

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS

2026-2028

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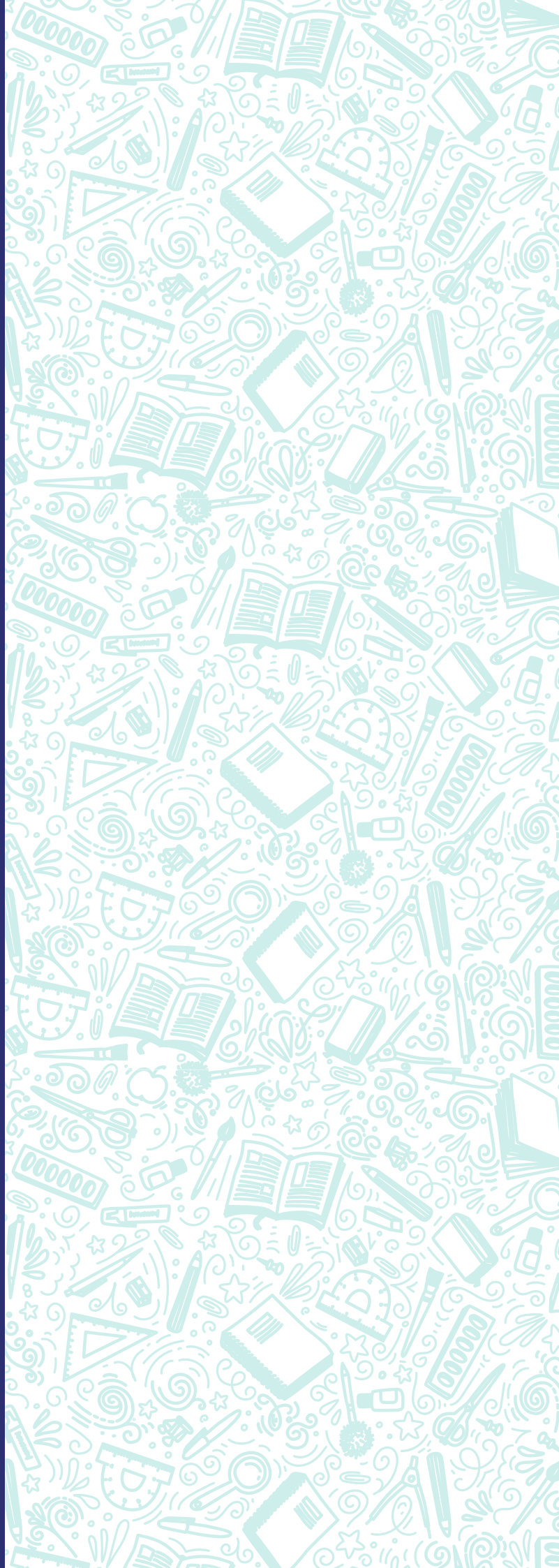
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INTRODUCTION

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child is now moving towards Key Stage 4, an important stage in their education. They will soon choose the subjects they want to study in Years 10 and 11, which will help prepare them for Sixth Form, college, work, or apprenticeships.

This booklet will help students make informed choices about their GCSE and vocational courses.

All students study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Combined Science (worth two GCSEs). Students follow a guided pathway based on their progress in earlier years. This ensures they have the right level of challenge and support. Some students may follow a more personalised curriculum, which will be discussed with families.

Most students choose four option subjects. In some cases, choices are guided — for example, a language or a humanity. Other subjects are free choices, including a mix of GCSE and vocational qualifications. Some subjects cannot be taken together, and we will advise on the best combination. More details are available in the FAQs section and the introduction video on our website.

Students also choose reserve options. This is in case a course cannot run due to low numbers or exam board requirements. We always discuss this with students and do our best to meet their preferences.

Our Options Information Evening will take place in school on Wednesday 28th January. This is a compulsory event and gives you and your child the chance to speak with teachers and subject leaders.

Choices are made online through Applicaa, which students will access via their school email. The system opens on Thursday 29th January and closes on Thursday 5th February 2026. No paper forms are needed.

Please read the Advice for Students section carefully. If you have any further questions, contact Mr Middleton, myself, or the subject leader listed in the booklet.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Smith
Deputy Headteacher

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

Where do I start?

First, don't panic! Take your time to think carefully before choosing. Talk to your teachers, tutor, and students already in Years 10 and 11. Rushing your choices can lead to mistakes.

Why do I choose option subjects?

Your option subjects let you focus on what interests you and start thinking about your future career. It's your chance to study the subjects you enjoy and are good at.

Which subjects does everyone study?

All students must study the core subjects set by the National Curriculum. You will take GCSEs in the following:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (two GCSEs)

You will also study:

- Physical Education (PE)
- Insight (Personal, Social, Health, Relationships, Sex, Careers and Religious Education)

Are there any subject combinations I can't choose?

Yes. Because of exam board rules, you can only choose one from the list below:

- GCSE 3D Product Design
- GCSE Architecture, Interior and Landscape Design
- GCSE Art

You can take any of these along with GCSE Photography.

You may also choose only one of:

- Certificate in Sport Studies
- GCSE Physical Education

Can I change my mind later?

Your subjects are for the next two years, so it's important to choose carefully now. Once courses begin, we expect students to finish them. Spend time talking with your family and teachers before deciding.

What is a "guided pathway"?

Each student follows a guided pathway based on how well they did in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. This helps make sure you study the right subjects at the right level — giving you both challenge and support.

Studying a language has many benefits. Learning a language builds memory, problem-solving, and cultural understanding.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

Who can I ask for advice?

You can talk to:

- Your parents or carers
- Brothers, sisters, or friends who've done this before
- Your Tutor or Subject Teachers
- Subject Leaders
- Students in Years 10 and 11
- Mr Bowles, Careers Manager
- Mr Middleton, Year Team Leader
- The Headship Team

Listen to advice, but remember — the final choice is yours. Pick what's right for you.

How should I choose?

Think about:

- How well you are doing in the subject now
- How interested you are in it
- How it might help you after Year 11
- What kind of career you might want

Don't choose a subject just because:

- Your friends are doing it — you might not be in the same class
- You like your current teacher — you may have a different one next year
- It's new — make sure it really interests you and fits your goals

Will I have to do more homework and independent study?

Yes. You will spend around an hour per week on each subject. GCSE and vocational courses involve more independent study than in earlier years. However, you will have fewer subjects, so you can focus more on each one.

Will I definitely get all the courses I ask for?

Most students do get the subjects they choose. However, sometimes a course cannot run — for example, if there are not enough students or if subjects clash. When this happens, we will use your reserve choices instead. This only affects a small number of students, and we will always try to offer your preferred options.

Can I study Geography AND History?

Yes.

What is an adjusted pathway?

An adjusted pathway is for a small number of students who need specific changes to their Key Stage 4 curriculum. These adjustments help make sure students are fully supported. If this applies to you, staff will meet with you and your family to explain your options and support plan

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

Your Tutor and Year Team Leader are the main contacts for parents. During Years 10 and 11, some students may need extra help with schoolwork, organisation, or wellbeing.

The Learning Support Team helps students with an EHCP or those on SEND Support, and also advises teachers. Some students may have a personalised timetable. When needed, we work with other agencies to provide wider support for students and families.

We also arrange exam access support (such as extra time or rest breaks) for students who need it. Requests for assessment must be made by January in Year 11.

If a student has a temporary injury or illness, a Care Plan is created to help them keep learning. In cases such as bereavement or exceptional circumstances, we inform exam boards so they can take this into account.

Extra help is available for students who find reading, writing, or coursework difficult. Those at risk of underachieving can also access mentoring and revision support.

If your child is struggling, please contact their Tutor or Year Team Leader. You can also speak to Miss Thompson (SENDCo) for any learning or exam concerns.

ENTRY LEVEL COURSES

Entry Level courses are for students who may find GCSEs or BTECs too challenging. Some are taught in school, while others are run by partner providers.

Students who may follow these courses will meet with Miss Thompson (SENDCo), Mrs Codling (Deputy SENDCo), or Mrs Knight (Deputy SENDCo).

AQA Entry Level Science

A small number of students will study this course if GCSE Science is too challenging. The AQA Entry Level Certificate (ELC) in Science helps develop key skills and understanding for those unlikely to achieve a GCSE grade 1.

Functional Skills English and Mathematics

Some students will take Entry Level Functional Skills courses to build their reading, writing, and numeracy skills. These lead to an Entry Level qualification.

CAREERS EDUCATION

Information, Advice & Guidance

Careers education at Key Stage 4 is taught through the Insight Curriculum. During the Careers module, students will:

- Learn about their skills and strengths
- Write a CV
- Prepare for interviews
- Meet local employers
- Learn about apprenticeships, college, and university routes

Students also take part in presentations from the Sussex County Training Provider (SCTP) and Bath University, helping them understand the range of opportunities available after Year 11.

Our Careers Manager, Mr Bowles, is available for one-to-one advice and guidance. Students can book appointments through Student Support. Targeted work experience is also available in Year 10.

MAKING DECISIONS

The next pages contain details about all the subjects available at Key Stage 4.

Take your time to read the information carefully. Ask as many questions as you need so you understand what each subject involves and how it might link to your future plans.

Use this booklet alongside other sources of help, including:

- Your most recent school report
- The Options Assembly
- Q&A sessions in your Perspective lessons with Mr Smith
- Subject Consultation Evening Wednesday 14 January 2026
- KS4 Information Evening Wednesday 28 January 2026
- Conversations with your Year Team Leader, Mr Bowles, or subject teachers
- Discussions with students currently studying the subjects
- Your own career research and ideas about college or university

Remember, we are here to help so don't hesitate to ask us if you are unsure of anything - these decisions are important and will help shape your future.

**Wednesday
28 January**

Options
Information
Evening

WHAT NEXT?

**Thursday
29 January**

Applicaa system
opens for
choices

**Thursday
5 February**

Applicaa system
closes for
choices

CORE SUBJECTS

What is the core curriculum?

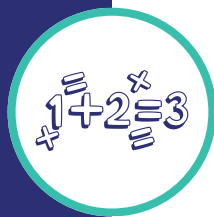
All students work towards the same core qualifications; core subjects provide the basis for accessing future routes of study, work and apprenticeships, and provide continuation of the core subjects studied through primary and secondary school.



English Language
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English Literature
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Mathematics
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Combined Science
Page 13



Core PE
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Insight
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What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#).
Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Two exam papers, 1 hour and 45 minutes each (100% of final grade in total):

Subject Content

- Paper 1: Exploration in creative reading and writing
- Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Non-exam assessment, completed over several weeks (0% of final grade):

The aim of the assessment is to allow students to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills by:

The Task:

- Give a presentation on a topic of your choice
- Respond to questions and to feedback

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD
Mrs J Buckle

Students say:

'English Language is a really interesting subject as it allows you to really think about how writers manipulate readers.'

'I love creative writing and so Paper 1 is my favourite part of the course. Thinking about how I can structure my story to really engage the reader is key.'

English Language is not optional, but you'll enjoy this course if you like:

- English Literature – you use the same skills
- Learning new vocabulary and language
- Looking at things in detail and writing clear notes and ideas
- Writing extended answers and creative writing about your opinions and things you enjoy
- Understanding messages that you are given by the other writers



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#).
Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Two exam papers:

Paper 1 is 1 hour and 45 minutes (40%)

Paper 2 is 2 hours and 15 minutes (60%)

Subject Content

- Paper 1: Shakespeare - 'Macbeth' and a 19th-century novel - 'A Christmas Carol'
- Paper 2: A modern drama text - 'An Inspector Calls' and Anthology of poetry - a collection of 15 poems, both modern and from Literary Heritage, 2 unseen poems

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs J Buckle

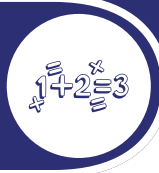
Students say:

'English Literature is my favourite subject. I've really enjoyed reading A Christmas Carol this term!'

'Year 10 was quite challenging as there were lots of new things to learn, but I'm feeling much more confident now.'

English Literature is not optional, but you'll enjoy this course if you like:

- English Language – you use the same skills
- Learning new vocabulary and language
- Looking at things in detail and writing clear notes and ideas
- Writing essays considering what and how the writers create meaning
- Reading lots of novels from the 19th and 20th century



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#).
Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Three exam papers, 1 hour and 30 minutes each.

1 x Non-Calculator Paper
2 x Calculator Paper

Topics covered in this qualification:

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

All students will develop confidence and abilities with the following skills: numerical calculation, mathematical representation and interpretation, selecting appropriate mathematics methods, logical reasoning, classifying, generalising, and understanding patterns and relationships in mathematics.

GCSE EDEXCEL

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr D Northwood
& Mrs K Abbott

POST 16:

'If you wish to take the subject further, a GCSE Mathematics Grade 6 or above gives you access to study A-Level Mathematics, which would provide you with an excellent basis on which to apply to universities for a wide range of courses. If you are aiming for any career in the fields of business, engineering, science, technology, or academic life, A-level Mathematics will be a definite advantage.'

Why is the Maths GCSE important?

- Mathematics is, alongside English, the subject that most courses and employers ask for as a minimum requirement. GCSE Mathematics is expected to allow you to move onto a wide range of courses at Level 3. All students who do not achieve a 4 grade have to continue to study for a qualification in mathematics post-16 whether they are in work, education or training
- Students who show they are on target for the highest grades within GCSE mathematics will have the opportunity to take Level 2 Further Mathematics as part of their GCSE Mathematics course.



DOUBLE AWARD

What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#).
Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Six exam papers, two for each of the sciences (detailed below)

All exams are 1 hour 15 minutes each

BIOLOGY

- Cells and Organisation
- Health and Disease
- Respiration and Photosynthesis
- Inheritance
- Genetic Engineering
- Evolution
- Ecosystems
- Homeostasis

CHEMISTRY

- Atomic Structure and Bonding
- Chemical Reactions and Equations
- Energy of Reactions
- Rates of Reaction
- Hydrocarbons and Fuels
- Water Treatment
- Climate Change

PHYSICS

- Energy Transfers and Power Supply
- Electrical Circuits
- Changes of State
- Forces and Motion
- EM Spectrum and Waves
- Magnets and the Motor Effect

You need to complete practicals throughout the course and these are assessed within the exams.

There is no coursework requirement.

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs S Savage

Students say:

'The Combined Science course allows me to cover enough to study any of the sciences at A Level without using an option, it gives me more choice for my GCSEs'

'The Required Practicals are really interesting and mean that I don't have to complete coursework for Science, I can focus on the coursework for my other subjects'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- You enjoy Science and practical work
- You are thinking about a possible career in Science (or science related jobs)
- You are thinking about A Level Courses linked to Science (Grade 6 & above)
- You enjoy figuring out how things work or how to improve designs
- You have the ability to apply your knowledge and understanding to new ideas



What is in the course?

PE core lessons are designed to support with your physical and mental wellbeing. They build on from learning in Key Stage 3 by focusing on health and fitness, resilience and effort.

If you choose an option subject in PE such as Sports Studies or the GCSE course, your practical sessions will also be in timetabled in core.

Topics that you study in Core Physical Education:

Year 10 & 11:

- Health and fitness
- Games activities
- Aesthetics
- Striking and Fielding
- Classes (Yoga, Bounce, HITT, Zumba)
- Outdoor Adventurous Activities (Climbing, Orienteering, Problem Solving, Team Building)

Those that did not choose PE as an option subject will still have PE lessons. You will have one lesson per week and it will be assessed during all lessons for your progress and engagement towards the lessons.

SUBJECT LEAD

Miss J Colwell

Students say:

'I find Core PE a real release and excellent for my physical and mental wellbeing.'

'Core PE has helped me to really improve my skills and understanding of sport, health and fitness, but just as importantly, it's great fun.'

How will you learn?

- Students will learn through a series of practical lessons that will be tailored towards their needs. This may be in the form of a preferred activity that may have been one where students excelled in key stage 3 or an area that they wish to develop further such as new sports.
- Students will be assessed against key areas such as their awareness of health and fitness, implications of physical activity, what resilience looks like in an individual or team context and how effectively they work together to solve tactics and strategies amongst a variety of activities.
- Core PE is taught in a way to maximise physical activity and encourage students to compliment their
- own studies, with a sustained period of physical activity, making them more effective in the classroom environment.



What is in the course?

Insight is a course across several topics, which are designed to help you develop the skills you will need to have a happy, healthy and successful life once you leave school.

Topics that you study in Insight:

Year 10:

- Relationships and Sex Education
- Religious Studies
- Careers
- Money
- First Aid

Year 11:

- Relationships and Sex Education
- Religious Studies
- Careers
- Crime, Rights and Justice
- Mental Health and Wellbeing

You will have one lesson per week and it will be assessed after each topic is completed.

SUBJECT LEAD
Miss S Rowe

Students say:

'I really enjoy learning about subject matter in the real world and making myself ask difficult questions.'

'The careers work has really focused my thinking and helped me to be much clearer on the next steps in my education and what I might eventually do as a job.'

How will you learn?

- Discussions
- Pairs or teamwork
- Research
- Visitors from outside
- Practical work



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#) under the 3D Design options.

Assessment

A two-unit course:

Non-exam assessment - Portfolio (60%)

During Year 10 and 11, you will work on three projects that make up your portfolio.

- Project 1: Skills based tasks (drawing, CAD & modelling)
- Project 2: Choice of past exam questions used as a starting point to develop your own ideas. (using inspiration from designers to produce own designs to make a lamp)
- Project 3: Personal project based on a theme of your own choosing

Tasks include:

- Research into designers/Artists.
- Drawing (sketching & CAD), model making & experimenting.
- Designing & development of ideas
- Experimentation with different materials and techniques in the workshop
- Making the final product that you have designed.

Externally-set assignment, completed over 10 weeks (40% of final grade):

Your choice of seven themes provided by AQA.

Tasks include:

- Researching your theme, including learning about the work of artists & Designers.
- Drawing, CAD, testing & modelling with materials.
- Developing an original idea of your own based on your theme and research
- Making a final piece of work based on your theme and research

There is a 2 day practical exam at the end of the course. It is your opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge you have learned. It is designed to test your ability to develop a theme imaginatively and independently.

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD
Mrs C Brixey

Students say:

'It's really fun because you do lots of practical work and drawing, using loads of different materials.'

'I have had such fun this year and learnt so many new techniques. I have enjoyed making products that work and producing a sketchbook showing my thinking and progress.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Model making and experimentation using a range of materials
- Designing and making using lots of tools and equipment – you will use lots of machines you have not used before!
- Drawing – by hand & on the computer
- Being Creative & Designing– getting inspiration from Designers & using imagination in your work & presentation



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#) under the 3D Design option.

Assessment

Non-exam assessment Portfolio (60%)

During Year 10 and 11, you will work on three projects that make up your portfolio.

Project 1: Interior Design (CAD & modelling)

Project 2: Architecture (using inspiration from Architects to produce own designs)

Project 3: Choice of past exam themes used as a starting point to develop your own ideas.

Tasks include:

- Detailed research into designers/Artists.
- Drawing (sketching & CAD), model making & experimenting.
- Designing & development of ideas & Making the product.

Externally-set assignment, completed over 10 weeks (40% of final grade):

Your choice of seven themes provided by AQA.

Tasks include:

- Researching your theme, including learning about the work of artists & Designers.
- Drawing, CAD, testing & modelling with materials.
- Developing an original idea of your own based on your theme and research
- Making a final piece of work based on your theme and research (2 day practical exam at the end of the course.)

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs C Brixey

Students say:

'I have thoroughly enjoyed the course. You have independence to choose your project and there is great support from the teacher. I have developed a lot of new skills.'

'I really look forward to the lessons. You feel proud of what you can achieve, it is great to express ideas & develop them into a product.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Architecture, Interiors or Landscape design – this course can be the beginning of your journey into one of these careers.
- Drawing – by hand & on the computer, Making models using a range of materials
- Being Creative & Designing– getting inspiration from Designers & using imagination in your work & presentation.



What is in the course?

This course offers you the opportunity to develop your imagination and creativity through making art, and gives you the tools to understand the visual world we live in.

Full course details can be found here and we follow the 'Fine Art' title: [Fine Art specification](#)

Assessment

Coursework portfolio (60% of final grade):

Three projects completed during Year 10 and Year 11:

- Pattern and Culture - drawing, printmaking and canvas painting on clay piece based on your choice of place/culture
- Human Being- Portraiture project exploring individual, expression and emotion- drawing and painting
- Personal Project- choice of three past paper questions used as a starting point to develop your own ideas

Externally-set assignment completed over 10 weeks (40% of final grade):

Your choice of seven themes provided by AQA.

Tasks include:

- Researching your theme, including learning about the work of artists.
- Your choice of: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, sculpture or a combination of media
- Developing an original idea of your own based on your theme and research
- Making a final piece of 2D or 3D art based on your theme and research

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD
Mrs S Hobbs

Students say:

'Taking Art works well with my other subjects. I enjoy the time I get to spend in the art rooms'.

'You get the freedom to express yourself as the course develops and the teachers are very supportive.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Making your own art whether you like drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media or sculpture
- Practical learning and coursework-based projects
- Learning about art made by others
- Being creative and using your imagination
- Problem-solving and working independently
- The idea of going on to study or work in any of the creative industries - this course sets you up with a broad and solid base of skill desirable for any further art and design course or career



What is in the course?

Watch this [video](#) for more information.

Full course details can be found [here](#).
Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Two exam papers, 1 hour 30 minutes each (100% of final grade in total):

Topics that you study for these exams include:

- Programming (Developing programs in Python, SQL, AppLab, Scratch and other languages)
- Systems Architecture (Major hardware such as the CPU, RAM, Graphics Processing Unit)
- Memory & Storage (RAM, Hard Disk Drive, Solid State Drive)
- Data Representation (Binary, Hexadecimal)
- Networks (LAN's, WAN's, performance, learn more about how the Internet works)
- Cyber Security (Detecting, preventing malware and hackers)
- Software (Operating systems and major types of software)
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental (how technology such as AI is impacting our society and natural world)

GCSE OCR

SUBJECT LEAD
Mr P Cosby

Students say:

'I like how it's not all programming and we learn more about how computers actually work, for example learning about what to look for when buying the components of a computer such as the different types of CPU'

'I really enjoy the challenge of computer programming and have enjoyed working in pairs to program games such as rock paper scissors, battleships and text based role-playing games...'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Computing – you will build upon much of the knowledge and skills you have learnt in Computing during Y7-Y9
- Programming – you'll learn more about the Python Programming language, one of the world most popular
- Understanding how computer systems work, such as hardware components like the CPU, RAM and SSD/HDD's
- Challenging your problem solving skills by developing your logical thinking skills
- The idea of a potential career in a technical area such as software development, testing, robotics, social media, cyber-security



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#). Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

One exam paper, 1 ½ hours (40% of final grade in total):

Students will study the skills of composition, performance and appreciation through a range of dance styles.

This will include:

- Knowledge and understanding of choreography and performance
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional work

Practical Non-exam assessment, completed over several weeks (60% of final grade):

Technical and expressive skills will be a key focus and students will study a range of professional works.

The new GCSE teaching specification has a practical emphasis of 60%, enabling students to actively and physically demonstrate their practical knowledge of dance.

This will include:

- Performance of Set Phrases
- Duet/Trio Performance
- Group Choreography

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD
Mrs V Knight

Students say:

'I enjoy having the freedom in Dance to be creative and think outside the box.'

'My confidence has really improved and this is so important for me for my future career.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Being creative.
- Problem solving.
- Working with others.
- PE, Drama, Music, English, Biology.
- Learning new vocabulary and language.



What is in the course?

Watch the video on the school website for more information.

Full course details can be found [here](#). Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

One exam paper, 1 ½ hours each (40% of final grade in total):

Topics that you study for this exam include:

- Communication technologies
- Features and uses of cloud storage
- Features and uses of cloud computing
- How the selection of platforms and services impacts on the use of cloud technologies
- How modern technologies aid inclusivity and accessibility
- How cloud and 'traditional' systems are used together
- Positive and negative impacts of modern technologies on organisations
- Impact of security breach

Two Non-exam assessments, (60% of final grade):

Two components each with 3 learning Aims (6 assignments)

Tasks include:

- Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
- Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

BTEC TECH AWARD

SUBJECT LEAD
Mr P Cosby

Students say:

'Cloud storage and cyber security aspects can be related to social media like Instagram and Facebook to make the content interesting and relatable.'

'I like being given the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through 'doing'. You can bring your own interests and ideas into the work you do.'

This course is recommended for:

- Learners who want to study computing but without the programming aspect of computer science
- Learners who want a career in IT and want to get a broad taste of digital skills.
- Learners who want a stepping stone to careers like IT Project Management, Technical Support and Cyber Security.
- Great for hands-on learners who want to get straight in and 'make'.
- Beneficial for learners with a creative instinct who may be interested in Art or D&T and are looking for a course which combines skills from each in a client and customer-driven creative sector.



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#).

Assessment

One exam paper, 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of final grade in total):

Topics that you study for this exam include (texts can change):

Section A: 4 multiple choice questions on theatre roles, responsibilities and terms

Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen

Section C: one question on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production

Non-exam assessment 1, completed over several weeks (40% of final grade):

Making a devised performance in a group

Tasks include:

- Creating and performing devised drama
- Writing a devising log to explain the work you have created

Non-exam assessment 2, completed over several weeks (20% of final grade):

Performing two extracts of script from one play. A range of plays will be provided by the teacher, based on the strengths and desires of the student.

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD

Miss J Pratt &
Mr L Pearson

Students say:

'I chose Drama because it gives me a chance to express myself creatively whilst learning lots of new skills and techniques.'

'I have loved learning about different styles of theatre and the multiple ways you can perform a story. I have also loved being able to step into someone else's shoes; becoming any character I want!'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Performing – there is lots of opportunity to work practically
- English Literature – you use similar analytical skills
- Looking at the world around you and developing your own practical interpretation



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#) under the qualifications specification.

Assessment

Written exam (40%)

You will be learning theory over the first year of the course. This will be taught in theory lessons and through mini design and make projects. There are a number of topics that will be covered including the following;

- Engineering sectors
- Health & safety in the workplace
- Applied science & maths in engineering
- Materials, their properties & characteristics
- Tools, equipment & machinery
- Hand drawn engineering drawings
- CAD engineering drawings
- Production planning techniques
- Applied processing skills & techniques

During the first term of year 11 pupils will use all of the skills and knowledge to produce a mock project in preparation for the externally set assignment.

Externally set assignment (60%) - completed over a set time period

A brief for this is set by the exam board. Students are expected to complete a project covering a number of tasks. They will use the provided engineering drawing to make a specified product alongside the following assessment objectives;

- AO1 - Recall knowledge & show understanding
- AO2 - Apply knowledge & understanding
- AO3 - Analyse & make judgements
- AO4 - Demonstrate skills, techniques & processes
- AO5 - Analyse & evaluate

It is your opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge you have learned. It is designed to test your ability to research into a given brief and create a product with a given theme. Previous themes have included bridges, tool boxes, dump trucks and robotic arms.

VCERT NCFE

SUBJECT LEAD
Mrs L Chignell

Students say:

'Taking Engineering as a GCSE course is really interesting - you learn about all of the different sectors in the engineering industry, because of this I was inspired to study the biomedical sector at university.'

'I really enjoy engineering, it has shown me how the world has been built and how everything works.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Problem solving
- Science and maths
- Using CAD
- Creating engineering drawings
- You want to work in an engineering sector – such as working on cars, bridges, software etc.



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#)

Assessment

Enterprise & Marketing Concepts (40% Exam)

- Customer needs
- Market research
- Branding and promotion
- Pricing and finance
- Enterprise skills

Design a Business Proposal (30% Coursework)

You will:

- Create a customer profile
- Design and justify product ideas
- Develop logos and branding
- Plan and conduct research

Market & Pitch the Proposal (30% Coursework)

You will:

- Design marketing materials
- Deliver a pitch
- Review your performance

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL OCR LEVEL 1 / LEVEL 2

SUBJECT LEAD
Miss A Foulds

Students say:

'I really enjoy learning about subject matter in the real world and making myself ask difficult questions.'

'The careers work has really focused my thinking and helped me to be much clearer on the next steps in my education and what I might eventually do as a job.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- To develop real-life business skills that employers value.
- Learn how to design, pitch, and market a product just like real entrepreneurs.
- Build confidence through presentations and creative project work.
- Gain practical experience in market research, branding, and finance.
- Prepare for future study in Business, Marketing, Finance or Apprenticeships.
- Ideal for students who enjoy creative thinking, problem-solving, and working with others.



What is in the course?

You will learn how to design printed, woven and embroidered textiles. The course covers fashion, interior textiles as well as textile art. You will be able to use your imagination and creativity and develop practical making. You will be introduced to a wide range of designers and makers to inspire your own learning.

Full course details can be found here and we follow the AQA guidelines for [Textile Design](#)

Assessment

Coursework portfolio (60% of final grade):

Three projects completed during Year 10 and Year 11:

- Introductory workshops (printed, stitched and constructed textile techniques, how to draw for fashion and using specialist equipment)
- Brighton Style (Fashion project using inspiration from the Brighton Pavilion and surrounding area)
- Personal Choice (choice of three past paper questions used as a starting point to develop your own ideas).

Externally-set assignment, completed over 10 weeks (40% of final grade):

Your choice of seven themes provided by AQA.

Tasks include:

- Researching your chosen theme
- Learning about the work of designers and textile artists/makers.
- Your choice of: Fashion, interior or art-based textile project
- Developing your own original ideas
- Sampling using the textiles equipment in the dept
- Making a final garment, interior textile piece or textile artwork

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD
Miss M Keen

Students say:

'I love fashion and it has been fun learning how to use the sewing machines to make clothes'

'I have learned so much that will prepare me for further study on a Textiles course. The teachers help me to be creative in my own way'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Fashion and style- clothes, accessories, colour, pattern, texture
- Learning about fashion designers and textile artists
- Being creative and using your imagination
- Practical making- We use sewing machines, hand sewing, the Cricut machine, heat transfer press, and a range of printmaking techniques
- The idea of going on to study or work in the fashion and textiles industry



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#).
Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Three exam papers: 1 hour 30 minutes each

Topics that you study for this exam include:

Our Natural World

- Global Hazards
- Climate Change
- Distinctive Landscapes
- Sustainable Ecosystems
- Physical Fieldwork*

People and Society

- Urban Futures
- Dynamic Development
- UK in the 21st Century
- Resource Reliance
- Human Fieldwork*

Geographical Exploration

The assessment of this component will be fully synoptic in nature and will draw on both the Our Natural World and People and Society components.

The synoptic parts will be tested through resources based on an unseen place that was not visited as part of the fieldwork.

* This means we offer two days of fieldwork - one to London's Olympics Park to look at the regeneration of East London and one to the River Stour and Littlehampton's West Beach.

GCSE OCR B

SUBJECT LEAD
Mrs F Carr

Students say:

'Geography really opens your eyes to the world around you and makes you ask interesting questions'.

'I love human geography and learning about people and places - GCSE Geography has really made me question the way we live our lives.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- History (skills in both are transferable)
- Maths (there is basic numeracy involved)
- Biology (we look at the natural world - ecosystems)
- Learning outside of the classroom (we go on two brilliant trips - one is to London!)
- Travel and tourism (we look at the impacts of this on key places)



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Non-exam assessment (60% of final grade):

Year 10:

Supporting individuals through life events = mandatory internal assessment worth 30% of the final grade).

- Life stages
- Impacts of life events
- Sources of support

Health promotion campaigns = our chosen optional internal assessment worth 30% of the final grade).

- Current public health issues and the impact on society
- Factors influencing health
- Plan and create a health promotion campaign
- Deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign

One exam paper, 1 hour 15 minutes (40% of final grade in total):

This exam is taken in year 11

Year 11:

- Principles of care in health and social care settings = written examination worth 40% of the final grade.
- The rights of service users in health and social care settings
- Person-centred values
- Effective communication in health and social care settings
- Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL OCR LEVEL 1 / LEVEL 2

SUBJECT LEAD

Miss J Colwell &
Mrs J Todman

Students say:

'This is a great subject. It's enjoyable and interesting and can teach you a lot. I get to learn more about how to care for people and the different parts of a person's development'

'Health and Social care is very hard work but very interesting and enjoyable'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Understanding how to work well with a wide range of people
- Listening and communicating ideas
- Learning new vocabulary and language
- Looking at things in detail and writing clear notes and ideas
- Planning and leading activities



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#).
Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Three exam papers:

Paper 1 (Option 10) -

Crime and Punishment - 1000- Present day (30%) 1hr 20 mins

Paper 2 (Option B4 and P4) -

Early Elizabethan England - 1558-1588 (20%)

Superpower Relations - 1923-1991 (20%) 1hr 50 mins

Paper 3 (Option 31) -

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939 (30%) 1hr 30 mins

Topics that you study for these exams include:

Crime, Punishment and Law Enforcement and how it changed:

Trial by ordeal, witchcraft, the Gunpowder Plotters, the Bloody Code, smuggling, transportation to America, prisons, the abolition of the death penalty, new technology in deterring crime, the cases of Derek Bentley and Ruth Ellis, Whitechapel, the Ripper murders, and the failure of the police in catching Jack the Ripper.

Early Elizabethan England:

Problems Elizabeth faced when she became queen, religious settlement, the assassination plots against Elizabeth, the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, the worsening relation with Spain, the Spanish Armada, what it was like to be poor in Elizabethan times and life in general from pastimes to education.

Superpower Relations: The Cold War:

Worsening relations between the USA and the Soviet Union after WW2, the struggle between capitalism and communism, the Hungarian Uprising, the division of Germany and the Berlin Wall, the nuclear arms race and the Cuban Missile Crisis, the invasion of Afghanistan and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Weimar and Nazi Germany

You will learn how Germany recovered after WW1 and how the Great Depression allowed Hitler to gain power and what it was like to live under a Nazi dictatorship.

GCSE EDEXCEL

SUBJECT LEAD
Mr S White

Students say:

'I really enjoy the subject as I always learn something new and interesting.'

'Studying History allows me to have a better understanding of the world around me.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Making connections between the past and present
- Learning how to analyse information and sources
- Evaluating the impact of historical events
- Learning new vocabulary
- Looking at things in detail and writing clear notes and ideas.
- Writing extended answers and essays about your learning and ideas



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#). Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

One exam paper, 1 hour 20 minutes in length (40% of final grade in total):

Topics that you study for this exam (unit 1) include:

- 1.1 Hospitality and catering provision
- 1.2 How hospitality and catering providers operate
- 1.3 Health and safety in hospitality and catering
- 1.4 Food safety in hospitality and catering

Non-exam assessment (Unit 2), completed over 12 hours (60% of final grade):

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

Tasks include:

- 2.1 The importance of nutrition
- 2.2 Menu planning
- 2.3 The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes
- 2.4 Evaluating cooking skills

LEVEL 2
WJEC
FOOD TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT LEAD
Miss A Foulds

Students say:

'I really like the fact that I get to try out new dishes and recipes.'

'This course has helped me decide I want to pursue a career in the Hospitality industry.'

'This course gave me lots of confidence, not only in myself but my ability in the kitchen'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Understanding healthy eating, nutritional needs and key development stages in life
- Menu planning, creating recipes and exploring new foods
- Working in the hospitality sector, exploring business management, managing a hospitality business, health and safety legal practice
- Learning and developing high level preparation, cooking and presentation skills



FRENCH OR SPANISH

What is in the course?

Full course details for French can be found [here](#). Sample assessment materials for French can be found [here](#).

Full course details for Spanish can be found [here](#). Sample assessment materials for Spanish can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Four exams at the end of Y11:

Speaking (25% of final grade)
Listening (25% of final grade)
Reading (25% of final grade)
Writing (25% of final grade)

You will study six themes:

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

GCSE EDEXCEL

SUBJECT LEAD

Miss M Mott &
Mrs L Tapp

Students say:

'Taking French has made me feel so much more confident in understanding language structure and grammar.'

'My ability to speak and understand Spanish has improved so much. I am really enjoying speaking so much more fluently.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Communicating with people
- Travelling abroad and Geography
- Learning about different cultures
- Having fun with language
- Business Studies – you might have foreign customers or suppliers!

Languages are more important than ever. Multinational companies are keen to employ people who have foreign language skills and top universities are considering a GCSE in a foreign language as an entry requirement for many courses. The GCSE course places emphasis on the practical and social use of language, so that by the end of the course, students will be equipped to cope with real situations, whether at work or on holiday.



What is in the course?

This is a Level 2 course equivalent to a GCSE level 4-8. Full course details can be found [here](#).

Assessment

100% coursework - 2 internally assessed and 1 externally assessed module:

What does the qualification cover?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- developing key skills and techniques that prove learners' musical aptitude. E.g. responding to a musical brief.
- processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music sector, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal, creation, production and performance to respond to a music brief.
- attitudes considered most important in the music sector, including personal management and communication.
- Knowledge to enable effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as musical skills and styles.

Topics that you can study:

- Experience in planning.
- Completing and analysing a music performance.
- The ability to develop and hone their performance within a rehearsal space.
- Knowledge of planning, promoting and running a live music event.
- A greater understanding of music and the responses it brings out of an audience.
- Understanding of styles and genres of music and how they have developed.
- The ability to compose to a set brief or criteria.

BTEC
LEVEL 1
LEVEL 2

SUBJECT LEAD
Mr D Godsmark

Students say:

"Music has allowed me to explore and develop my musical talent to high level and highlight the potential career opportunities within music which I intend to explore in further education"

'Music has helped me develop as a person on an academic level instilling values of perfection and dedication in my work and on a social level it is great to interact and form musical connections with my friends in and out of class'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Learning and performing music
- You are keen to develop your skills to a high level
- developing your knowledge of popular music and its influence



What is in the course?

The Photography course equips you with technical knowledge of how to work with DSLR cameras and both digital and analogue workflow. You will develop your imagination through the making of images and it will give you the tools to understand the visual world we live in.

Full course details can be found [here](#) and we follow the 'Photography' title - [Photography Specification](#)

Assessment

Coursework portfolio (60% of final grade):

Three projects completed during Year 10 and Year 11:

- Formal Elements - introduction to basic photography skills and the formal elements of photography, DSLR cameras, Photoshop editing, physical editing and use of a digital portfolio.
- Conceal/Reveal - Developing further workshop skills including studio and darkroom and beginning to develop own ideas in a personal final outcome.
- Personal Project - Choice of three past exam briefs to develop independent ideas

Externally-set assignment, completed over 10 weeks (40% of final grade):

Your choice of seven themes provided by AQA.

Tasks include:

- Researching your chosen theme
- Taking your own photographs
- Manipulating photographs by hand or digitally using Photoshop and apps
- Directing your own research into the work of successful photographers
- Developing original ideas to meet your chosen theme
- Making a final piece of work in response to your theme and research

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD
Ms S Corin

Students say:

'This course has taught me how to create high quality images, using a professional studio set-up.'

'I now work at a local photography studio working with clients to photograph products for marketing purposes.'

'I learned how to take a good photograph as well as touch up and make print or web-ready.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Taking photographs and learning how to use cameras.
- Editing/ manipulating photographs.
- Planning imaginative shoots.
- Analogue photography and want to learn how to use a darkroom.
- Learning about famous photographers (fashion, wildlife, fine art, journalism).
- Understanding the visual messages in photographic images all around us.
- The idea of going on to study or work in any of the creative industries- This course sets you up with a broad and solid base of skill desirable for any further creative course or career.



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#). Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Two exam papers, 1 hour 15 minutes each (60% of final grade in total):

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport [30% of overall course].

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport [30% of overall course]

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being

Questions:

- A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Non-exam assessment, completed over two years (40% of final grade):

- High level practical performance in 3 different activities (one in a team activity, one in an individual and a third in either a team or individual activity).
- In all 3 activities students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills and in full context
- Coursework analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in 1 activity.

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD
Miss J Colwell

Students say:

'GCSE PE helped me immensely in my quest to study Sport Psychology in the USA whilst playing college golf.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Science – you cover some similar content
- Learning new vocabulary and language
- Looking at things in detail and writing clear notes and ideas
- Working as a team



TRIPLE AWARD

What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Assessment

Six exam papers at 1h 45 mins each, two for each of the sciences

BIOLOGY

- Cells and Organisation
- Health and Disease
- Respiration and Photosynthesis
- Inheritance and Genetics
- Genetic Engineering
- Evolution
- Ecosystems
- Homeostasis

CHEMISTRY

- Atomic Structure and Bonding
- Chemical Reactions and Equations
- Energy of Reactions
- Rates of Reaction
- Hydrocarbons and Fuels
- The Earth's Resources
- Chemical Analysis
- Climate Change

PHYSICS

- Energy Transfers and Power Supply
- Electrical Circuits
- Changes of State
- Forces and Motion
- EM Spectrum and Waves
- Magnets and the Motor Effect
- The Big Bang

GCSE AQA

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs C Savage

Students say:

'Taking French has made me feel so much more confident in understanding language structure and grammar.'

'My ability to speak and understand Spanish has improved so much. I am really enjoying speaking so much more fluently.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- You enjoy Science!
- You are thinking about a possible career in Science (or science-related jobs) or a specific career such as medicine.
- You are thinking about A Level Courses linked to Science (not required for entry).
- You enjoy figuring out how things work or how to improve designs.
- You have the ability to apply your knowledge and understanding to new ideas.



What is in the course?

Full course details can be found [here](#). Sample assessment materials can be found [here](#).

Assessment

Non-exam assessment (60% of final grade):

Assignments set by the exam board and are internally marked by the teachers, completed in year 10

Sport and the media (20%):

- The different sources of media that cover sport.
- Positive effects of the media on sport.
- Negative effects of media on the sport.

Performance and leadership in sports activities (40%):

- Key components of performance for individual and team activities.
- Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity.
- Organising and planning a sports activity session.
- Leading a sports activity session.
- Evaluating their sports session

One exam paper, 1 hour 15 minutes (40% of final grade in total):

This exam is taken in year 11

Contemporary issues in sport.

- Issues which affect participation in sport.
- The role of sport in promoting values.
- The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country.
- National Governing Bodies
- Use of technology in sport.

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL OCR

SUBJECT LEAD
Miss J Colwell

Students say:

'Sports studies gave me a huge variety of knowledge in all areas of sport and this has helped me with my goal of attending university to study Sports business.'

You'll enjoy this course if you like:

- Enjoy the study of sport and application to different topics within sport
- Research into different sports and the impact sport has linked to a variety of areas
- Planning and leading of a sport that is interesting to you
- Keen to develop your skills and knowledge within two sporting activities



What is in the course?

This is an entry level course which helps support students with their personal and emotional development and life and core skills.

Full course details can be found [here](#)

Assessment

Completion of a portfolio of work which is internally and externally verified.

Subject Content

There are a large number of topics to choose from which means the course content can specifically meet the needs of the student group.

Topics might include:

- Communication - with challenges including delivering a presentation and writing a children's book.
- The World of Work - with challenges including writing a CV, mock interviews and college taster days.
- Health and Wellbeing - with challenges including taking part in a First Aid session, planning a healthy eating menu and improving your emotional wellbeing

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

KEY CONTACTS



We hope you have found this booklet useful, however please do not hesitate to ask if you are unsure of anything.

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