



YEAR 9
OPTION CHOICES
2023

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WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Introduction

GCSE choices can be as exciting as they can be daunting. In the first three years of education at Furze Platt, students have been able to study as broad a range of subjects as possible. The options process allows students to focus on studying subjects that will motivate and inspire them while ensuring that students continue to study the core subjects that will let them successfully progress to the next stage of their education and future employment.

Most, but not necessarily all, subjects taken will lead to GCSE qualifications. These GCSEs are graded from 9-1, with 9 being the top grade. Most GCSEs are examined solely by a series of examinations at the end of Year 11. In addition to offering GCSEs, we also offer vocational qualifications. These are more practical subjects, and although many have a small, examined element, they have a considerable element of coursework. Many students may want to take one or two vocational subjects in order to balance the number of examinations they take at the end of Year 11.

Please note that places are limited on some vocational courses and if the course is full or not best suited to a student we will discuss this further with the student and their parents or carers.

Compulsory subjects – English, Maths and Science

All students will take English Language GCSE, English Literature GCSE, and Mathematics GCSE. All students will take either Combined Science GCSE, which results in two GCSE qualifications, or Separate Sciences, which results in separate GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics qualifications. Students will also take PSHE and Games. These subjects do not lead to qualifications.

Science

In order to ensure that students are given the most time possible for their option subjects, students who choose to study the separate sciences must specify this as one of their option choices. Students will be guided by their science teachers to ensure they choose the science option that is best suited to them.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young peoples' options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc groups together 5 subjects and students who achieve GCSE grade 5 or above in English, Mathematics, two sciences from separate, combined or computer science, a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History are deemed to have achieved the EBacc. Studying Humanities is important in helping students understand their place in the ever-changing world and therefore students must choose either History or Geography or both. Most students at Furze Platt will also choose to study a Modern Foreign Language to open doors to careers and university courses.

We recognise that, while it is not a qualification as such, the EBacc is important for students who would like to go on to study A-Levels and that in the future the EBacc may be considered as an additional factor by employers and higher education establishments.

Further GCSE or vocational subject choices

After students have chosen the Science route they wish to study and either History or Geography, they have 3 further choices. These are free choices, and students can take any GCSE subjects or vocational subjects they wish. We advise students to choose subjects they enjoy, or that they would consider continuing with in the Sixth Form, at College, or for a career.

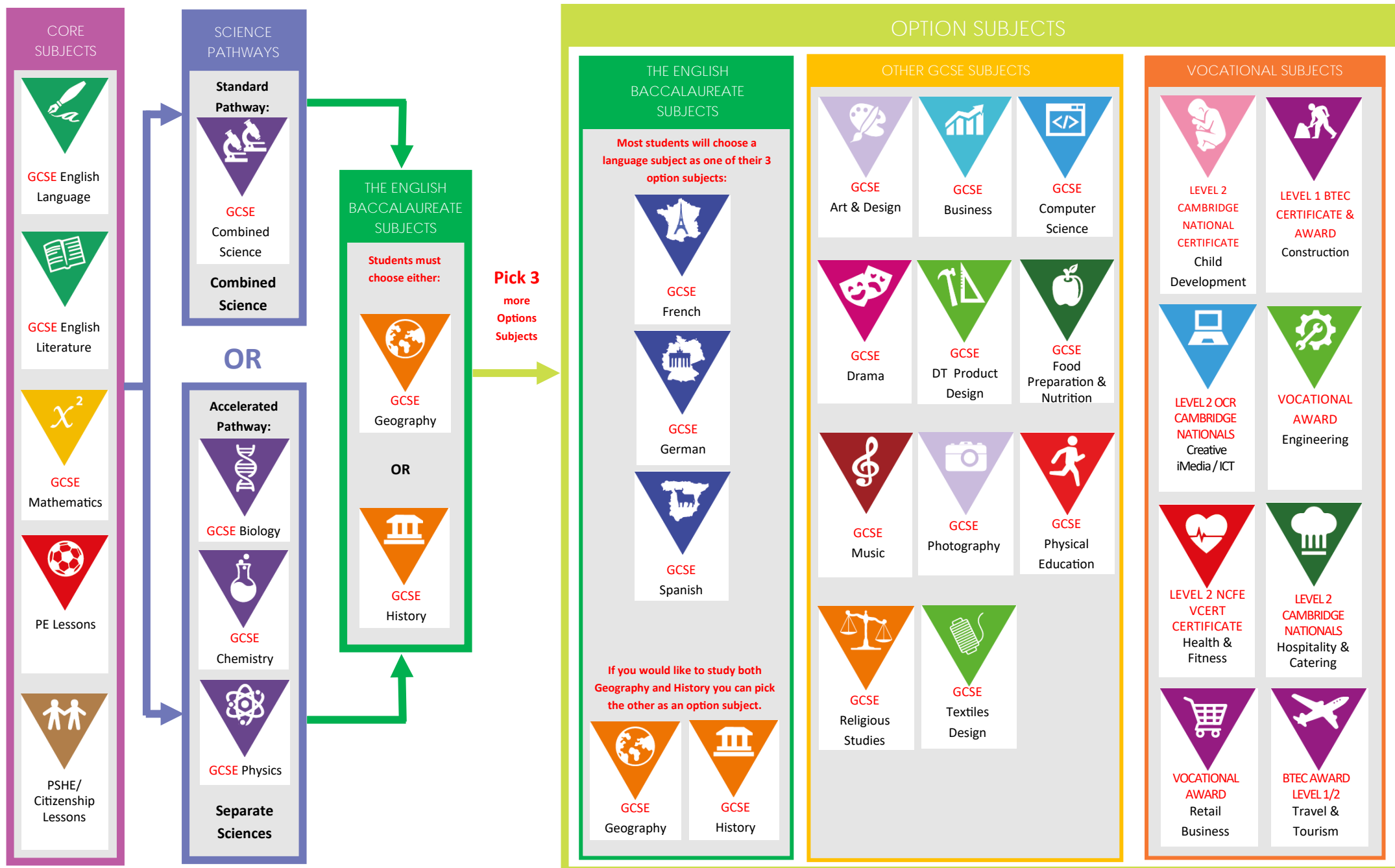
What if I change my mind?

Sometimes students realise they have made the wrong choice. We cannot guarantee that we can change your options once you have made them and you have been allocated to a class. If you do realise you have made the wrong choice, please speak to your Head of Progress or Miss Stirling as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we are unable to change any students' courses after the first three weeks of Year 10.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS CHOICES FORM 2023

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

OPTION PATHWAYS



CORE SUBJECTS

Course Information

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



It is important that students of all abilities continue to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts, as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS

COURSE NUMBER: C700QS

Core Subject



What will I do?

Through class discussion, group work and individual written assignments you will learn about spoken language, Shakespeare, poetry, modern and pre-19th century fiction. You will also improve your skills in writing to explore, imagine and entertain; describe, inform and explain; argue, persuade and instruct; analyse, review and comment.

How will I be assessed?

The final GCSE grades consist of written examinations at the end of Year 11 - 100%.

What are the important deadlines?

You will prepare for the English Language examinations throughout Years 10 and 11. These exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Why do I study this subject?

How many things are you asked to read or write in a single day? Your reading and writing skills affect how well you do in almost every area of your school life and they continue to be important whether or not you continue with full-time education.

What will I gain studying this subject?

English at GCSE helps you practise, improve and develop your reading and writing skills as well as your speaking and listening skills. These are important in a job, career, and further and higher education establishments.

Student Progression

Students might like to study A-Level English Literature and/or Media Studies.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



English Literature is designed to encourage students to engage critically with and explore a variety of texts across the major genres including modern texts as well as classic literature.

EXAM BOARD: WJEC COURSE NUMBER: C720QS

Core Subject



What will I do?

You will read, discuss and write about books and poetry. You will also improve your skills in building an argument and finding supporting evidence for your ideas. You will learn to read, engage critically with and to explore a wide range of literature; to develop and sustain confident, personal responses to your reading, using supporting textual evidence; to use accurate, effective writing skills; and enjoy a variety of texts across the major genres, including modern texts and texts from different cultures, as well as classic literature.

How will I be assessed?

The final GCSE grade consists of written examinations at the end of Year 11 - 100%.

What are the important deadlines?

You will prepare for the English Literature examinations throughout Years 10 and 11. These will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Why do I study this subject?

English Literature is all about reading novels, plays and poems and writing about them. In lessons we focus on what you think about what you read. Your response to what you read is essential; you will develop your thinking skills through this subject. Through Literature you will also develop your skills in writing about the things you read in a way that can help you in many other subjects.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

It will increase your ability to form an argument, think for yourself and show that you have the skill to understand a range of writing and to communicate your understanding to others. Many employers and higher education establishments see English Literature as an important subject.

Student Progression

Students might like to study A-Level English Literature and/or Media Studies.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE MATHEMATICS

$$x^2$$

All students will study GCSE Mathematics through Years 9 (from Easter), 10 and 11. There are 2 levels of study, tailored to suit the mathematical potential of the individual. Your progress is monitored throughout the course and transfer to a different level may be possible in full consultation with your teacher and Heads of Mathematics.

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel (Linear) COURSE NUMBER: 1MA1

Core Subject



What will I do?

You will study:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

You will also aim to recall, select and apply your knowledge of Mathematics and to interpret, analyse and solve problems in a range of contexts.

How will I be assessed?

There are three equally-weighted written exam papers that can be sat at Foundation or Higher level. Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3. Each paper will cover all the assessment objectives. There will be a range of question types; some questions will assess your ability to communicate mathematically.

What are the important deadlines?

You will sit all three written exams at the end of Year 11.

Why do I study this subject?

Mathematics, in addition to providing numeracy and functional skills for everyday life, is the key to careers in computing, engineering, science (including medicine) and finance.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Maths provides you with skills in logic and analytical thought. It develops the recognition of pattern and the ability to produce systematic and rigorous argument.

Student Progression

Students may go on to study A-Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS



Students will follow the core physical education programme, which consists of 3 hours of core PE over the 2 weeks.

EXAM BOARD: n/a

COURSE NUMBER: n/a

Core Subject



What will I do?

You will continue with module-based activities as in previous years. Greater emphasis will be placed on:

- Scoring and judging
- Strategies and tactics
- Competitions
- Self-analysis and evaluation

How will I be assessed?

Your teachers will assess your attitude to learning for each lesson.

What are the important deadlines?

There are no specific deadlines in this subject because assessment is continuous.

Why do I study this subject?

Keeping yourself fit and healthy is vital! You will participate in a variety of activities that will develop different elements of fitness – ranging from your mobility and agility to developing your actual skill level. It is very important that you participate in PE lessons as it is a core lesson within the National Curriculum.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Sport and PE develops many skills and attributes. Not only will you have the opportunity to improve your own personal skill levels at many activities, but you will also learn the importance of good sportsmanship and the importance of working with others within a team. Hopefully you will carry on with some sport or activity outside of school too. We also introduce you to some activities that are not part of the curriculum lower down in the school e.g. Badminton.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE P.S.H.E. / CITIZENSHIP LESSONS



PSHE/Citizenship is part of the core curriculum and is studied for two hours per fortnight.

It includes PSHE (Personal, Social, and Health and Economic Education), Relationships and Sex Education, Citizenship and Careers Education.

EXAM BOARD: n/a

COURSE NUMBER: n/a

Core Subject



What will I do?

The work you do will include some of the following topics:

- Safe and healthy lifestyle – e.g. drug, health and Relationships and Sex Education.
- Citizenship – including the work of government, the law, our rights and responsibilities, the media, global issues.
- Understanding of key local and international religious issues.
- Financial awareness and understanding.
- Preparation for the world of work and further education and the choices you need to make at the end of Year 11.
- Application to the Sixth Form via Admissions+ in Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

There is no formal assessment or examination in this subject but there will be regular assessment activities in lessons.

What are the important deadlines?

There is no coursework as such but there will be times during the course when you will complete tasks to assess your progress.

Why do I study this subject?

- To consider and discuss a wide variety of important and topical issues.
- To help develop your understanding of society and yourself.
- To think about what you want to do in the future.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

- Increase your knowledge and understanding about a variety of important and topical issues to do with health, citizenship, finance and the world of work.
- Gain experience in discussion and listening skills and develop an enquiring mind.
- Develop your knowledge of your personal qualities, an appreciation of the views of others and an ability to reach informed decisions about your future.
- Develop good relationships and respect the differences between people, including those of different faiths.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

SCIENCE PATHWAYS

Course Information

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE



GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY



Combined Science: Trilogy pathway is a science qualification resulting in two Science GCSEs. Students will study 9 hours of science each fortnight with lessons on biology, chemistry and physics. Students are asked to pick their preference in studying either the Combined or Separate science pathways, and the final decision will be made in collaboration with their teachers and informed by their performance in their Year 9 studies of GCSE courses so far.

EXAM BOARD: AQA COURSE NUMBER: 8464

Standard Pathway



What will I do?

Through Science, students will:

- Observe demonstrations and carry out practical experiments
- Research information and use ICT to handle data
- Learn how to apply their knowledge in new areas
- Communicate scientific ideas
- Use calculations to explain observation and make predictions.

How will I be assessed?

All Year groups study biology, chemistry and physics with internal assessments in each. The development of practical skills is integrated into the course as a series of required practical activities which although not formally assessed at the time are assessed in students' terminal written exams at the end of Year 11.

What are the important deadlines?

Required practicals are completed throughout the course during teaching hours. However, all exams are taken at the end of Year 11.

Why do I study this subject?

Science is a core subject which all students have to study; it helps you to understand the world around you and develops many transferable skills that are invaluable in virtually all workplaces. Your Science GCSE grades will be important for many courses and careers, as well as forming an essential foundation to A-level Science subjects.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Students will increase their knowledge of scientific ideas and develop new practical skills. Studying Science helps students to understand and make their own judgements about technological advances, the environment, living organisms, current affairs and the world around them.

Student Progression

Students can continue to study any of the biology, chemistry, or physics at sixth form or college.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES - BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS

The separate sciences pathway leads to separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will complete 4 hours per subject each fortnight in both years of the course. Students are asked to pick their preference in studying either the Combined or Separate science pathways, and the final decision will be made in collaboration with their teachers and informed by their performance in their Year 9 studies of GCSE courses so far.

EXAM BOARD: AQA COURSE NUMBER: Bio. 8461, Chem. 8462, Phys. 8463

Accelerated Pathway



What will I do?

Through Science, students will:

- Observe demonstrations and carry out practical experiments
- Research information and use ICT to handle data
- Learn how to apply their knowledge in new areas
- Communicate scientific ideas

How will I be assessed?

All year groups study separate courses of Biology, Chemistry and Physics with internal assessments in each. The development of practical skills is integrated into the course as a series of required practical activities which although not formally assessed at the time are assessed in students' terminal written exams at the end of Year 11.

What are the important deadlines?

Required practicals are completed during teaching hours, however, all exams are taken at the end of Year 11.

Why do I study these subjects?

Science is a core subject which all students have to study; it helps you to understand the world around you. Studying the separate sciences allows you to study additional topics in greater depth to allow for greater understanding. Your Science GCSE grades will be important for many courses and careers, as well as forming a foundation to A-level studies.

What will I gain from studying these subjects?

Students will increase their knowledge of scientific ideas and develop new practical skills. Studying Science helps students to understand and make judgements about technological advances, the environment, living organisms, current affairs and the world around them.

Student Progression

Students can continue to study any of Biology, Chemistry, or Physics at sixth form or college.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE SUBJECTS

Course Information

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE



GCSE FRENCH

Having already studied French at Key Stage 3, you will have achieved an excellent foundation to further develop your knowledge and language learning skills with confidence at GCSE level. Ongoing understanding and study of a foreign language also complements your learning across other subjects at GCSE.



EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE NUMBER: 8658

EBacc Subject

What will I do?

You will develop your knowledge of vocabulary and language structure and your ability in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. ICT will also be used to support these activities. During the course you will study a range of interesting topics including Current Trends, such as Social Media and Mobile Technology, Local, National and International Global Issues, such as the Environment and Poverty, and Culture and Identity, for example French Festivals, Food and Music.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The skills will each count as 25% towards the final grade. All four exams are conducted at the end of the course and students can be entered for either Foundation or Higher. Students are well supported and prepared throughout the course for all of these exams.

What are the important deadlines?

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

French is spoken in many countries and by over 200 million people around the world. A qualification in a language is highly regarded in terms of communication skills and cultural awareness; an invaluable asset in many employment situations. Many universities offer a foreign language option in degree courses as diverse as Media Studies, Engineering and Business, but even if you have no plans to go to university, most employers these days value a second language. Think of a job with French rather than a career in French; there is great career choice both in this country and abroad.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Learning French not only provides you with key language skills (e.g. the ability to take in and manipulate information, to further strengthen your proficiency in English and to heighten your communication skills), it also makes you a very marketable employee and ensures the development of a range of interpersonal and transferable skills. Moreover, studying the language will further develop cultural awareness and an appreciation of the French speaking world.

Student Progression

Students are able to continue their studies by progressing on to an A-Level in French.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE



Having already studied German at Key Stage 3, you will have achieved an excellent foundation to further develop your knowledge and language learning skills with confidence at GCSE level. Ongoing understanding and study of a foreign language also complements your learning across other subjects at GCSE.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE NUMBER: 8668

EBacc Subject

What will I do?

You will develop your knowledge of vocabulary and language structure and your ability in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. ICT will also be used to support these activities. During the course you will study a range of interesting topics including Current Trends, such as Social Media and Mobile Technology, Local, National and International Global Issues, for example the Environment and Poverty, and Culture and Identity, such as German Festivals, Food and Music.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. These skills will each count as 25% of the final grade. All four exams are conducted at the end of the course and students can be entered for either Foundation or Higher. Students are well supported and prepared throughout the course for all of these exams.

What are the important deadlines?

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

German is the most widely spoken language in Europe. It is the official language in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein. It is also spoken in significant parts of northern Italy, eastern Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and eastern France. A qualification in a language is highly regarded in terms of communication skills and cultural awareness; an invaluable asset for employment opportunities. Many universities also offer a foreign language option in degree courses, but even if you have no plans to go to university, most employers these days value a second language. Think of a career with German rather than a career in German; there is great career choice both in this country and abroad.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Learning German not only provides you with key language skills (e.g. the ability to take in and manipulate information, to further strengthen your proficiency in English and to heighten your communication skills), it also makes you a very marketable employee and ensures the development of a range of interpersonal and transferable skills. Moreover, studying the language will further develop cultural awareness and an appreciation of the German speaking world.

Student Progression

Students are able to continue their studies by progressing on to an A-Level in German.

GCSE SPANISH

Having already studied Spanish at Key Stage 3, you will have achieved an excellent foundation to further develop your knowledge and language learning skills with confidence at GCSE level. Ongoing understanding and study of a foreign language also complements your learning across other subjects at GCSE.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE NUMBER: 8698

EBacc Subject



What will I do?

You will develop your knowledge of vocabulary and language structure and your ability in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. ICT will also be used to support these activities. During the course you will study a range of interesting topics including Current Trends, such as Social Media and Mobile Technology, Local, National and International Global Issues, for example the Environment and Poverty, and Culture and Identity, such as Hispanic Festivals, Food and Music.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The skills will each count as 25% towards the final grade. All four exams are conducted at the end of the course and students can be entered for either Foundation or Higher. Students are well supported and prepared throughout the course for all of these exams.

What are the important deadlines?

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

Spanish is spoken in more than 20 countries and by 400 million people around the world. It is the second most widely spoken language after Chinese Mandarin. A qualification in a language is highly regarded in terms of communication skills and cultural awareness; an invaluable asset for employment opportunities. Many universities also offer a foreign language option in degree courses, but even if you have no plans to go to university, most employers these days value a second language. If you think of a job with Spanish rather than a job in Spanish, there is great career choice both in this country and abroad.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Learning Spanish not only provides you with key language skills (e.g. the ability to take in and manipulate information, to further strengthen your proficiency in English and to heighten your communication skills), it also makes you a very marketable employee and ensures the development of a range of interpersonal and transferable skills. Moreover, studying the language will further develop cultural awareness and an appreciation of the Spanish speaking world.

Student Progression

Students are able to continue their studies by progressing on to an A-Level in Spanish.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Eduqas specification A takes an enquiry-based approach to extend students' understanding of a range of geographical concepts, places and processes. Units 1 and 2 contain core themes that create a balance between contemporary and traditional, human and physical geography. Alongside the core, this course offers optional themes including 'Tectonic Landscapes and Hazards', which explores volcanoes and earthquakes, and 'Social Development Issues', where issues such as gender, health and education are investigated.



EXAM BOARD: Eduqas Spec A COURSE NUMBER: 601/8152/7

EBacc Subject



What will I do?

The world is always changing. The course gives you the chance to learn about these changes. Unit 1 - 'Changing Physical and Human Landscapes' includes landscapes, coasts and rivers, rural and urban landscapes, population changes, tectonic processes and landforms such as volcanoes and earthquakes. Unit 2 - 'Environmental and Development Issues' includes weather, climate and ecosystems, development issues, water resources, economic development and future environmental challenges. Unit 3 - 'Applied Fieldwork Enquiry' will include the opportunity to develop skills of geographical enquiry through fieldwork. You will undertake two fieldwork enquiries, each in a contrasting environment. This will give you an opportunity to conduct research and fieldwork outside of class, with follow up work done in class.

How will I be assessed?

There are three exams (all are 1 ½ hours each). Units 1 and 2 are resourced based and have maps, photographs, and diagrams to help you answer the questions. Unit 3 is a written examination that will assess the students' ability to use data to answer questions and their knowledge, understanding and skills in approaching their fieldwork enquiry. Units 1 and 2 are worth 35% each. Unit 3 is worth 30%.

What are the important deadlines?

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

Studying Geography helps you understand about the world you live in and to develop your responsibilities as a global citizen. As a geographer, you will appreciate the differences and similarities between people's views of the world and its environments, societies and cultures. This will give you an understanding of how you can contribute to a sustainable future for everybody. Geography also presents the opportunity to get out of the classroom and go on fieldtrips. There will also be plenty of opportunities to learn through your own investigations rather than simply having to listen or read.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Geography works well with lots of other subject areas, providing a good link between the sciences, arts and humanities subjects. Through studying Geography you will gain lots of transferable skills, such as the ability to interpret maps, photos and statistics, as well as evaluate, make judgements and decisions on various pieces of information. When completing your fieldwork you will develop skills, such as ICT, research and decision-making that will help in other subjects and will impress future employers.

Student Progression

Students are able to study Geography at A-Level.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE HISTORY



Studying History at GCSE gives you the opportunity to think critically about the past and consider how it has impacted the world we live in today. It is the study of people and their diverse experiences, popular attitudes and significant turning points. History has made our world what it is and is also part of your future. "The study of History is the beginning of wisdom." - Jean Bodin, 1530 - 1596 (French economist).

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel COURSE NUMBER: 1HI0

EBacc Subject



What will I do?

You will study the following:

- Migration through Time c.800-present. Includes: who has migrated to the UK, why and what was the impact of the migration on the UK? What has the migrant experience been like over time?
- Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 – A study of Elizabeth I and how she dealt with the questions of her marriage, religion, plotters, Mary Queen of Scots, and the Armada. Also includes explorations and discovery (the 'New World') and Elizabethan society – the position of women and the growth of poverty.
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39 – the democratic experiment in Germany, the impact of the Great Depression on Germany, Hitler's rise to power and establishment of a dictatorship; life in Nazi Germany before the Second World War.
- The Cold War 1945-91 - The declining relationship between the USA and USSR (Soviet Union) after the Second World War; including the division of Europe, the Berlin Wall, the Hungarian Uprising and the Prague Spring, the nuclear arms race and the Cuban Missile Crisis; the fall of Soviet Russia in 1991.

How will I be assessed?

There will be three written exams taken at the end of Year 11. Each paper has a variety of medium and longer extended writing tasks.

What are the important deadlines?

All exams will be taken at the end of the course in May/June of Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

History will enable you to develop the skills to look beyond the headlines, to ask questions properly and to express your own opinions. Studying History helps you make sense of most other subjects, and understand the origins of modern political and social problems as well as the world in which we live.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Students will develop the ability to analyse and evaluate historical problems as well as interpreting many different types of data: written, pictorial, graphical and numerical. Students will also learn to consider two sides of an argument and reach a substantiated judgement.

Student Progression

Students can go on to take History at A-Level. It is also recommended for students who are interested in studying Politics.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

OTHER GCSE SUBJECTS

Course Information

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE



GCSE ART & DESIGN



Art is a form of expression, it allows you to vocalise, debate and project your opinions and understanding. You will have the opportunity to explore a range of different media, techniques and themes. We focus on everything from drawing, printing, collaging, crafting, painting, experimenting with media and visiting galleries.

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

COURSE NUMBER: 1AD0

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

The GCSE in Art and Design is designed to allow you to explore your key skills in art which you are then able to explore further in your project work. In Year 10 you complete two projects, during terms 1 to 3 you will explore a range of media and techniques through the 'Mixing it up' project and during terms 4 to 6 you will begin to create more self-directed work through a project called 'Strange/fantasy'. At the start of Year 11 you complete a mock exam project to help prepare you for the art exam (component 2) which will be in January.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete two components during your GCSE. Component 1 is 60% of your grade and Component 2 is 40% through an external examination. 90% of your overall grade will be coursework, 10% will be your final exam for component 2. Coursework includes all class work and homework tasks completed throughout Years 10 and 11. You are marked through 4 different objectives which are develop, experiment, record and refine.

What are the important deadlines?

Deadlines are especially important in this course. At the beginning of each new project brief a specific deadline will be given which must be met. Your teacher will provide guidelines to help manage your time. January of Year 11 marks the end of your coursework and as of February you will begin preparing for your exam.

Why should I study this subject?

If you are creative, enjoy trying out a range of media or someone who uses art to explore or to connect. This course will allow you to gain an insight into lots of various aspects of Art and Design, including: painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and alternative media. It will allow you to explore and develop as a creative whilst building a portfolio of work which demonstrates your skills.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Students will gain a GCSE in a creative subject. The course encourages students to develop important skills in working independently and problem solving, as well as learning a broad variety of Art and Design skills.

Student Progression

A GCSE in Art and Design offers direct progression to A-Level Art, Craft and Design and/or A-Level Photography.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE BUSINESS



No matter what you do in life you will interact with businesses. Most of you will work for a business and all of you will buy goods and services from businesses. Apart from being a great qualification to have for university and employers, we teach you to be smarter in your dealings with business, making and saving you money through life.

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel COURSE NUMBER: 1BS0

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

You will investigate businesses of all types through using case studies and news clips. You will have to come up with solutions to business problems and present your findings. You will use a range of techniques including developing surveys and undertaking research on the internet to carry out to find out about customer attitudes and the growth and development of businesses and their brands. You will be required to work individually, as one of a pair and in groups. You will learn to give presentations and take part in discussions. It is an active, 'doing' subject.

How will I be assessed?

You will take two examinations at the end of Year 11. They are each 1 hour 30 minutes in length and will be a mix of multiple choice, short answers and essay style questions.

What are the important deadlines?

Both 1 hour examinations are taken in May of Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

What some of our students have said:

"I have enjoyed studying Business and am planning to take Business at A-Level and at university. I like the way we always look at real businesses in the real world."

"The best thing about Business is getting to meet real business people who talk to us about what they do in business. They also help us with our projects, which is great!"

What will I gain from studying this subject?

GCSE Business gives you an understanding of the world around you and the part that people and businesses play in the world. By giving you skills like team work, presentation, analysis and evaluation you are likely to do better in jobs. Knowing about how employers recruit and structure their business will give you a much better chance of getting a good job. It could also help you to set up your own business if that is of interest to you.

Student Progression

Students will have the opportunity to study A-Level Business, A-Level Economics or BTEC Level 3 in Business.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE



Have you ever wondered how computers work? Have you wanted to create your own applications and learn how to program? If so Computer Science is the subject for you. Computer Science is a new and popular GCSE with four classes studying in Years 10 and 11 this year.

EXAM BOARD: AQA COURSE NUMBER: 8525

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

You will study two separate strands. You will firstly learn how to program using Python. This will include learning how algorithms function as well as developing your problem solving skills. You will need these programming skills for one of the exams. You will also study the theoretical aspects of computing, which is a range of topics including (but not limited to) CPU architecture, databases, cyber security, binary arithmetic and networking.

How will I be assessed?

There are two exams. 'Computational thinking and programming skills' features questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational-thinking skills while 'Computing Concepts' features questions assessing SQL programming and aspects of theoretical knowledge. Both exams contribute equally to your final grade.

What are the important deadlines?

There is no coursework for GCSE Computer Science so the only 'deadlines' are your exams.

Why should I study this subject?

There has recently been a renewed focus on the study of computation from the IT industry. Companies such as Google, Microsoft and Apple have stated that not enough young people in the UK are being taught essential computational skills to prepare them for the high tech industries of the future. Computer Science will give you a grounding in how computers work and how to program them.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

By taking on a GCSE in Computer Science you will develop an in-depth understanding of a diverse range of topics, from the inner workings of a computer to how to break down and solve complex problems and how to program. The skills and knowledge you acquire will prepare you for either further study or workplace apprenticeship opportunities.

Student Progression

Studying GCSE Computer Science will allow you the option to progress on to Computer Science A-Level and/or Cambridge Technicals Level 3 in ICT.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE DT PRODUCT DESIGN



GCSE DT Product Design should enable students to understand and apply a design process through which they explore, create, and evaluate a range of outcomes. It should enable students to use creativity and imagination to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, and values. You will develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.

EXAM BOARD: AQA COURSE NUMBER: 4550

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

You will have at least 4 mini projects to complete in Year 10, throughout these projects you will be incorporating knowledge, understanding of varied materials, and manufacturing processes to design and make, in response to needs, problems and opportunities. You will learn how to take design risks, helping you to become resourceful and innovative. After the 1st of June we will start researching your coursework projects and these will continue throughout Year 11. Then we will prepare for your final exam.

How will I be assessed?

The Controlled Assessment project will count for 50% of your final GCSE and you will sit one written examination which contributes 50%.

What are the important deadlines?

By February half term of Year 11, all design and planning for the Controlled Assessment must be complete, and the portfolio and practical tasks must be submitted for assessment. Students will prepare for the exam by revising all theory covered throughout the course, some of which will be completed through practical explorations.

Why should I study this subject?

If you enjoyed the Resistant Materials and/or Graphics projects, working in wood, metal and plastics, drawing, producing ideas and problem solving then this course is a good combination of all those things!

Following this course and being successful at GCSE will give you the opportunity to continue with the subject at A-Level and through further study, lead to a career as a designer, engineer, or architect. It offers a solid introduction to the exciting world of Product Design and any students considering a career in design will be well suited to this course.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Students will gain a full GCSE in a creative subject. They will gain knowledge and understanding of the design process and develop their skills in :

- CAD (Computer Aided Design) – Photoshop, 2D Design, Google Sketch-up and Illustrator.
- CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) – CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) and Laser cutter.

Student Progression

A GCSE in DT Product Design leads on to A-Level Product Design which you can study at Furze Platt's Sixth Form.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE DRAMA

Taking Drama at GCSE level enables you to continue to develop your creating, performing and responding skills and explore a wide range of styles, themes and techniques.



EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE NUMBER: 8261

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

You will study a wide variety of different topics, theatre techniques and skills while devising improvisations from stimuli and using scripts to create theatre. You will learn how to develop characters and study a play from the point of view of an actor, designer and technician.

How will I be assessed?

60% of your GCSE grade will come from two assessed performances by your teachers and the exam board. One piece is a devised performance and the other is a performance of two extracts from a script. 40% of your grade comes from a written exam in which you will write about your knowledge and understanding of Drama. This will include your understanding of a play studied and live theatre that you have seen.

What are the important deadlines?

In September of Year 11, you will perform to an invited audience. This performance (and devising log) will make up 40% of your overall GCSE grade. In March/April, you will perform the second piece of practical coursework (20% of your overall grade).

Why should I study this subject?

Drama is not just about acting. You will learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. You will gain the confidence to pursue your own ideas, reflect and refine your efforts. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Other than helping to give you confidence, drama gives you all kinds of communication and group work skills which will look great on your CV. Whether you see yourself on the stage, in films, designing sets, costumes or lighting, or just enjoying watching theatre, this course will give you a good solid grounding and can lead to a variety of different careers and opportunities. A Drama GCSE says to an employer that you are a confident, disciplined and cultured team player!

Student Progression

Further Study at KS5: Students may decide to continue their Drama studies at A-Level.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION



This is an interesting and varied course for students which covers a wide range of food related topics. This GCSE covers the development of practical skills, the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating plus it explores food sustainability and provenance. Students learn through a wide variety of interactive tasks, developing food science knowledge and building an understanding of how to produce safe and nutritious dishes through informed food choices. The GCSE course builds on ideas, concepts and skills introduced in Years 7, 8 and 9.

EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS COURSE NUMBER: 601/8093/6

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

This course is a practical based course, with a specification balanced between practical and theory lessons, which allows plenty of hands on learning through all the six key areas: Food Preparation Skills; Food, Nutrition and Health; Food Safety; Food Science; Food Provenance; and Food Choice. Students would expect to cook on a regular basis developing complex food preparation skills, and an understanding of the working characteristics of ingredients which will be further applied to other parts of the course. When possible students will visit a farm, to give greater insight into food provenance, a sensory analysis laboratory to understand the importance of sensory analysis in the development of different foods plus participate in fish, and game preparation workshops.

Students will need to provide their own ingredients and will cook on a regular basis. (Students will be issued with a cooking schedule and ingredients list at the start of each term.)

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE grade is based on a 50% written exam and 50% non-exam assessment (NEA) comprising two tasks.

Task 1: The Food Investigation (15%) and

Task 2: The Food Preparation Assessment (35%)

which involves planning, preparing, cooking; presenting three dishes in a practical examination and all completed within the lessons.

The written exam, at the end of Year 11, has two sections both containing compulsory questions which assess the six areas of content.

What are the important deadlines?

Both non-exam assessments will be completed in Year 11 with the exam board specifying the deadlines - one in Term 2, the other by Easter.

Why should I study this subject?

There is never a dull moment in Food Preparation and Nutrition - it is a fascinating course covering a vast range of subjects. Cooking is just part of this course, but a major part, so you will cook regularly. Food Science investigations are another part of the hands-on element of the subject. If you enjoy learning by doing, there are plenty of opportunities.

There are theory lessons with written work, this is often about applying the knowledge you will have learned, or gaining greater knowledge on food related topics which will give you a wide knowledge base which links to understanding on a range of food related issues. You will develop research skills, analytic and evaluation skills plus organisation, time management and teamwork skills which are all transferable skills to other subjects.

Even better, you will have completed 50% of the course before you take the examination!

What will I gain from studying this subject?

You will develop great practical skills which you will use in everyday life. Your interest will be sparked about food and nutrition and the importance of food on our environment and our daily lives. You will develop a range of transferable skills that will be valued out in the workplace, or as a member of a team. The food industry is one of the biggest employers in the country with a vast range of career options from food engineers, food scientists, nutritionists, development chef or chefs to food sales and marketing.

Student Progression

Students may wish to consider a college based Vocational Course, or to complete the Level 3 Food and Nutrition course in Year 12 and Year 13. There are many opportunities in further education to complete courses linking to food albeit food economics to land management or food science. Indeed, there are limitless opportunities for progression.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE MUSIC

Taking the subject for GCSE enables you to explore music of all kinds, from classical to blues, through listening, composing and performing activities.



EXAM BOARD: Eduqas COURSE NUMBER: 1MU0

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

You will be studying a number of musical styles and genres including pop, film and musical theatre. For each one you will listen to and write about examples, perform music of this type and compose in the style of one of the areas of study. Before you start your first coursework composition, you will be introduced to Sibelius software which will help you to write your ideas as music giving your work that professional look. You will have the opportunity to record your music in our recording studio. Music is not only about passing exams though; we also encourage you to take up performing opportunities both in school and in the wider community.

How will I be assessed?

You will be marked in three areas:

Performing - two pieces: one solo and one ensemble (30% of the final mark)

Composition - one a free choice, one to a brief set by the exam board (30% of the final mark).

Appraising - the exam paper (40% of the final mark).

What are the important deadlines?

End of Year 10: Complete first composition.

February of Year 11: Record Performance coursework.

End of April of Year 11: All coursework to be completed and submitted to the exam board.

May/June of Year 11: Written paper. Easter of Year 11: Complete and record second composition and record second piece of performing coursework.

May/June of Year 11: Written paper.

Why should I study this subject?

You will acquire a deeper understanding of music, essential for careers in music but also a useful way of showing future employers/higher education bodies that you can succeed in a broad range of subject disciplines. This includes problem solving, collaboration, resilience and much more.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

If you have been learning an instrument or do a lot of singing, why not put all those years of hard work towards a GCSE? 30% of the marks are allocated to performing. You can also use your instrument to help you to prepare the two compositions!

Student Progression

Students can consider taking Music at A-Level.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY



Photography is the art of capturing and manipulating images. Our GCSE photographers use digital cameras to 'capture' subjects like portraits, still life pictures and landscapes. Our photographers then use software like Photoshop to manipulate their imagery to meet specific design briefs and create original artwork. You must remember that the quality of your 'shoots' directly affects the quality of your outcome – therefore students will be expected to use their own time to take the photos for them to then be edited in school.

EXAM BOARD: AQA COURSE NUMBER: 8206

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

There are a whole variety of skills, techniques, materials, processes, and concepts that are essential to the study of Photography. The following areas will form the foundation for all projects taught on the course:

- The use of formal elements to communicate a variety of approaches
- How to use a digital camera and its functions, including depth of field, shutter speed, focal points, and viewpoints
- The application of observational skills to study famous photographers, their techniques and how they communicate ideas.

How will I be assessed?

60% of your grade will be assessed through your coursework and 40% through an external examination.

Coursework (Personal Portfolio): Coursework includes all class work and homework tasks completed throughout Years 9, 10 and 11. Students produce a quantity of work providing substantial evidence of studies undertaken during the course.

Externally Set Assignment (Examination): The examination is a timed test paper lasting 10 hours. Students are given approximately two month's preparation time in which to create a supporting portfolio.

What are the important deadlines?

Deadlines are especially important in this course. At the beginning of each new project brief a specific deadline will be given which must be met. Your teacher will provide guidelines to help manage your time.

Why should I study this subject?

GCSE Photography is for creative students who enjoy using apps on their phone to manipulate imagery and who like being arty and love taking photographs! You will be required to research photographers and develop your own ideas. You will be taught how to use and experiment with cameras, studio lighting and editing. Finally, you will aim to improve the quality of your work and make professional looking final pieces for display in your portfolio and our gallery!

What will I gain from studying this subject?

You will develop practical skills in operating a digital camera and using industry standard software. You will develop creative and practical problem solving skills. You will learn to develop ideas through research, practical application, and image analysis. These transferable skills gained through study of Photography are, in general, of wide applicability.

Student Progression

A GCSE in Photography offers direct progression to A-Level Photography. Thereafter the qualifications can be used to gain access to a variety of courses such as Art Foundation courses or Photography degrees. Good photography skills will serve you well throughout a range of creative and related professions, including marketing, design, digital media, and film making.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION



GCSE Physical Education requires students to develop their knowledge and understanding of how a healthy, active lifestyle contributes to the growth and development of body systems, and structures, as well as general wellbeing. Students will become increasingly physically competent through being actively engaged in a range of physical activities, and will become effective in their performance in different types of physical activity.

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

COURSE NUMBER: (9-1) IPEO

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

Three of your lessons will be in a classroom studying the theoretical aspects of Physical Education which include: - Health and Fitness, Training, Nutrition, Health and Safety and the body systems. During your other lessons you will get the chance to participate in a number of sports, three of which you will be assessed in during a final moderation.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exam papers which assess the theoretical aspects of the course (60% of your final grade). During Year 10 you analyse your sporting performance and highlight strengths and weaknesses. You will then develop a training programme to try and bring about improvements in your performance, and evaluate the impact of your training (10% of your final grade). Finally you are assessed on your practical ability in three different sports (30% of your final grade).

What are the important deadlines?

Throughout the course you will need to organise your time effectively, incorporating your own training outside of school as well as the theoretical aspects of the course. There is regular home learning as in all GCSE subjects! You will be expected to represent school teams at after school fixtures and to attend training. **You will also be expected to be taking part in a number of competitive activities and sports outside of school.**

Why should I study this subject?

If...

- you have a love of all things sporting
- you always have your PE kit
- you regularly attend extra curricular sporting activities
- you play sport for a club/clubs outside of school
- you want to learn about the theoretical aspects of PE and their impact on performance.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

You will learn...

- How your body works and responds to exercise
- The importance of a healthy active life style
- How to train and improve your fitness
- How to develop skills including team work, co-operation, leadership, communication and organisation.

Student Progression

Students may wish to consider studying A-Level Physical Education/ BTEC in Sport.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Religious Studies is about people; their beliefs, behaviour, attitudes and relationships. As well as learning about how other people view life, you will have the opportunity to question and reflect on your own attitudes and behaviour.

EXAM BOARD: AQA COURSE NUMBER: 8062

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

You will sit two 1 hour 45 minute exam papers at the end of Year 11 which will assess your knowledge of the religions and thematic studies. There are two papers in this course; paper 1 is a study of two religions: Christianity and Buddhism, exploring their beliefs, teachings and practices; paper 2 is thematic study of philosophical and ethical topics such as, Crime and Punishment, Peace and Conflict and Human rights.

How will I be assessed?

There will be two exams at the end of Year 11 – each lasting one hour and 45 minutes. One exam will examine the four themes, with each section including a 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 mark question. The second exam will examine the two religions. Each religion will have two sections of questions, with each section including a 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 mark question.

What are the important deadlines?

Both examinations will be taken in May/June of Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

A qualification in Religious Studies is not only a measure of your academic ability, it shows that you have an understanding of others which makes it particularly useful for all jobs which involve dealing with the general public. You will be looking at issues surrounding the world today and use different views to evaluate them.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

You will develop your skills of investigation, interpretation, evaluation and analysis. These are central to any work in Religious Studies. You will also be encouraged to empathise (see things through the eyes of others) and to reflect on and express your own feelings, ideas and views on issues. Attitudes such as respect, care and concern (for yourself and others) are promoted through the study of Religious Studies. These important values will help you in all areas of your life.

Student Progression

Students may wish to consider studying an A-Level in Religious Studies.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

GCSE TEXTILES DESIGN

The syllabus is part of the Art and Design area of study, but you do not need to be 'artistic' to take the course! This will be your chance to design products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles. Areas of study include fashion design and illustration, costume design, constructed textiles, printed, and dyed textiles and digital textiles. We will deliver the course in a 'hands on, explore and experiment' way, looking at surface pattern, texture, and decoration. We will investigate printing and dyeing material, using the sewing machine to add embellishment and learn how to construct garments. This course will be important for any students who would like to work in fashion, design, interiors, and costume design.



EXAM BOARD: AQA COURSE NUMBER: 8204

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

Through Year 10 you will be led through at least 4 different projects, some will be experimental, some garment construction and some will be design based. Through these we hope to give you a range of techniques and resources that you can use to reinforce your externally set assignment. All units will be practical and you will need to show your journey through your portfolio by building up sketchbooks.

How will I be assessed?

Your course will be in 2 components: Component 1: Portfolio and Component 2: Externally set assignment. Your portfolio will be a range of sketchbooks where you can add your experiments and sampling techniques that you produce. You will be asked to explain your processes as you work through them and add photographs of the 3 dimensional work that you will produce. This section is worth 60% of your final grade.

The externally set assignment will be a task set by the exam board, we will then research and develop your task and you will have guidance in how to produce your design ideas. You will then complete a 10 hour practical exam (spread over a few days) to produce your outcome. This section will be 40% of your final grade.

There is no written paper with this course.

What are the important deadlines?

Deadlines are especially important in this course. At the beginning of each new project brief a specific deadline will be given which must be met. Your teacher will provide guidelines to help manage your time.

Why should I study this subject?

Studying Textiles through art and design helps to create a broad and balanced curriculum, which is an excellent foundation for whatever you want to do afterwards. The transferable skills you will gain, such as creativity, analysis and problem solving, complement a range of other subjects and careers.

If you have enjoyed the Textiles projects, love fabric decoration and fashion, this is the course for you!

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Alongside improving your practical expertise, you will learn how to:

- develop, refine, and record your ideas
- present a personal response that realises your intentions
- improve your creative skills through the effective and safe use of media, materials, techniques, processes, and technologies
- successfully use visual language and the formal elements eg colour, line, form, shape, tone, texture.

Student Progression

A GCSE in Textiles Design leads on to A-Level Fashion and Textiles which you can study at Furze Platt's Sixth Form.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS

Course Information

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE



LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE CHILD DEVELOPMENT



In Child Development you will cover all aspects of a child's growth starting from pre-conception up to the age of 5 years. We welcome both boys and girls onto the course.

EXAM BOARD: OCR, Cambridge National COURSE NUMBER: J818

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

You will study the family, pregnancy and birth, parenting, the social, emotional, intellectual and physical development of children, health and safety, nutrition and healthy eating, discipline, importance of play and the role of the community. You will undertake small projects to be produced in a variety of formats – leaflets and magazine articles for nursery workers, making a meal for a toddler or designing a nursery room. In Year 11, you will be asked to choose a child (0-5 years old) and arrange after school visits to investigate their development.

How will I be assessed?

You will have to complete all practical investigations and submit necessary reports that will form your coursework. Every task you do throughout Year 10 and 11 collects points that are added up to create your GCSE grade; coursework in total constitutes 60% of the final grade. There is also a final examination paper worth the remaining 40% of your grade. Child Development is assessed in Levels, not 1-9 grades, e.g. Level 2 Pass is equivalent to grade 4.

What are the important deadlines?

Half of the practical tasks must be completed by the end of Year 10 and the rest by March of Year 11. Your teacher will inform you about particular dates that will be set. Final exams will take place in June at the end of Year 11. Prior to that, there will be a chance to assess your knowledge through pre-public examination and many class tests.

Why should I study this subject?

There are over 13 million children in Britain, and over half of all adults have dependent children, which create a great demand in the child care sector – from the production and sales of baby items to teaching and medical services. It is very likely that during your lifetime you will find yourself working with children or being a parent yourself. Child Development will give you a better understanding of the growth and needs of young children, as well as equipping you with skills necessary in your future role as a caregiver, midwife, social worker, teacher, or even a toy designer.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

As well as teaching you important parenting skills that you may need later in life, you will understand the market for baby products and learn how to present your findings in a variety of formats.

Student Progression

Students may wish to consider studies in this area at a further education institution (Level 3 or A-Levels) or use it as an asset while applying for an apprenticeship.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

LEVEL 1 BTEC CERTIFICATE & AWARD CONSTRUCTION



If you like practical work and believe that a career in the construction and painting and decorating industry would appeal then this is the course for you. Students will also be working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, incorporating volunteering, physical challenges, skills and an expedition.

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel COURSE NUMBER: 500/6591/9 (plumbing) or 500/6600/6 (electrics).

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

This is a practical skills based course delivering training in construction and building services to young people, usually in a mobile classroom. Training and support is delivered on site and students work towards an accredited BTEC qualification. The courses are very practical and include joinery, carpentry, brickwork, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical installation. You will learn practical skills which will enrich your opportunities for employment in the building, construction and painting and decorating industries. You will learn to work in a team, respond to instructions and work to deadlines.

How will I be assessed?

Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. To pass an internally assessed unit, learners must meet all the assessment criteria.

What are the important deadlines?

Deadlines will be set by teachers who deliver the course.

Why should I study this subject?

You will benefit by being taught by highly skilled individuals who both work in and have a great deal of experience in the field.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

You will improve your confidence, particularly in functional Maths and English. You will learn practical skills to help you prepare for the world of work as well as acquire a recognised qualification and build a portfolio of evidence.

Student Progression

Students may wish to further develop their skills at a Higher Education Institution or through applying for an apprenticeship.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE



With creativity intertwining with technology like never before, there is more of a demand for world-class designers than ever before. The Cambridge National in ICT has been designed to teach digital design skills and enable you to use digital tools to express your creativity in an informed and responsible way.

EXAM BOARD: OCR

COURSE NUMBER: J834

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

The course is made up of two mandatory units and one flexible unit. Giving us the ability to adapt the course to your interests, as they align with the current specification, this lends itself to the strengths of the different learners who will excel with a technical course.

How will I be assessed?

The mandatory units are an exam and a piece of coursework. The third unit can be an exam or coursework, depending on the chosen unit. The coursework units facilitate applying your skills, creating a product to a provided specification.

What are the important deadlines?

Each coursework unit has its own deadlines that must be adhered to. This will help support a successful completion of the course.

Why should I study this subject?

There is a shortage of people skilled in ICT and there is an increasing demand for such individuals to fill the roles that are constantly being created in both the ICT industry and many other sectors; where strong ICT skills can facilitate swift career progression. This course will equip you to develop skills that you can apply to almost any career you choose in the future.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

You will develop a wide range of ICT skills which will be tailored to your interests. You will become adept at web development, digital media production (including digital video), imaging and audio as well as simple coding. You will also become skilled at project management and completing large projects. The Cambridge National in ICT is a modern course that will give you skills suitable for the workplace or further study.

Student Progression

Studying Cambridge Nationals will allow you to progress to A-Level Computer Science and/or Cambridge Technicals Level 3 in IT. It can also lead to entering an apprenticeship.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

VOCATIONAL AWARD ENGINEERING



Engineering has sub-sectors, but all are linked by the production or manufacture of a product, environment, or system. These units allow learners to understand how engineering information is used to manufacture or produce these outcomes. From basic hand tools to complex machinery, learners will gain understanding, skills and knowledge of processes and materials, to allow successful products to be produced.

EXAM BOARD: WJEC Vocational

COURSE NUMBER: 5799QA

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

In Year 10: We will work through mini projects to cover the key concepts for the theory sections – these will involve soldering circuits, learning wood work skills and computer and hand drawn skills. We will then work through Component 1.

In Year 11: We will complete part 1 and work through Component 2 before practicing the exam technique and preparing for the written paper.

How will I be assessed?

You will have 2 controlled assessment tasks and a written paper to complete.

Component 1 is worth 80 marks and 40% of your GCSE. Component 2 is worth 40 marks and 20% of your GCSE.

Your written paper (Component 3) is worth 40% of the GCSE.

What are the important deadlines?

Deadlines are especially important in this course. At the beginning of each new project brief a specific deadline will be given which must be met. Your teacher will provide guidelines to help manage your time.

Why should I study this subject?

Virtually everything that we interact with from day to day has been through the design process. Learners understand how an engineering design process is used to develop or adapt products, and how these solutions help to meet the needs and demands of clients, users, and environments. Learners will become familiar with developing problem-solving skills based on real problems and identified market needs. They will need to analyse a brief and specification and produce a solution that meets those requirements.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Understanding engineering materials and processes is key to understanding the core principle of Engineering, and fundamental to an engineer's role is finding functional solutions to problems and demands. However, many areas in Engineering are fast evolving, and developments in materials, processes and technologies are constantly re-shaping the sector. This unit considers both the steadfast central tenets of modern Engineering, whilst exploring the impact of engineering developments and achievements in the home and in society in general.

Student Progression

A GCSE in Engineering would benefit students who want to continue to study Engineering with BTEC courses, or apprenticeships.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

LEVEL 2 NCFE VCERT CERTIFICATE HEALTH & FITNESS



This qualification is designed for those learners who have an interest in health and fitness but do not participate in high level competitive sport. Students experience using different techniques and methods of training, as well as gaining knowledge of body systems that influence physical performance.

EXAM BOARD: NCFE COURSE NUMBER: 603/7007/5

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

Within your classroom based lessons you will prepare, plan and develop a personal health and fitness programme, understand the benefits of fitness and learn the functions of the main body systems as well as many other theoretical aspects related to health and fitness. During your practical lessons you will get the chance to participate in a number of sports and apply your theoretical knowledge to real life situations.

How will I be assessed?

There is a written exam and a controlled assessment. The written exam is sat in school and marked externally. The controlled assessment involves pre release material and is marked by your teacher and then quality assured externally. All modules are graded using the pass, merit and distinction system.

What are the important deadlines?

You will need to organise your time effectively between training and theoretical application, you will be given coursework deadlines that must be adhered to. There is also regular home learning. You will be expected to train and keep yourself fit and active by attending extra-curricular clubs as well as your activities outside of school.

Why should I study this subject?

You should study this course if you enjoy sport and have a real interest in health and fitness but do not participate in high level competitive sport. With the majority of assessment being coursework based, this course would provide people with the opportunity to gain a qualification using week by week deadlines without having the pressure of exams.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

As well as the Level 2 qualification and all the theoretical knowledge you will gain, this course aims to help you to develop many transferable skills that will benefit you through life including:

- Communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Interpreting information
- Research skills
- Teamwork
- Planning
- Health and safety

Student Progression

Students may wish to consider studying BTEC in Sport/A-Level Physical Education. It will also be useful for those wishing to study qualifications in fitness, nutrition and exercise.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS HOSPITALITY & CATERING



The UK is currently perceived to offer the friendliest hospitality service in Europe. For the majority behind this vibrant industry, hospitality is more than just a job; it is a passion, an opportunity to express creativity - a form of 'art.' For the public, dining out is not just 'eating,' it is a whole experience, a time to let go and encounter new senses.

EXAM BOARD: WJEC Vocational COURSE NUMBER: 5409

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

In Year 10: We will visit various restaurant and hospitality settings. We will develop your catering/food understanding by completing practical work. We will cover the relevant theory in preparation for your exam.

In Year 11: We will complete your controlled assessment during Year 11, this will involve research and focus on nutrition. You will plan and practice a menu and then cook the dishes within a certain time.

You will also sit the written paper.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Externally set assignment (written paper) is 1 hour 20 mins in length and counts towards 40% of your overall mark.

Component 2: Portfolio Controlled Assessment. Hospitality and catering in action is worth 60% of Qualification.

What are the important deadlines?

Deadlines are especially important in this course. At the beginning of each new project brief a specific deadline will be given which must be met. Your teacher will provide guidelines to help manage your time.

Why should I study this subject?

Career options in the hospitality and catering industry are vast from popular restaurant chains to Michelin-starred restaurants. Careers in catering involve providing food services with the responsibility of customer service, food preparation, cleanliness, and hygiene.

Food needs to be stored, handled, prepared, and cooked correctly to ensure its consumption does not affect people's health. Everyone who has a role to play within the food industry has a responsibility to minimise the risks of causing food borne illness.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Chefs and nutritionists are involved in the preparation of menus and reviewing how preparation and presentation methods affect nutritional values. Food on a menu needs to meet the nutritional needs of the customer and be prepared, cooked, and served in a certain way to ensure customer appeal and standards are maintained in any establishment; thus food safety and meeting nutritional needs must be the focus of all planning and activities.

Student Progression

A qualification in Hospitality and Catering would benefit students who want to continue to study Catering with BTEC courses, or apprenticeships.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

VOCATIONAL AWARD RETAIL BUSINESS



WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Awards (Technical Awards) provide learners with opportunities to study vocational subjects alongside GCSEs and other general and vocational qualifications as part of a broad programme of study. This qualification introduces students into the world of Business and Retail Business.

EXAM BOARD: WJEC COURSE NUMBER: 5789

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

They are primarily designed for learners aged 14-16 and offer an experience that focuses on applied learning, i.e., acquiring and applying knowledge, skills and understanding through purposeful tasks set in the Business retail sector.

How will I be assessed?

Assessed by one exam and two controlled assessments:

1. Unit 1: Exam – The business of Retail
2. Unit 2: Controlled assessment – Customer Service for retail business
3. Unit 3: Controlled assessment – Merchandising and Marketing retail products

What are the important deadlines?

Exam and controlled assessment deadlines (tbc).

Why should I study this subject?

What some of our students have said:

“I have enjoyed studying Business and am planning to take Business at BTEC and at university. I like the way we always look at real businesses in the real world.”

“The best thing about Business is getting to meet real business people who talk to us about what they do in business. They also help us with our projects, which is great!”

What will I gain from studying this subject?

L1/2 Retail Business gives you an accessible understanding of the business world with a focus on retail business. By giving you skills like team work, presentation, analysis and evaluation you are likely to do better in jobs. Knowing about how employers recruit and structure their business will give you a much better chance of getting a good job.

Student Progression

Students would naturally progress from L1/2 Retail business into BTEC Level 3 in Business or even into the new T-Level Qualifications.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE

BTECH TECH AWARD LEVEL 1/2 TRAVEL & TOURISM



The title of this course is BTEC Tech Award Level 1 / Level 2 in Travel and Tourism. This is a vocational course but students do not have to be considering a future in this industry as the course offers a broad and balanced curriculum, with links to both business and geography.

EXAM BOARD: Pearson COURSE NUMBER: 603/3038/8

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

A combination of lesson types will contribute to the teaching of this course. Students will need to develop research and independent learning skills. They will need to become more aware of the appeal of different tourist destinations to different types of customer, and the factors that influence travel and tourism. They will also investigate attitudes that are considered to be very important in the travel and tourism sector, including how to develop tourism while respecting the environment and local communities. It will also be important to visit local attractions to gather information for field work.

How will I be assessed?

Each student will be required to produce two pieces of internally assessed work, one for each of Components 1 and 2. The students will use computers to produce the assessment and use software packages such as Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint. The exam board sets new assignment tasks each year and students will be supported by their teacher to prepare for the tasks before working in exam conditions to complete the assessment independently. Attendance during these assessment phases is essential. Component is assessed by an external exam which will be taken at the end of the course in Year 11. The marks from each of the 3 components will be aggregated and your final grade will either be a Level 1 or 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction.

What are the important deadlines?

The exam board will set the deadlines for internal assessment tasks. They will be in May of Year 10 and December of Year 11. The external assessment will take place in Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

This course allows students to explore aspects of business, geography and hospitality through vocational study. The internally assessed tasks focus supports students' development of research skills and the variety of lessons approaches (including study excursions) encourages learners to extend their knowledge and learning through practical experiences.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Students will acquire a knowledge and understanding of people, places and the importance of tourism in the local area and on a global scale. They will be able to produce significant projects on specific tourism related topics demonstrating a wide range of skills including ICT.

Student Progression

Students may wish to consider studies in this area at a further education institution or use it for progression to employment or apprenticeships.

AMBITIOUS - COLLABORATIVE - HAPPY - INTEGRITY - ENDURANCE - VERSATILITY - EXCELLENCE