician or Network Manager.

Construction

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

Edquas Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Construction and the Built Environment (Technical Award)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Unit 1: You will learn about the built environment and provides you with the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment. You will explore a range of profession and trade roles, and some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment

Unit 3: You will have the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

On successful completion of the programme, you may progress onto a full-time Diploma in Construction or choose to start an apprenticeship.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment: On-screen examination (1 hour 30 minutes) contributing 40% of the qualification

Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment: Controlled assessment (30 hours) contributing 60% of the qualification. An assignment brief will be set by the exam board. This will include a scenario and several tasks.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

You will be expected to show enthusiasm for the subject and be prepared for physical work including working outdoors. There will be a range of classroom and practical activities.

This is a non-GCSE qualification. You cannot opt for Construction as well as Health & Social Care.

Dance

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Dance (AQA 8236)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Dance is broken down into three areas: Performance, Choreography and Dance Appreciation. Students will learn to replicate complex choreography, demonstrating technical, expressive and performance skills. They will refine their ability to create innovative and captivating choreography in response to externally set stimuli. They'll also learn to critically appreciate their own performance and choreography, through descriptive, analytical, interpretive, evaluative and reflective skills.

Dance students will study six professional works in depth and learn to describe, analyse, interpret, evaluate and reflect on the works:

- Artificial Things by Stopgap Dance Co and Lucy Bennett
- A Linha Curva by Rambert Dance Co and Itzik Galili
- Infra by The Royal Ballet and Wayne McGregor
- Shadows by Phoenix Theatre and Christopher Bruce
- Within Her Eyes by James Cousins Company
- Emancipation of Expressionism by Blue Boy Entertainment and Kendrick H2O Sandy

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 – Performance and Choreography (60% of GCSE)

- Solo performance of the Breathe and Flux, two phrases set by AQA (1 minute in total).
- Duet/trio performance using movement material from the two remaining AQA set phrases; Scoop and Shift, (3-5 mins)
- Solo or group choreography (2-5 mins) based upon an externally set stimulus.

Component 2 – Dance Appreciation (40% of GCSE)

- Written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Students will develop skills to be successful in all career choices but particularly suited to careers involving the Performing Arts, Dance and Sport.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

The course is physically demanding, and it is essential that students participate in all practical lessons. Students are encouraged to attend extra-curricular dance sessions to develop their performance skills. Students will need to have their performances recorded as these must be sent to the exam board as part of the Component 1 assessment. Students will need a leotard and leggings (or equivalent) for performances.

The course is based upon contemporary dance and the study/performance of other styles may be limited.

Design Technology

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Design and Technology (OCR J310)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will build on your experience of Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM), developing an understanding of how it is used in industry. All of this will be learned in context through design projects which develop creativity and independence.

Designing: You will be building on using skills you learned in D&T in KS3;. You will be familiar with some aspects of the design process such as researching, analysing, creating and developing ideas.

Making: The course will involve you building on the practical skills you have used during KS3 while learning new, higher level techniques.

Content overview :

- Identifying requirements
- Learning from existing products & practice
- Implications of wider issues
- Design thinking and communication
- Material considerations
- Technical understanding
- Manufacturing processes & techniques
- Viability of design solutions

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A written exam about "Principles of design and technology", lasting 2 hours and contributing 50% of the overall grade.

An iterative design challenge. This Non-Exam Assessment will last approximately 40 hours and contribute 50% of the overall grade. You will complete a single 'design and make' activity chosen from a range of set tasks, producing a 3D product and a design folder.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

This course will be useful for anyone thinking of pursuing any area of Design and Making, such as:

- Architect
- Building trade
- CAD Draftsperson
- Carpenter
- Electrician
- Games designer
- Graphic designer
- Interior design
- Plumber
- Set design

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

As the NEA is worth 50% of the final grade, students must be ready to work hard over a long period of time to achieve the best from their project.

Useful equipment includes: a range of drawing and colouring equipment; 1GB (minimum) memory stick; 0.4mm and 0.7mm black fine liner pens.

Drama

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Drama (OCR J316)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Drama students learn about two contrasting theatre practitioners, Stanislavski and Brecht and how their ideas have influenced theatre. They will learn about different genres and performance styles, using this knowledge to inform their creative work.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Devising Drama – 30% of GCSE

You will create your own devised performance in groups, based on a chosen stimulus from the exam board. In addition to the performance, you will be marked on an accompanying portfolio with evidence of the process and decisions made whilst creating and developing your performance.

Presenting and Performing Texts – 30% of GCSE

You will take part in a showcase, demonstrating your chosen skills in a live performance. You will perform in (or design for) two performances from one text. You will be required to produce an accompanying document which outlines your intentions for, and approach to, the performance showcase.

Drama: Performance and Response – 40% of GCSE

This written exam (1 hour 30 minutes) requires you to study text and performance.

For Section A, you will study one performance text in detail from a set list given by the exam board.

This section of the paper will contain questions which require short and medium length answers.

In Section B, you will be required to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance you have seen, using accurate subject-specific terminology.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

All tasks involve group work, problem solving and communication skills: skills that are needed no matter what career path you take. GCSE Drama will enable you to go on to study a range of different subjects. Drama students from Summerhill School have developed careers in Acting, Law, Teaching and Business.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Drama relies on enthusiasm, good attendance, and energy. Good organisational skills are essential, and you will be expected to perform to large audiences.

Film Studies

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Film Studies (Eduqas)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Film is an important part of our lives. It not only entertains us but has a significant influence on the way people think and feel. It reflects society, culture, politics and the world around us. For many, it is the most significant art form of the last hundred years.

GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on your enthusiasm for films and introduce you to a wide variety of cinematic experiences. You will develop your knowledge of American mainstream film and film technology, by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the 70s/80s. In addition, you will study more recent films- an American independent film as well as films from Europe, including the UK and other global locations.

Films studied will include:

- 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers' (1950) and E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982)
- 'Juno' (2007)
- 'District 9' (2009)
- 'Tsotsi' (2005) 'Submarine' (2010)

An important part of Film Studies is film production. You may have the opportunity to apply what you have learnt about film language and production by producing your own short film. This will provide you with the opportunity to show off both your technical and creative skills!

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: American Film written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. 35% of qualification.

Component 2: Global Film written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. 35% of qualification.

Component 3: Film Production: Non-exam assessment. 30% of qualification.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

The film industry employs large numbers of people worldwide. Students could progress to careers in a wide range of job roles related to the industry. Several film and media pathways are offered by local post-16 providers. The course develops students' critical thinking, decision making and analytical skills- transferable skills that will be of life-long benefit.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Learning in this course will make use of the school's dedicated Apple Media suite.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition (AQA 8585)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This GCSE course will equip you with the skills, knowledge and understanding required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating:

Food Skills, Cooking and Food Preparation: You'll develop an extensive list of food preparation skills. Examples include knife skills, preparing fruits and vegetables, marinating, shaping, making sauces, baking, bread making and using a range of cooking processes.

Nutrition and Health: Healthy eating, balanced diet, special dietary needs, metabolism, macro & micro nutrients, health risks, dietary reference values, calculating nutritional values and hydration. Ingredients will come from all 5 food groups of the 'Eatwell Guide'.

Food Provenance: Where and how foods and ingredients are produced and how processing affects sensory and nutritional properties. You will consider the impact of food on the environment in the study of British and two International cuisines.

Food Choice: Reasons for choosing foods including sensory perceptions, seasonality, availability, cultural influences, beliefs or medical reasons.

Food Science: Functions of ingredients and the changes taking place during cooking.

Food safety: Bacterial growth and food hygiene.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Written exam (1 hour 45 minutes) contributes 50% of the total marks

Non-exam assessment, will include food investigation, food preparation and cooking. This contributes 50% of the total marks. The NEA will include two 20-hour projects plus a 3-hour practical exam.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

You will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways, such as:

Baker

Catering Manager

Chef

Dietician

Food Service Consultant

Nutritionist

Food Safety Inspector

Food Scientist

Food Development

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

The practical element of this course will help to develop a crucial life skill and is an essential part of the course. Students will need to bring in their ingredients (and take home their finished products) so that their practical work can reinforce the theoretical aspects of the course.

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE French (Pearson 1FR1)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course is taught through the following themes:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

You will use the specified vocabulary and grammar to listen to, read, speak and write about the following subjects:

Family, food and drink, shopping, school, music, friends, sports, places in town, future opportunities, TV and film, equality, mental well-being, transport, environmental issues, tourist attractions, relationships, physical well-being, the natural world, social media and gaming, accommodation.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All skills (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking) are equally weighted and contribute 25% towards the final mark. Speaking is assessed during a short practical exam where you talk to your teacher and a recording is sent to the examiner. There are written exams for Listening, Reading and Writing. Students can be entered for either Foundation or Higher tier. Tiers cannot be mixed.

HOW CAN THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Effective communication is an essential skill for success in personal and professional life. When you learn a new language, you not only improve your English skills but also connect with a wider range of people, expanding your social and professional circles. Acquiring new perspectives enhances your ability to express yourself, making you a better communicator overall.

Knowing a second language is valuable in today's job market, regardless of your industry or expertise level. It not only makes you more competitive in job searches but also increases your chances of earning a higher salary. A GCSE qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is highly valued by employers and universities.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

For more detailed information please go to

www.pearson.com/en-gb/schools/subject-resources/modern-languages.html

Geography

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Geography (OCR J384)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students learn about 2 key themes:

- Our Natural World (including global hazards, changing climate, distinctive landscapes and sustainable ecosystems)
- People and Society (including urban futures, dynamic development, UK in the 21st Century and resource reliance)

The course aims to excite and engage students with contemporary topics covering the breadth of this dynamic subject. It will stimulate interest in different places, people and environments, whilst ensuring an appreciation of the geography of the UK in the 21st Century.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Our Natural World contributes 35% of the final mark. The exam lasts 1¼ hours and tests students' understanding of the world they live in. One piece of physical geography fieldwork and skills are tested as part of the exam

Unit 2: People and Society contributes 35% of the final mark. The exam lasts 1¼ hours and tests students' understanding of the connections between people and places. One piece of human geography fieldwork and skills are tested as part of the exam.

Unit 3: Geographical Exploration is an exam lasting 1½ hours. This is a synoptic paper involving a decision-making exercise and geographical skills that encourages students to 'think like a Geographer'.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Geography is an exciting and relevant subject that explains the world we live in, helping students to understand landscapes and reasons for their formation.

Geographers are highly employable and the Russell group of universities state that Geography is one of the main facilitating subjects. Careers that fit well with Geography include urban planners, the Police force, surveyors and climatologists.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

A GCSE in Geography is a key part of the English Baccalaureate

Health & Social Care

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- How people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to old age, this includes physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, and factors that may affect them.
- How health and social care services operate and meet the needs of real people. This will help you develop skills in applying care values that are common across the sector.
- The factors that can have a positive or negative influence on a person's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators, and what they mean for someone's state of health. You will learn how to use this information to design an appropriate plan for improving someone's health and wellbeing.

This qualification builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you are learning in your GCSEs, such as English. It will complement the more theoretical aspects covered by GCSE Science and allow you to apply your knowledge and skills practically in a vocational context.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is made up of three components: two internally assessed and one externally assessed.

Component Title	Assessment	Weighting
Human Lifespan Development	Your teacher, internally, through independent written assignments	30%
Health & Social Care Services and Values		30%
Health & Wellbeing	Written Exam, 2 hours	40%

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Progression to a range of further education opportunities:

- A Levels
- BTEC Level 3 qualifications
- Apprenticeships
- Degree

Employability:

- Therapists and counsellors
- Pharmacists
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Healthcare assistants
- Social care assistants
- Paramedics
- Occupational Health

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW

This is a non-GCSE qualification. You cannot opt for Health & Social Care as well as Construction

History

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE History (Pearson 1HI0)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment: Students will study Medicine in Britain and how it changed over time, starting with the Middle Ages before moving onto the Renaissance and revolutionary 19th century ideas such as vaccinations, germ theory and public sewers! Finally, we will consider medicine during the First World War, including poison gas, plastic surgery and blood banks.

Paper 2a: Period study: The American West: Students will explore the lives of the Native American Indians and explain how they were effectively wiped out. Students will delve into the actions of fascinating characters including Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Joseph Smith. Examine the Battle of Little Big Horn and explain what General Custer was really trying to achieve. The American West covers everything from gold mining to cowboys.

Paper 2b: British depth study: Follow the story of one of England's most famous figures. At just 3 years old, Elizabeth Tudor witnessed the beheading of her mother, Anne Boleyn. Elizabeth was the third of Henry's children and never destined to rule England and yet became one of its most successful monarchs. The 'Elizabethan' period can be seen as a golden age but it was far from smooth sailing for the Queen. Why did she order the execution of her cousin? How did she defeat the Spanish Armada?

Paper 3: Modern depth study: In the aftermath of WW1, Germany was in tatters. Depression and misery set in during the years of the Weimar Republic. This unit analyses the rise of Hitler in the 1930s. Why did ordinary Germans turn to a man who espoused racist and violent visions of the future? Was Hitler's rise inevitable? Find out how Hitler built the Third Reich and decide whether fear really was the Nazis' main weapon in maintaining discipline and order.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1 is worth 30% of the GCSE and will be assessed in a 1 hour 15 minute written exam.

Paper 2 is worth 40% of the GCSE and will be assessed in a 1 hour 45 minute written exam.

Paper 3 is worth 30% of the GCSE and will be assessed in a 1 hour 20 minute written exam.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

History develops skills such as researching, processing information, asking questions, expressing opinions, and selecting information. It provides an understanding of different political and cultural backgrounds, past and present.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Students must be prepared to read around the subject, discuss and produce coherent written work.

A GCSE in History is a key part of the English Baccalaureate.

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

Eduqas Vocational Award in ICT (Technical Award) - Level 1/2

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

For Unit 1, ICT in Society, you will explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society. You will learn how information & communication technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use of information technology. Your learning will include:

- types of hardware, software and services
- how data is organised, stored and transferred
- the legal, moral, ethical, cultural and environmental implications of ICT

For Unit 2, ICT in Context, you will gain useful knowledge about how technology can be used in the office setting and wider workplace. You will become skilled in using:

- databases
- spreadsheets
- automated documents
- image manipulation software

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: ICT in Society is an on-screen examination worth 40% of the qualification.

Unit 2: ICT in Context is a controlled assessment worth 60% of qualification.

HOW COULD THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

ICT is a fantastic qualification to develop skills in ICT for the workplace and business. Many jobs and careers nowadays are expecting people to have excellent ICT skills and the ability to drive business forward using the software that you will learn about in this course. The ICT course will be particularly useful if you are interested in running your own small business.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

This course is aiming to teach you to become a proficient user of ICT, rather than learning how computers work or how to become a programmer. This course does not include coding with Python - if coding is what interests you then please look at the GCSE Computer Science course.

It would be unusual (but is not impossible) to take this ICT course as well as GCSE Computer Science. You should only consider taking both courses if you are certain that your future career will be entirely based around working with computers, for example as a Computer Technician or Network Manager.

Music

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Music (OCR J536)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course covers the three main musical elements of: Performance, Composition and Appraisal. You will:

- develop a thorough understanding of your chosen instrument and its capabilities.
- broaden your understanding of composition through the use of Music Technology.
- study how the concerto and orchestra has developed through the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods.
- study styles of music from around the world including Indian Classical, Bhangra, African Drumming, Calypso and Samba.
- develop an understanding of how music can support the moving image in Films and Video Games.
- learn about the Conventions of Pop; studying a range of popular music including Rock 'n' Roll, Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads and music by Solo Artists.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- A solo performance on your chosen instrument.
- Perform your instrument as part of an ensemble.
- Compose a piece of music for your chosen instrument.
- Compose a piece of music to a brief set by the exam board.
- A Listening and Appraising exam (1 hour 30 minutes) to assess your ability to recognise styles, key musical features, themes and musical techniques in unfamiliar music.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

GCSE Music students will have many transferable skills to offer employers, colleges and universities, such as: co-operation, imagination, initiative, problem solving and decision making.

Undertaking GCSE Music will also develop your self-confidence: performing in front of an audience increases self-confidence when working with or speaking to larger groups of people.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

You need to be able to sing or play an instrument (or be willing to learn) as performing is an essential part of the course and is worth 30% of your overall grade.

As it is essential that you perform as a soloist on your chosen instrument, having one-to-one instrumental lessons would be extremely helpful. This can be arranged in school for an additional cost.

Physical Education

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Physical Education (Pearson TPE0)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course follows on from the Key Stage 3 Physical Education programme of study by providing students with opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding in a range of areas:

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Movement Analysis
- Health, Fitness & Well-being
- Sports Psychology
- Socio-cultural influences

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Fitness & Body Systems

Written exam; 1 hour 30 minutes; 36% of total marks

Paper 2: Health & Performance

Written exam; 1 hour 15 minutes; 24% of total marks

Practical assessment: Students are assessed across three sports, including a least one team sport and one individual sport. 30% of total marks

NEA: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

Project assessed internally by your teacher 10% of total marks

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

The content of the GCSE Physical Education course will provide a route to study in further education such as A-levels or BTECs, as well as to related career opportunities in Physical Education and Sport.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

There is a strong focus on both theoretical knowledge and practical performance.

Students will need to ensure that they are able to fully participate in practical lessons. They must be willing to join in activities that involve learning new and challenging skills. Students will be expected to attend extra-curricular activities on a regular basis.

It is recommended that students who opt for GCSE PE are playing at least one sport/activity at a minimum of club level.

Religious Studies

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Religious Studies (Pearson TRBO)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will take an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion, exploring different beliefs, cultures and fundamental questions, and relating these studies to their own values and the wider world. The GCSE course will focus on the study of Christianity, Islam, Atheist and Humanist views. Students will learn about the intrinsic connections within and between Christianity and Islam.

Paper 1 - Religion and Ethics - Christianity

- Christian Beliefs
- Matters of Life and Death
- Marriage and the Family
- Living the Christian Life

Paper 2 - Religion, Peace and Conflict - Islam

- Muslim Beliefs
- Living the Islamic Life
- Peace and Conflict
- Crime and Punishment

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1 - written exam 1 hour 45 minutes; contributes 50% of the overall marks.

Paper 2 - written exam 1 hour 45 minutes; contributes 50% of the overall marks.

HOW COULD THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Religious Studies helps students to develop critical reasoning skills and gain an insight into the beliefs, values and attitudes of theists, atheists and agnostics as well as evaluating their own. Many careers require being able to evaluate a situation and reach a justified conclusion.

It is particularly useful for students considering entry into law, caring professions (such as social work, medical careers and teaching) or where contact with the public is required, for example, leisure and trade services. Equally, it develops a greater understanding of the world in which we live in today.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Students are expected to come equipped with an open-minded attitude and be willing to share their own views and opinions in a manner that is conducive for learning. Whether you are religious yourself or not, there are excellent opportunities to broaden your knowledge of other cultures whilst having your own views valued and respected.

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Spanish (Pearson TSP1)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course is taught through the following themes:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

You will use the specified vocabulary and grammar to listen to, read, speak and write about the following subjects:

Family, food and drink, shopping, school, music, friends, sports, places in town, future opportunities, TV and film, equality, mental well-being, transport, environmental issues, tourist attractions, relationships, physical well-being, the natural world, social media and gaming, accommodation.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All skills (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking) are equally weighted and contribute 25% towards the final mark. Speaking is assessed during a short practical exam where you talk to your teacher and a recording is sent to the examiner. There are written exams for Listening, Reading and Writing. Students can be entered for either Foundation or Higher tier. Tiers cannot be mixed.

HOW CAN THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Effective communication is an essential skill for success in personal and professional life. When you learn a new language, you not only improve your English skills but also connect with a wider range of people, expanding your social and professional circles. Acquiring new perspectives enhances your ability to express yourself, making you a better communicator overall.

Knowing a second language is valuable in today's job market, regardless of your industry or expertise level. It not only makes you more competitive in job searches but also increases your chances of earning a higher salary. A GCSE qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is highly valued by employers and universities.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

For more detailed information please go to

www.pearson.com/en-gb/schools/subject-resources/modern-languages.html

Textiles

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

AGA – GCSE Art Textile Design (8204)

You cannot opt for both Art and Textiles

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Textiles allows students to explore Textiles-based Art and Contemporary Fashion. Throughout the course, students will develop their creative flair, critical thinking and technical skills. Students will also learn about the work of past and present practitioners, making links into the textiles and fashion industry. They will be guided to experiment with and create sample pieces for colour, pattern and construction methods as they learn about a range of techniques which include:

- Fashion illustration
- Computer-aided design (CAD)
- Weaving, knitting and felting
- Garment / costume design in 3-dimensions
- Surface pattern design
- Hand and machine sewing

All students will produce a textiles-based outcome within their coursework. Example projects might include trousers, jackets, dresses, cushions, tapestries, corsets and wearable art.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 - 60% of qualification - Two mini-projects showing development of skills and personal responses. Carried out over four terms from September of Year 10 to December of Year 11.

Component 2 - 40% of qualification - Externally set assignment starting in January of Year 11 with preparatory study period. Final outcome completed during a 10-hour exam in April of Year 11.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Textiles is a growing industry worth over £800 million and contributes to the UK's reputation as a world leader in creativity. The Fashion industry employs nearly a million people across a wide spectrum of roles and provides diverse opportunities.

A qualification in Textiles will show an employer you are creative and imaginative, with original ideas and a good level of organisation. It will enable you to study Art, Graphics, Textiles or Fashion at A-Level or BTEC and eventually go on to an Arts degree such as Fine Art, Fashion or Theatre Design.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

To achieve good results in Textiles you will need to work independently, lead your own work in a personal direction and hit deadlines. You will need to develop good drawing skills and will be offered the opportunity to purchase a Textiles pack filled with equipment and materials. You will also need a device to take photographs- a camera phone is perfectly acceptable.

Triple Science

WHAT'S THE QUALIFICATION?

GCSE Biology (AQA 8461)

GCSE Chemistry (AQA 8462)

GCSE Physics (AQA 8463)

The three Sciences must be taken together but count as three separate GCSEs. Both higher tier, grades 9 to 5; and foundation tier, grades 5 to 1 are available.

Students who opt for Triple Science will achieve three separate GCSEs instead of the Combined Science qualification described on page 11.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will study the same units as for Combined Science (page 11), but with additional content in each unit. They will also study an extra unit, "Space" for the GCSE Physics course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Each GCSE will be assessed with two exams, each being 50% of the final grade. There will be six exams in total, each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. Since the three Science qualifications are independent of each other, different tiers can be sat across the three qualifications.

HOW COULD THIS HELP MY FUTURE?

Taking Triple Science will put students in the best possible position for further and higher Science study. Many highly rated 6th forms and colleges will look for the three separate Science grades. Associated subjects like Psychology and Engineering also prefer separate sciences as it shows a deeper commitment to scientifically led research and hands on investigation.

GCSE qualifications in Science are highly valued by employers and are extremely useful in a competitive employment market.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

There are 28 Required Practical Activities across the three qualifications that all students must take part in. If a practical is missed, the student will be asked to join a planned session at lunchtime or after school to ensure they can conduct and understand the principles of the activity.

A calculator is essential for all lessons.

What Happens Next..?

Options launch for students Thursday 22nd February

Students receive their copy of this book and the options process is explained to them during their Global Learning lesson.

Talk for Parents / Carers Thursday 22nd February at 6pm, School Hall

Parents/carers have the chance to hear similar information about the options process.

Year 9 Progress Evening Tuesday 12th March, Online video calls

Opportunity for discussion about students' current progress and to ask any subject-specific questions about courses in Years 10 and 11.

Options reply slip Thursday 14th March

Deadline for students to hand in their options reply slip (page 39 of this booklet), signed by a parent/carer.

Options interviews Monday 18th March – Friday 22nd March

Each student will have a short interview. They will discuss their career aspirations and the choices on their options reply slip.

What Happens Next..?

Students will be expected to choose a balanced set of options from which they will benefit. They should start thinking about decisions straight away.

Students should think about:

- Which subjects they are good at
- Which subjects they need for a future career
- Which subjects they like best

Get advice from:

- Subject teachers
- Heads of department
- House Tutor
- Head of House
- Parents/Carers
- Careers websites (see page 7)
- Students who have already taken courses at Key Stage 4

It is important that students think very carefully about their choices, as they will be committing to study a course for the next two years which could have a long-term effect on their career.

Students must not choose a course just because their friends are doing it. They must choose courses which are best for them as an individual!

After the options interviews it is difficult to give a precise timescale, as the time taken will depend on the responses received from the interviews.

We will:

- Collate the initial responses to determine the number of students wishing to take each course and establish an 'ideal' set of timetable blocks which meet the preferences of as many students as possible.
- Check the 'ideal' blocks to ensure that they are practical. This could involve trying to identify extra staffing or other resources to cope with extra groups. This stage can be very time consuming.
- Decide upon the final blocks. As far as possible, students will then be allocated to groups in accordance with their preferences.
- Where students cannot have their preferences or reserve choices we will ask them to choose again, with the final blocks as a guide.
- Confirm with students the final allocation of places on options courses.

What if too many students want to take a particular course?

We will try to split the students into two smaller groups. This may not be possible (eg if there is only one member of staff who teaches that subject, or only one specialist room). If this is the case, the places will be allocated taking the following into consideration:

- Students who returned their reply slip by the deadline
- Students who placed the course as a high priority on their options reply slip.
- Students who have shown effort and commitment to the subject (or similar subjects) during Y9.
- Students who have already been unable to take one of their option choices
- Students with an Additional Educational Need who would be unable to access any of the other courses available.

Random selection will be used where it is not possible to decide using the above criteria.

What if only a few students want to take a particular course?

We will not be able to run courses with very small numbers of students. If this is the case then we will allocate students to their chosen reserve if possible.

What if I don't return my options reply slip on time?

We will use all of the replies received by Thursday 14th March to organise the final options blocks. You will still be able to choose options from the final options blocks, but we won't be able to take your preferences into account when setting up those blocks.

What if I don't like the final blocks when they're published? Can you change them?

The blocks will be set up to meet the needs of as many students as possible, taking into account the timetabling constraints. It won't be possible to change the blocks to suit any individual student or small group of students, as this would leave a larger number of students in a worse situation.

Why aren't you offering other courses?

We believe that we're already offering a superb range of courses to meet the needs of our students but we're not complacent and every year we look at new or replacement courses. After looking at other courses, we have decided that they are unlikely to appeal to sufficient students or that we don't currently have the resources to do them justice. If you have suggestions for future years, we would be interested to hear them, but it is now too late for us to offer them this year.


I haven't studied a subject in Year 9. Can I choose it as an option for Year 10/11?

Yes – but please talk to Mr Cresswell asap if you're thinking about this – don't wait until you have your options interview. It is important to think carefully about why you decided a year ago that this subject wasn't for you and now it is. We will probably arrange to move you to study the subject for the rest of Year 9 and give you some support to catch up. This will involve extra effort from you.

Examples of choices

Reserves will only be used if one of your preferred choices is not available.

Choice 1	Geography <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice 2:	French	Reserve 2:	Spanish
Choice 3:	Drama	Reserve 3:	History
Choice 4:	Music	Reserve 4:	RS



Choice 1	Geography <input type="checkbox"/>	History	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Choice 2:	Geography	Reserve 2:	Film Studies
Choice 3:	Spanish	Reserve 3:	Food
Choice 4:	PE	Reserve 4:	Dance




It's okay to pick both Geography & History

Choice 1	Geography <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History	<input type="checkbox"/>
Choice 2:	Business	Reserve 2:	Art
Choice 3:	DT	Reserve 3:	Art
Choice 4:	Film Studies	Reserve 4:	Art



It's fine to use the same subject more than once as a reserve

Choice 1	Geography <input type="checkbox"/>	History	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Choice 2:	Textiles	Reserve 2:	ICT
Choice 3:	French	Reserve 3:	Triple Science
Choice 4:	PE	Reserve 4:	RS



Examples of choices

Reserves will only be used if one of your preferred choices is not available.

Choice 1 Geography History
Choice 2: Spanish Reserve 2: Geography
Choice 3: Health & Social Reserve 3: Food
Choice 4: Construction Reserve 4: Drama



You can't choose both Construction and Health & Social Care

Choice 1 Geography History
Choice 2: French Reserve 2: Business
Choice 3: French Reserve 3: Film Studies
Choice 4: Computer Sci Reserve 4: Food



You can't choose a subject twice!

Choice 1 Geography History
Choice 2: PE Reserve 2: Textiles
Choice 3: Triple Science Reserve 3: Music
Choice 4: Music Reserve 4: ICT



You can't have a subject as a choice and also as a reserve

Choice 1 Geography History
Choice 2: Art Reserve 2: Drama
Choice 3: DT Reserve 3: Construction
Choice 4: Textiles Reserve 4: Food



You can't choose both Art and Textiles

Options Reply Slip

Please fill in this reply slip.

Make sure it is signed and hand it to your House Tutor by **Thursday 14th March 2024**.

Please put your options choices in order (Choice number 1 is your highest priority)

Name _____

House Tutor Group _____

Choice 1: Geography History

Choice 2: _____

Reserve 2: _____

To be used if Choice 2 is unavailable

Choice 3: _____

Reserve 3: _____

To be used if Choice 3 is unavailable

Choice 4: _____

Reserve 4: _____

To be used if Choice 4 is unavailable

Signed: _____ (student)

Signed: _____ (parent/carer)

Date received by House Tutor: _____



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