



YEAR 9
OPTION CHOICES
2026

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WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Introduction

GCSE choices can be as exciting as they can be daunting. In their 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 to balance the number of examinations 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

The Science department will communicate whether your child will study Combined or Separate Science. These conversations will have begun during lessons and at Parents Evening.

Students who study combined science will have two hours of Literacy and one hour of Maths practice per fortnight. These skills-based lessons will support their full suite of studies.

The curriculum

Students at Furze Platt will choose from History or Geography as one of their option subjects. We strongly recommend students choose a language, this language must be the one studied during Year 9 as they have been learning the foundations of the GCSE.

Further GCSE or vocational subject choices

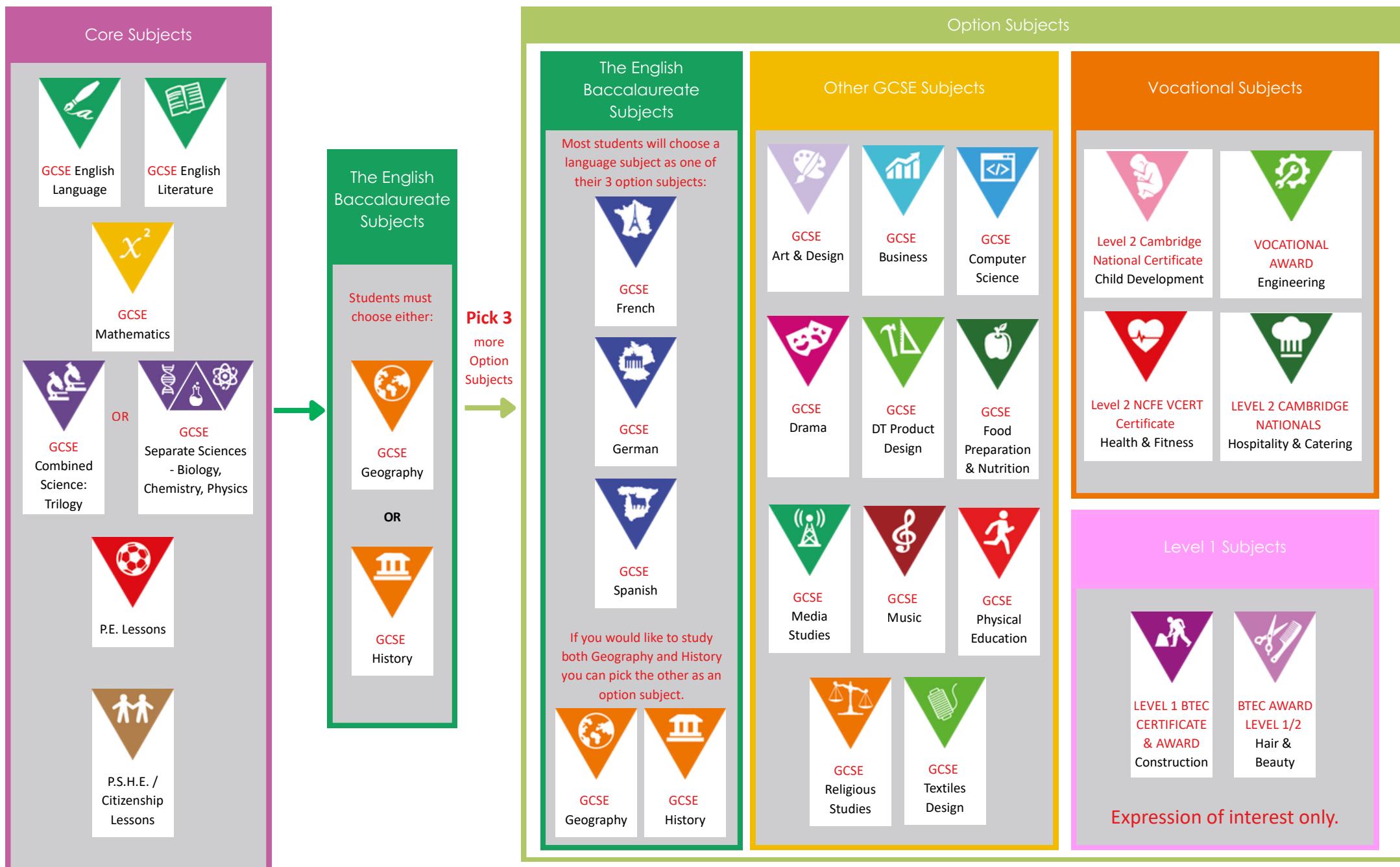
After students have chosen either History or Geography, they have 3 further choices. These are free choices, and students can take any GCSE subjects or vocational subjects they wish. We advise students to choose subjects they enjoy, or that they would consider continuing with in Sixth Form, at college, 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 Mr Corbett (Year 9 Head of Progress) or Miss Stirling as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we are unable to change any students' courses after the first two weeks of Year 10.

An options choices form will be sent to all Year 9 students via Outlook on Friday.

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 develop skills in reading, writing and spoken language. The course involves looking at unseen 20th century prose alongside narrative writing. It also focuses on comparing 19th and 21st century non-fiction texts alongside transactional writing. 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 two written examinations at the end of Year 11 - 100%. There will also be a spoken word assessment which is taken near the end of Year 10.

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

This subject is essential if you are wanting to study at Sixth Form or College. Students might like to study A-Level English Literature and/or Media Studies, but would also be well suited to writing-based subjects such as Politics, Criminology and Psychology.

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?

This course involves reading, discussing and analysing a Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, a modern drama text and a collection of poetry. 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 two 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 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

This subject is a must-have if you are wanting to study at Sixth Form or College. Students might like to study A-Level English Literature and/or Media Studies, but would also be well suited to writing-based subjects such as Politics, Criminology and Psychology.

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

GCSE MATHEMATICS

x^2

All students will study GCSE Mathematics through Years 9 (from Term 3), 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: Eduqas

COURSE NUMBER: C300

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 two 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. 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 both 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 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

CORE GAMES 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 be given the choice of 6 different activities to participate in which change every half term. 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 subject within the National Curriculum.

What will I gain 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 both the importance of good sportsmanship and 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

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



PSHE/Citizenship is part of the core curriculum and is studied for one hour per week as part of the tutor programme. 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:

- Relationships, Sex and Health Education – e.g. drug, sex education
- Citizenship – including the work of government, the law, our rights and responsibilities, the media, global issues
- Understanding of key societal issues such as prejudice and discrimination
- 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 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

GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE: TRILOGY

'Combined Science: Trilogy' is by far most common science pathway in the UK at GCSE and results in two qualifications. Students will study 9 hours of science each fortnight with 3 lessons each of biology, chemistry and physics. While students are asked their preference in studying Combined or Separate pathways, the final decision will be made in collaboration with their teachers and informed by their performance in Year 9.



EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE NUMBER: 8464

Core Subject



Standard Pathway

What will I do?

Throughout the course, students will develop:

- Practical skills by completing experimental tasks
- Observation skills through watching teacher demonstrations
- Problem solving skills as they attempt to identify and explain patterns
- Their ability to research information and handle data
- Communication skills by describing and explaining scientific ideas
- Abilities to apply knowledge to new areas and applications
- Their use of 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' final written exams at the end of Year 11.

What are the important deadlines?

Required practicals are completed in both years with all formal exams at the end of Year 11.

Why do I study this subject?

Science is a core subject which all students 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 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 who complete the higher tier examinations can achieve the necessary grade to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at Sixth Form or college.

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

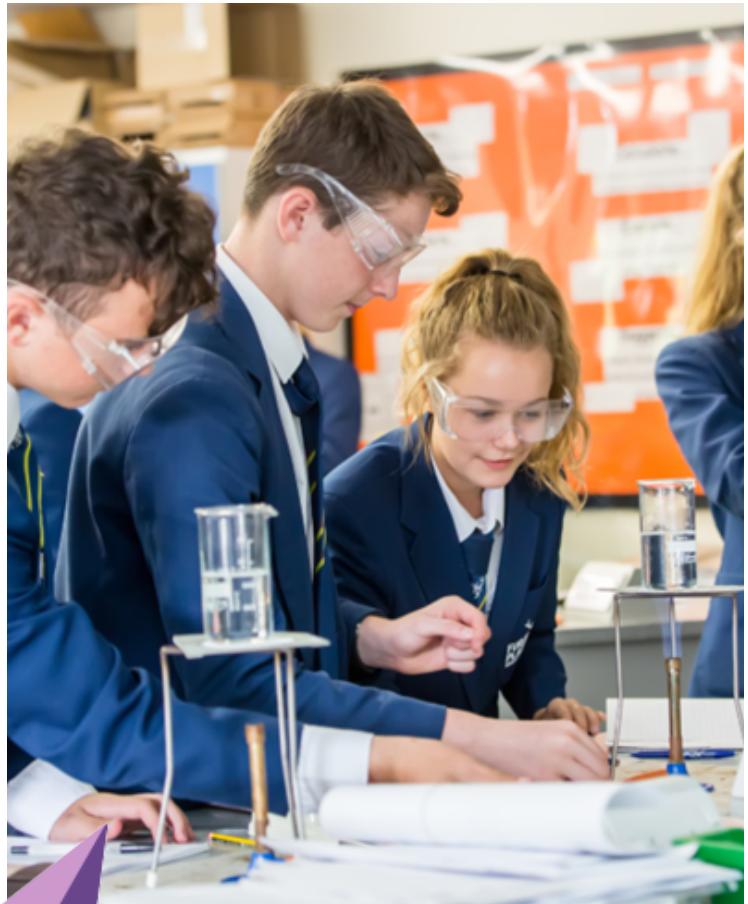
GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES - BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS

Studying separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics is a challenging and vigorous pathway suited for students with a passion for science and an aptitude for independent learning. Nationally only around 20% of students take this route. Students will complete 12 hours of science a fortnight, with 4 hours in each discipline. While students are asked their preference in studying the Combined or Separate science pathways, the final decision will be made in collaboration with their teachers and informed by their performance in Year 9.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE NUMBER: Bio. 8461, Chem. 8462, Phys. 8463

Core Subject



Accelerated Pathway



What will I do?

Throughout the course, students will develop:

- Practical skills by completing experimental tasks
- Problem solving skills as they attempt to identify and explain patterns
- Independence through the completion of independent learning tasks
- Communication skills by describing and explaining scientific ideas
- Abilities to apply knowledge to new areas and applications
- Their use of calculations to explain observation and make predictions

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 courses as a series of required practical activities, which although not formally assessed at the time, are assessed in students' final written exams at the end of Year 11.

What are the important deadlines?

Required practicals are completed in both years with all formal exams at the end of Year 11.

Why do I study this subject?

Studying Science helps students to better understand technological advances, the environment, living organisms, current affairs, and the world around them. The separate sciences pathway allows you to study additional topics in greater depth to allow for greater understanding and form strong foundation from which to study Science at A-level.

What will I gain studying this subject?

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 who complete the higher tier examinations can achieve the necessary grade to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at Sixth Form or college.

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

GCSE 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: 8652

EBacc Subject



What will I do?

You will enhance your vocabulary, language structure, and proficiency in the four key language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Technology will support your learning throughout the course. Topics include current trends like social media and mobile technology, global issues such as the environment and poverty, and cultural topics like French festivals, food, and music. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to work individually with a foreign language assistant to boost your speaking confidence and improve your grammar.

How will I be assessed?

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

What are the important deadlines?

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. Your speaking exams will take place a few weeks before your formal exam timetable begins with your class teacher.

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 value a second language. Think of a job with French rather than a job in French; there is great career choice both in this country and abroad.

What will I gain 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 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

GCSE GERMAN

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: 8662

EBacc Subject



What will I do?

You will enhance your vocabulary, language structure, and proficiency in the four key language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Technology will support your learning throughout the course. Topics include current trends like social media and mobile technology, global issues such as the environment and poverty, and cultural topics like German festivals, food, and music. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to work individually with a foreign language assistant to boost your speaking confidence and improve your grammar.

How will I be assessed?

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

What are the important deadlines?

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. Your speaking exams will take place a few weeks before your formal exam timetable begins with your class teacher.

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 job in German; there is great career choice both in this country and abroad.

What will I gain 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.

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

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: 8692

EBacc Subject



What will I do?

You will enhance your vocabulary, language structure, and proficiency in the four key language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Technology will support your learning throughout the course. Topics include current trends like social media and mobile technology, global issues such as the environment and poverty, and cultural topics like Hispanic festivals, food, and music. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to work individually with a foreign language assistant to boost your speaking confidence and improve your grammar.

How will I be assessed?

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

What are the important deadlines?

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. Your speaking exams will take place a few weeks before your formal exam timetable begins with your class teacher.

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 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 1½ hours each). Units 1 and 2 are resource based and have maps, photographs, and diagrams to help you answer the questions. Unit 3 is a written examination that will assess 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 peoples' 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 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, and how to 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: OCR

COURSE NUMBER: J411

EBacc Subject



What will I do?

Crime and Punishment through Time – Students study the changes and continuities in crime, law enforcement and punishment between c.1250 and the present day.

The Elizabethans, 1580-1603 – Students study late Elizabethan society and the diverse lives and experiences of its people at a time of great instability.

The Mughals, 1526-1707 – Students study how the power of the Mughals changed and how the Mughal Emperors helped the Empire to become powerful within India.

Living under Nazi Rule, 1939-1945 – Students study the impact of Nazi dictatorship on peoples' lives in Germany and across occupied Europe.

History around us – Students will study a historical site and look at its significance to history.

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 to understand the origins of modern political and social problems as well as the world in which we live.

What will I gain 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

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 coursework. 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 the final 10-hour 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; 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. The start of January in Year 11 marks the end of your coursework and 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 connect with your views and emotions, then this course will allow you to gain an insight into lots of various aspects of Art and Design. This includes 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 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. In addition to it 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, and come up with solutions to business problems, presenting 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, learning to give presentations and take part in discussions.

How will I be assessed?

You will take two examinations at the end of Year 11 i.e. Paper 1 and Paper 2. They are each 1 hour 45 minutes in length and will be a mix of multiple choice, short answers and essay style questions.

What are the important deadlines?

Both examination papers are taken in May/June of Year 11.

Why should I study this subject?

What some 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."

What will I gain 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 teamwork, 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? Want to create your own applications and learn how to program? If so, Computer Science is the subject for you. Computer Science is a 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, cyber security, binary arithmetic, databases 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 school assessed practical coursework for GCSE Computer Science which gives students an opportunity to show their programming skills. This usually involves making a simple game and using the System Development Life Cycle (SDLC).

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 studying this subject?

Studying a GCSE in Computer Science will help you 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.

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

GCSE DT PRODUCT DESIGN

GCSE Product Design develops creative problem-solvers through designing, making and evaluating real products. Students build practical skills, technical understanding and confidence while responding to user needs and real-world design challenges.



EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE NUMBER: 8552

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

In Year 10 you will complete a range of hands-on design-and-make projects, developing skills in materials, mechanisms and manufacturing using card, plastics and wood. You will model ideas, test and improve solutions through iteration and evaluation. From June of Year 10, you will begin your Non-Examined Assessment (NEA), which continues through Year 11 alongside exam preparation.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment consists of a Non-Examined Assessment (NEA), worth 50% of the GCSE, and a written examination, also worth 50%, assessing knowledge and understanding of materials, design processes, manufacturing techniques and evaluation.

What are the important deadlines?

By February half term of Year 11, all NEA design work and the final practical outcome must be completed and submitted. Exam preparation continues throughout the course, supported by practical investigations and theory lessons.

Why should I study this subject?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy designing, problem-solving and practical work. Product Design combines creativity with technical thinking, allowing students to explore materials and mechanisms while developing ideas that work in real contexts. It suits learners who enjoy experimenting, refining designs and creating effective solutions to design challenges.

What will I gain studying this subject?

Students will gain a GCSE in a creative and technical subject. They will develop skills in design thinking, modelling, testing, evaluation, communication and practical making, alongside confidence using digital design tools. The course builds independence, creativity and resilience, preparing students for further study in design or practical pathways.

Student Progression

GCSE Product Design provides a strong foundation for A-Level Product Design and related courses at Furze Platt's Sixth Form, supporting progression into further education and creative or technical pathways.

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 and designer. You will go on trips to the theatre, have workshops with professional companies and have chances to perform throughout the 2 years to an invited audience.

How will I be assessed?

60% of your GCSE grade will come from two assessed performances. One piece is a devised performance and the other is a performance of two extracts from a script. If you are interested in design, you can be a designer for these assessments. This can be either costume, set, lighting or sound design. 40% of your grade comes from a written exam in which you will demonstrate your understanding of a play studied and live theatre that you have seen.

What are the important deadlines?

In July of Year 10, you will perform to an invited audience. This performance (and devising log) will make up 40% of your overall GCSE grade. In March/April of Year 11, you will perform the second piece of performance work (20% of your overall grade). You will then sit the final written examination in May of Year 11.

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 studying this subject?

Drama students learn 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 enjoy 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 GCSE equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Students learn through a wide variety of interactive tasks, developing food science knowledge as well as building an understanding of how to produce safe and nutritious dishes through informed food choices. This 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 balances practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding in six key areas: Food Science; Food Preparation Skills; Nutrition and Health; Food Safety; Food Provenance; and Food Choice. Students will develop complex food preparation skills, and an understanding of the functional and chemical properties of ingredients which will be further applied to other parts of the course.

How will I be assessed?

2 controlled assessments: 50% of your final grade:

- Task 1: The Food Science Investigation: 15% of your final grade involves investigating the functional and chemical properties of ingredients
- Task 2: The Food Preparation Assessment: 35% of your final grade involves planning, preparing, cooking and presenting three dishes to meet particular requirements

Written exam: 50% of your final grade

What are the important deadlines?

In Year 10 you will practise projects, with deadlines being set by your teacher. In Year 11 you will complete both of your controlled assessments. Task 1 deadline December, task 2 deadline by the end of March and your final written exam is in June.

Why should I study this subject?

Learning your complex technical skills are one part of this course. 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, applying the knowledge you have learned, or gaining greater understanding of food commodities, food related topics and current issues.

You will also develop the highly transferable skills of research, analysis and evaluation plus organisation, time management and teamwork.

Better still, you will have completed 50% of the course by Easter in Year 11!

What will I gain 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 in the workplace, or as a member of a team. The food industry is one of the biggest employers in the UK 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. There are many opportunities in further/higher education to complete courses linking to food, such as nutrition, dietetics, food economics, land management or food science to name a few.

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 Musescore and Bandlab 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

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 and resilience etc.

What will I gain 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. Also continuing to be involved in Music as extra-curricular can count towards your UCAS application

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

GCSE Media Studies

Media Studies helps students see how media products convey meanings and affect audiences. You will explore various media forms, including television, film, advertising, magazines, newspapers, online media, and video games. This will help you develop the analytical, creative, and critical thinking skills needed in today's media-focused world.



EXAM BOARD: QCR

COURSE NUMBER: J200

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

You will study media language, representation, industries, and audiences on different platforms. This includes analysing media products, exploring how they are made and used, and creating your own media work. Practical tasks involve planning and making media products like magazines, websites, or videos. You will also learn how media influences culture and society. Additionally, you will develop skills in research, writing, and creative design.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through two written exams, which account for 70%, and one non-exam assessment, which makes up the remaining 30%. In the non-exam assessment, you create a media product based on a specific brief. All components must be finished by the end of Year 11.

What are the important deadlines?

The non-exam assessment (NEA) is completed during Year 10 and early Year 11. Written exams take place at the end of Year 11. Regular checkpoints for practical and analytical tasks will be set throughout the course.

Why should I study this subject?

Media is everywhere from TV, social media, advertising, film, and gaming, and shapes how we see the world. Studying Media helps you understand these influences and gives you the tools to analyse and create media products. It's a subject that combines creativity with critical thinking, preparing you for a world dominated by digital communication.

What will I gain studying this subject?

You will develop analytical skills, creativity, and technical ability in media production. These skills are highly valued in careers such as journalism, marketing, advertising, film, and digital media. Media Studies also improves your ability to think critically about the world and communicate effectively. These skills are useful in any profession.

Student Progression

Media Studies is excellent preparation for A-Level Media Studies, Film Studies, English, or creative subjects. It also supports progression into careers in media, journalism, marketing, and digital content creation.

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?

Four 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 will be assessed on your practical ability in three different sports (30% of your final grade).

What are the important deadlines?

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 will be assessed on your practical ability in three different sports (30% of your final grade).

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 studying this subject?

You will learn...

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

Student Progression

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

Your paragraph text

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 x 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 two religions. Each religion will have two sections of questions, with each section including a 1, 1, 4, 6 and 12 mark question. The second exam will examine the four themes, with each section including a 1, 1, 4, 6 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 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. It also supports further study in fields such as law, medicine, charity and humanitarian work.

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

GCSE TEXTILE DESIGN

This syllabus is part of the Art and Design area of study, but you do not need to be 'artistic' to take the course! This is 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. The course is delivered in a 'hands on, explore and experiment' way, looking at surface pattern, texture, and decoration.



EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE NUMBER: 8204

Other GCSE Subject



What will I do?

In Year 10 you will complete a minimum of 4 projects, including garment construction, experimental projects and design-based projects. Through these you will learn and practise a range of techniques you will need for 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?

This course is assessed in 2 components:

Component 1: portfolio worth 60% of your grade.

Component 2: externally set assignment worth 40% of your grade.

Your portfolio will consist of sketchbooks containing your experiments and sampling techniques, with explanations and photos of 3-dimensional work alongside your project outcomes.

The externally set assignment is set by the exam board, you will research and develop your task and receive guidance on how to produce your design ideas. You will then complete a 10-hour practical exam (spread over a few days) to produce your outcome. There is no written paper.

What are the important deadlines?

We will complete 4 different projects throughout Year 10, these will be a varying length, depending on the task. At the beginning of each new project your teacher will provide the deadline. In Year 11 your portfolio is due in after Christmas and your practical exam will be in April.

Why should I study this subject?

We will investigate printing and dyeing material, using the sewing machine to add embellishment and learn how to construct garments. This course would be perfect for students who would like to work in fashion, design, interiors, and costume design.

If you enjoy textiles projects and love fabric decoration and fashion, this is the course for you!

What will I gain studying this subject?

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

- develop, refine, and record your ideas.
- improve your creative skills through the experimental use of materials, techniques, processes, and technologies.
- present a personal response that realises your intentions.
- successfully use colour, line, form, shape, tone and texture.

Student Progression

A GCSE in Textiles Design leads on to A-Level Fashion and Textiles which you can study at Furze Platt Sixth Form. University places could include:

Loughborough, Kingston, University of Arts London

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

The clue is in the name - 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: J809

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

You will study the process of reproduction, 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 complete a child study that will investigate their milestones of 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?

In Year 10, you will study all the theories relating to the successful and healthy development of a child. In Year 11, you will apply these theories to the coursework set assignments. 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 childcare sector – from the production and sale 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 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 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD ENGINEERING

If you enjoy learning practical skills, problem solving, and you have good attention to detail then Engineering could be the perfect course for you. This course provides you with the key skills to progress in any engineering sector, and numerous transferable skills required to work in any sector. Learning is focused on practical projects with theory broken down into manageable chunks supporting practical.

EXAM BOARD: WJEC

COURSE NUMBER: 5799QA

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

In Year 10: You will complete several practical projects, building a range of skills including using metalwork hand tools and machines to make aluminium battery powered cars, mild steel bottle openers, acrylic and aluminium spinning tops and soldered copper lamps as well as technical drawing by hand and using CAD.

In Year 11: You will complete 2 controlled assessments (including practical elements), worth a total of 60% of your final grade, and revise for your final written exam worth 40% of your grade.

How will I be assessed?

2 controlled assessments and a final exam.

- Assessment 1: 40% of your final grade.
- Assessment 2: 20% of your final grade.
- Exam: 40% of your final grade.

What are the important deadlines?

In Year 10 your project deadlines will be set by your teacher. In Year 11 you will complete controlled assessment 1 by the end of November, assessment 2 by mid-March and the final exam in May.

Why should I study this subject?

Around 20% of the UK workforce are employed in careers within the engineering and technology sector, with many major business owners opting for engineering degrees. Everything you interact with has been 'engineered' from PlayStation controllers to aircraft to supercars. This subject is broken down into practical projects covering core engineering skills, introducing you to the subject in an engaging, enjoyable way.

What will I gain studying this subject?

You will learn key skills used throughout the engineering industry (and numerous others), including using metalwork hand tools and machines, project planning (materials lists, task lists, time planning, budgeting), reading engineering drawings, technical drawing – by hand and using CAD, and working to a deadline. Most of all you will have fun doing it! If you are a practical person who prefers a course which isn't 100% exam-based, Engineering could be for you.

Student Progression

Engineering skills are hugely transferable, whether you want to take Engineering at college, then university or go straight into an apprenticeship or work. Careers and courses include Mechanical, Automotive, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, Project Management, Production and Manufacture, Product Design and Graphic Design.



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 assessments being coursework based, this course gives students the opportunity to gain a qualification using week by week deadlines without having the pressure of exams.

What will I gain 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 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD HOSPITALITY & CATERING

This is a vocational course suitable for those who enjoy learning practical skills in 'real work' scenarios. You will learn about the job roles in this sector, acquire food preparation skills and how to apply these to real business situations. You will have a keen interest in food and food production, and be someone who likes to 'learn by doing.'



EXAM BOARD: WJEC Vocational

COURSE NUMBER: 5409

Vocational Subject



What will I do?

In Year 10: You will learn about the hospitality and catering industry, how it organises itself to meet customer needs, health and safety, and food safety. You will develop and apply understanding of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. You will learn and practise the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes.

In Year 11: You will complete your controlled assessment, a brief from the exam board, WJEC, which will involve research and designing a menu in response. You will produce a written report detailing your response, plan and practice this menu and then cook the dishes for your practical exam.

You will also revise and sit a written paper.

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1: 'The Hospitality and Catering Industry'
- Written Exam: 40% of your final grade.
- Component 2: 'Hospitality and Catering in Action'
- Controlled assessment: 60% of your final grade.

What are the important deadlines?

In Year 10 you will practise projects, with deadlines being set by your teacher. In Year 11 you will complete your controlled assessment by the end of March and your final written exam is in June.

Why should I study this subject?

Career options in the hospitality and catering industry are vast and varied. It is the third largest employer in the UK, with many diverse roles within hotels, restaurants, leisure parks, visitor attractions, entertainment, environmental health, food service operators, food retail and catering. It is an innovative sector that has to keep up with the changing demands of customers, a sector whose greatest challenge is the shortage of skilled staff at all levels.

What will I gain studying this subject?

You will learn the key skills of food preparation, cooking and presentation, the importance of nutrition and food safety. In addition, you will also learn the highly transferable skills of planning, research, time management and problem solving.

Student Progression

A qualification in Hospitality and Catering would benefit students who want to continue to study Catering Level 3+, BTEC courses, and/or apprenticeships.

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

LEVEL 1 SUBJECTS

Course Information

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 Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, incorporating volunteering, physical challenges, skills and an expedition.



EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

COURSE NUMBER: 500/6591/9 (plumbing) or 500/6600/6 (electrics)

Level 1 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 are delivered on site and students work towards an accredited BTEC qualification. The courses are very practical and include joinery, carpentry, 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 work in - and have a great deal of experience in - the field.

What will I gain 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

LEVEL 1 VOCATIONAL AWARD HAIR & BEAUTY

This is a vocational award that you can show an expression of interest in at this stage of options.

This is a brand new course that will be confirmed later in the year and will develop broad skills and develop understanding of hairdressing and the beauty therapy sector.



EXAM BOARD: VTCT skills

COURSE NUMBER: 603/7128/6

Level 1 Subject



What will I do?

This qualification is designed to use the context of hairdressing and beauty therapy as a vehicle to support learners to develop broad and comprehensive understanding of the sector and related industries but, more importantly, of core academic knowledge and study skills that will support progression into post-16 and higher education.

How will I be assessed?

This qualification uses a grading model of Not Yet Achieved, Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction and Level 2 Distinction* (NYA, L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*) which will improve student motivation and provide challenge, distinguish between levels of learner achievement and ensure sufficient rigour in assessments.

What are the important deadlines?

The overall qualification grade is calculated using a rigorous synoptic assessment method. This consists of an externally set and marked assessment by examination (external written exam) and an externally set, internally marked non-exam assessment (synoptic assignment). This will help to ensure the qualification offers a comparable level of challenge to academic qualifications.

Why should I study this subject?

The VTCT Level 1/2 Technical Award in the Study of Hair and Beauty is aimed at learners aged 14-16 who have an interest in developing a broad understanding of the hairdressing and beauty therapy sector and related industries, including retail, leisure, manufacturing and other personal care services.

What will I gain 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

Specifically the qualification will prepare learners to progress onto qualifications related to the hair and beauty sector, such as the T Level in Hair, Beauty and Aesthetics; however, learners may also progress onto broader areas of study. It is a vocational qualification equivalent to GCSE grades 9-1.

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