



Archbishop Temple
Church of England High School

Options Booklet 2026-28



Faith

Nurture

Service

"You are the light of the world"
Matthew 5:14-16

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Year 9 pupil,

Making your option choices will be the first time you have been given any real say in what you study. This can be quite exciting, but it can also be a little daunting. This booklet is designed to help you make an informed decision about the best options for your study in the next two years. It includes details of the compulsory subjects which you will be taking, as well as all the subjects where you have a choice.

There will be core subjects that you will have to continue studying, but you will also be asked to choose **three** option subjects, which should be subjects you enjoy and find interesting. Within those option subjects you will have one guided choice and five free choices. From these choices you will be specified three option subjects.

At Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, we think it's very important to support you making these decisions, so you will be invited to an Options & Careers Evening on Thursday 5th February with your parent/carer where teachers from all subject areas will be available to talk through the GCSE courses they teach.

You will hear these many times in the next few weeks, but please bear in mind: -
Good reasons for choosing a subject are:

- I enjoy this subject
- I'm good at this subject and therefore likely to do well
- The career I'm interested in values this subject

Bad reasons are:

- It's the same subject my friend is doing
- I like the teacher I've got this year
- A member of my family says I ought to (even though I don't like the subject)

As with any important decision in life the better informed you are, the better the final decision will be, so please take the time to read this information, and don't hesitate to talk things through with your parent/carer, teachers by email and other pupils in Years 10 and 11. However, at the end of the day, the decision is yours, and yours alone.

I wish you every success in this important step into your future.



Ivan Catlow
Headteacher

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Year 10 & 11 – Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Year 10 and 11 pupils follow a common core curriculum of Religious Studies, English Language/Literature, Mathematics, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, Physical Education, and Science.

The optional subjects available for Year 10 and Year 11 are outlined in the subject descriptions of this booklet. You will choose your preferred optional subject by ranking your top six choices in **order of preference** from the full list of subjects. We will make every effort to provide a curriculum that aligns with your individual preferences, but please note that it may not be possible to accommodate the top three choices for every Year 9 pupil. Your preferences should reflect your interests, strengths, the subjects you've enjoyed in Key Stage 3, and your future aspirations. When deciding on your preferences, be sure to consider the guidance you will receive during the options process.

Options Advice - Ranking your Preferences

1. Do your research on each potential GCSE subject choice – have a look on the exam board's website
2. Choose GCSEs that you enjoy and suit you
3. Have a look on college entry requirements
4. Carry out research into apprenticeships and requirements of application
5. Think about your possible career path
6. Do have a look on University websites to look at entry requirements – they often link back to your GCSEs
7. Think about your academic strengths and weaknesses
8. Don't choose a GCSE subject for a teacher
9. Don't choose a subject because your friend is making that choice
10. Ask for advice from your subject teachers, form tutor and head of year

Guidance - Preferences form is on Synergy

After the Option and Careers evening on 5th February 2026, you will receive a link on Synergy that will take you to the preferences form. Please complete the form and submit it before **Friday 13th March 2026**. Ensure that you add **SIX** choices **in order of preference** (starting with your first choice).

Your GCSE Curriculum will be made up of the following **compulsory subjects**:-

- Religious Education
- English Language/Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core PE

In addition, you will have **THREE** additional option Subjects. Please place **SIX** choices in order of preference.

Option Subjects

You choose **AT LEAST ONE** (you can choose more) subject from list A*.

- Computer Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- Triple Science

You choose the remaining subjects from list B*. Please only choose one Technology subject.

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Citizenship
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Music
- PE – GCSE
- Statistics
- Sport Studies - Vocational (L2)
- Technology – GCSE
Technology Resistant Materials
Technology Graphic Products
Technology Fashion & Textile Design

This form should be completed on Synergy by 2.50pm on Friday 13th March 2026

Please indicate on the form if you participate in any extra-curricular activities or study any subjects / languages out of school.

*The school reserves the right to withdraw an option subject if an insufficient number of pupils opt for it. Reserves may need to be taken, please ensure that you state 6 choices in rank order on the form.

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

When your child commences the study of GCSE RE, they will be embarking upon a GCSE course which has been chosen to reflect our status as a Church school that welcomes pupils of other faiths. The course will examine core beliefs and practices in Christianity and Islam as well as social issues from the perspective of religious belief and practice. For example, when considering the issue of crime and punishment, pupils will consider what responses are made by society as well as religious responses. Considerations such as the difference between sin and crime and when a crime is not a sin, or a sin is not a crime are also investigated. This approach, using teachings from Christianity and Islam, ensures that GCSE RE is exciting, informative and engages young people's minds.

Studying RE has helped me to further understand my own faith and the faith of others. It has helped me to be tolerant and accepting. The skills I have learned have helped me far beyond the classroom, too.
Year 11 pupil

As a Christian myself, RE has enabled me to understand and develop my own beliefs and values. It has also helped me to understand the beliefs of others-which has made me a better friend to those around me. The skill of evaluation, which is key in RE, has helped me in other areas of the curriculum, too.
Year 11 pupil

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

The course provides pupils with an excellent opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of key religious issues that will impact upon their adult lives. It is a good foundation for the post 16 study of religious studies, philosophy and/or sociology and also lays a good foundation for those wishing to pursue careers that involve working with others.

RE gives me a more considered world view, which helps me to relate to others. Beliefs that are different to my own are now better understood by myself and I find this has helped my peers understand me too. My aspiration is to work in the field of forensic psychology and the skills I have developed in RE will help me on this pathway, in particular the studying of moral and ethical issues.
Year 11 pupil

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through two written examinations each worth 50% of the overall assessment.



For more information contact: **Miss R Hall**

GCSE **English Language** – Eduqas exam board

“English Language is used worldwide to communicate effectively. It plays a vital role in developing your skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, which are essential in real life situations.”

Year 11 Pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

All pupils study aspects of English Language and Literature during Years 10 and 11. Pupils will be entered for two qualifications: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature with Eduqas.

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

English Language encourages learners to demonstrate the skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing necessary to communicate with others confidently, precisely and appropriately, express themselves creatively and imaginatively, and use language to participate effectively in society and employment.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is fully linear with 100% examination assessment at the end of Year 11.

Pupils will complete two examinations:

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing (1 hour and 45 minutes)
40% of qualification

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional / Persuasive Writing (2 hours) 60% of qualification



For more information contact: **Miss J O'Malley**

GCSE **English Literature** – Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

English Literature involves thoughtful study and analysis of novels and plays. Pupils will also study one Shakespeare play and a range of poetry from the literary canon.

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

The study of English Literature provides not only a rewarding challenge and opportunity to read for pleasure, but also the foundation of a critical and cultural awareness that will remain with pupils for life. It is our goal to instil the critical ability to recognise and thoughtfully comment on the literary uses of language, which in turn allows pupils to fully explore the human and philosophical dimensions of great literary works.

The true importance of this course is the fact that it encompasses many disciplines – history, psychology, sociology, linguistics and politics, to name a few – and seeks to cultivate general skills that will enhance pupils' ability to write, communicate, research, and ultimately, think.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is fully linear with 100% examination assessment at the end of Year 11.

Pupils will complete two examinations:

Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry
(2 hours) 40% of qualification

Component 2: Post-1914 Prose or Drama,
19th Century Prose, and Unseen Poetry
(2 hours and 30 minutes) 60% of qualification

For more information contact: **Miss J O'Malley**

"English Literature really helps to develop both your analytical skills and emotional intelligence. There is a constant presence of 'big questions' that look deep into how we, as people, think and behave. During your GCSE course you will have the opportunity to respond to these 'big questions' in a personal and perceptive way, whilst also demonstrating your appreciation of classic literary texts. No other subject gives you that freedom and opportunity."

Year 10 pupil



“GCSE Maths is more than numbers—it’s the foundation for problem-solving, critical thinking, and unlocking a world of opportunities. Master it, and you master the language of logic and reason.”
Year 11 pupil

“I like maths because it’s like solving puzzles—every problem has a solution if you work it out, and it feels amazing when it finally clicks.”
Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

All pupils study mathematics in Years 10 and 11. They follow a two-year course, which leads to the GCSE award. The course is delivered in a linear fashion and is split into two tiers; Foundation and Higher, with the majority of pupils here studying at the higher level.

All pupils study four areas of mathematics; Number, Algebra, Shape Space and Measure, and Data Handling. This allows pupils to see how concepts are applied and develop a deepening of their understanding of the role of mathematics in day-to-day living.

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics encourages learners to develop problem-solving skills. It provides a suitable basis for progression to further study or go directly into employment, as the course allows pupils to see the relevance of the subject within the wider world. In an increasingly technological world, mathematics underpins a wide range of careers. Pupils develop analytical and decision-making skills, which are skills valued in the world of business and finance.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The examination at the end of Year 11 consists of a non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. Pupils enter either Higher tier (grades 9-5) or Foundation tier (grades 5-1). Pupils are expected to apply mathematics rather than simply demonstrate a mechanical process. It is vitally important that pupils are aware that they will need to recall and use skills that they have been taught lower down the school. We expect pupils to have already secured basic knowledge and thus apply this to a host of new concepts / topics. There is no controlled assessment, however, there is regular assessment to ensure pupils are on track and progressing towards their target.

For more information contact: **Mr S O’Leary**

"The reason why I picked triple science is because I was so mesmerised by scientists when I was younger; I want to do that myself"

Year 10 pupil

"I wanted to deepen my understanding of science and gain better GCSEs for jobs in the future"

Year 10 pupil

"I like taking triple science as it broadens my in-detail understanding and it also provides strong career pathways for my future."

Year 10 pupil

"Triple science is the perfect mixture of fun and difficulty"

Year 10 pupil

"If you want to change the world, choose triple science."

Year 10 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

GCSE Combined Science (Double Award) is taken by all pupils who don't take the Triple option. It is taught separately as Biology, Chemistry and Physics, but with less content than Triple Award, so receives two GCSE qualifications in Science. This is the course the majority of pupils in the UK follow.

Triple Science, also known as Separate Science is an option subject for pupils who really enjoy Science or want to take it further at A-level. This course is taught separately as Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This means pupils gain three separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

WHY STUDY SCIENCE?

The Science Department is committed to preparing pupils for a rapidly changing world. We seek to enhance scientific thinking such as hypothesising, observing and evaluation, as well as delivering an essential body of core knowledge. Pupils will find the practical work engaging where they will develop many 'hands on' skills along with the more obvious qualities of teamwork and communication.

Scientists are in huge demand in the real world, as we need people who have an understanding of what goes on around them: Doctors, Vets, Engineers and Astronomers to name a few.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Whether pupils are studying Separate Science or Double Award Science they will undertake 2 examinations in each of the Science disciplines i.e. Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Pupils are also expected to complete a defined list of required practical activities within each discipline and this will then be assessed through the final examination. All examinations will be taken in the summer of Year 11.



For more information contact: **Mr R McGee**

GCSE **Computer Science** – Edexcel exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

GCSE Computer Science builds on everything you learned at KS3 and takes you deeper into the fast-moving world of technology.

Examples of some of the areas to be studied include;

- Principles of Computer Science - uncover how hackers break into systems and how we defend against them, discover what really goes on inside a computer, and investigate how technology is reshaping the world around us.
- Application of Computational Thinking – develop the real skills of a programmer: designing solutions, reading and writing code, debugging programs and using these abilities to crack real-world problems.

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Computer Science is at the heart of every modern industry, and this GCSE reflects that fast-paced world. The course includes innovative, future-focused onscreen assessments that help you build the computational skills needed for the careers of tomorrow.

With a strong emphasis on hands on programming and a practical exam, this qualification gives you the knowledge, creativity and technical confidence to thrive in an increasingly digital, technology-driven future.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are two components to GCSE Computer Science, each worth 50%.

1. Paper 1: Computer Systems – written examination
1 hour 30 minutes
2. Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking –
Onscreen examination 2 hours

“Computer Science allows me to keep up to date with the advancing technological world and how it works. It allows me to learn more about the things I use in every day life and has many transferable skills that will be useful to me in my future no matter what career paths I choose to do in my life.”

Year 11 pupil

“Computer Science allows me to explore more about the technological world and fill gaps in my knowledge and problem solving skills. It also helps open doors for many new and interesting opportunities.”

Year 11 pupil



For more information contact: **Mrs H McLean**

"I love studying French at GCSE because I love learning about how another language works and knowing French will give me the freedom to travel and work abroad in the future."
Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Pupils opting for French will have the opportunity to build upon the language skills they have already learnt in KS3. The core vocabulary studied in GCSE French is made up of the high frequency vocabulary studied in KS3.

In GCSE pupils study the language around six themes: My personal world; Lifestyle and wellbeing; My neighbourhood; Media and technology; Studying and my future and Travel and tourism.

The work pupils do in French also compliments other subjects on the curriculum such as English Language, Geography, History and Science.

WHY STUDY FRENCH?

The interest in taking up a language later on in life has also increased dramatically over recent years with many people now moving to France to live and work. Younger people have fewer barriers to learning a language in comparison, which makes learning French relatively easier at an earlier stage, especially as pupils will continue to build on the knowledge acquired at KS3.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The GCSE course will be assessed by four formal exams at the end of Year 11 in; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each of these will be worth 25% of the overall GCSE grade. We usually prepare for these assessments completing exam style questions at the end of each unit. Part of the listening and reading exams will be in English and the other part will be entirely in French. Pupils will also be expected to be competent in translation into both languages.



For more information contact: **Mrs L Jimenez**

GCSE **Spanish** – Edexcel exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

In GCSE Spanish, pupils continue to build upon the language skills learned in KS3 whilst covering the following themes: My Personal World; Lifestyle and Wellbeing; My Neighbourhood; Media and Technology; Studying and My Future and Travel and Tourism. At KS4, pupils enjoy dynamic and engaging lessons in which they will hone their communication skills and decode key information.

All pupils taking Spanish GCSE will be offered an opportunity to take part in an educational visit to Sevilla and Córdoba.

"I really enjoy Spanish as it is so different to my other options. The lessons are engaging and interactive and you learn something new each time"
Year 11 pupil

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

The Spanish GCSE is valued by employers, colleges and universities as an important academic qualification and a highly sought after life skill. Studying Spanish will equip you with excellent analytical and problem-solving skills, as well as developing confidence and presentation skills.

With 499 million native speakers, Spanish ranks as the world's second language in terms of how many people speak it as their first language. The study of the language will open the doors of the world to you.

Pupils studying Spanish GCSE have achieved excellent results over the last few years which we believe is due to the increased enjoyment and involvement in MFL lessons as well as high quality teaching, especially at KS4.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The GCSE course will be assessed by four formal exams at the end of Year 11 in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each of these will be worth 25% of the overall GCSE grade.

For more information contact: **Mrs L Jimenez**



GCSE **Geography** – AQA exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The course covers a huge breadth of inspiring topics and skills that are useful and relevant to the real world and the workplace. Content ranges from tectonics to global biomes, UK coastal and river landscapes to economic growth and the sustainable design of mega-cities, plus a field visit to Iceland as an amazing opportunity to experience the raw power of the planet. Compulsory fieldwork takes place in Liverpool city centre and Ainsdale sand dunes.

The skills element covers fieldwork and an issues evaluation decision making exercise, that allows pupils to be creative and implement problem solving skills in a real-life situation.

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is the key to understanding our place in the world. It is a diverse and fascinating subject that is relevant to our everyday lives. It inspires us to make a difference in the world and to look for creative solutions in the face of change. In understanding human interactions with the planet at a variety of levels, geographers are open-minded team-players that can make balanced and informed decisions; key for any future career!

Geography is practical, yet an academic qualification that allows you to learn new skills. Emphasis on applied understanding of theory means that your opinions and judgements are key to being awarded the highest grade. It is a well-respected qualification for colleges and universities, and employers in engineering, law, town planning, emergency services, international businesses, the Civil Service and the Armed Forces.

Topics are current and ever changing; case studies give you a clear understanding of the challenges affecting us and most importantly how we respond to these changes as a global community.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

3 external examinations:

- Paper 1: Physical Geography (Natural Hazards, Living World, Physical Landscapes of the UK);
- Paper 2: Human Geography (Urban issues, Economic World, Resource Management);
- Paper 3: Fieldwork Skills (Geographical Applications and Issues Evaluation).

For more information contact: **Mrs S Thompson**

"I really enjoy Geography because I get to learn about the world around me."

Year 11 pupil

"I chose geography because it inspires me to make a difference."

Year 11 pupil



Field visit to Iceland

'I love the fieldtrips and getting to learn outside the classroom.'

Year 11 pupil

"History is one of my favourite subjects because I love learning about World War II, and you can link it to the current affairs that are happening all around the world as history tends to repeat itself. I also like hearing everyone else's opinions in history and helps you to widen your perspective on the world."

Year 11 pupil

"History is my favourite subject! I especially love Queen Elizabeth!"

Year 10 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The curriculum builds on the skills and knowledge of Key Stage 3 and we engage pupils in active lessons. Pupils enjoy collaborative learning as well as developing independence in their studies. At Key Stage 4, the History Department offers a GCSE course which has two main sections: understanding the modern world and shaping the nation, within this we will cover topics ranging from the Magna Carta to Nazi Germany. All pupils taking History will be offered an opportunity to take part in a variety of field trips, including a three-day visit to Krakow and Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History is about the most interesting thing in the world; real people. Studying History can inform the present and prepare you for the future, and if you want to understand the events and trends of today, you have to research yesterday. History is a highly respected academic subject which has a record of very high achievement at Archbishop Temple School. Apart from being interesting, history is very useful as employers value the skills you learn.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Two exams at the end of Year 11 account for 100% of the final mark.

Paper 1 covers Germany 1890-1945 and Conflict and Tension 1918-1939 (50%).

Paper 2 covers a thematic study of how power has changed over time in Britain through the study of Power and the People 1215 to modern day and Elizabethan England (50%).



For more information contact: **Mrs C Marsden**

GCSE Art and Design – AQA exam board

"Art allows me to be creative and my own artist. It is the best way to be expressive both with colour and texture. Art puts things into perspective. Lessons are fun and enjoyable. Truly a good subject."
Year 11 pupil

"Art enables you to explore a variety of styles and artists and to create a portfolio that can be shown to future employers. For me it has opened many doors and enabled me to push many boundaries."
Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

We start Year 10 with a short topic focusing on what it means to record. We record in different ways and using different media. We then move on to your first sustained topic. Your sustained topic explores a theme (currently 'Food') and we work towards creating a personal response by developing and refining our own initial ideas.

The exam board determines the starting point of your second sustained topic via the non-examination assessment, which is issued in January of Year 11 running through to Easter. You will select one of the starting points and then create a body of work inspired by this in the process of working towards and developing a final personal response artwork(s). This body of work is 40% of your overall GCSE grade.

Year 10 is teacher-led allowing you to master practical skills and theoretical knowledge. Year 11 is student-led. You decide on the direction your artwork takes.

WHY STUDY ART AND DESIGN?

GCSE Art and Design provides an immersive environment for students to express themselves creatively and harness their interest in fine art. Students are taught a comprehensive artistic curriculum to equip them with a thorough knowledge and skills of using different media, materials, techniques and processes.

The Art and Design course aims to extend and develop students' artistic and creative abilities in a wide range of media including acrylic and watercolour paint, print making and drawing; students will research, explore and develop work based on different starting points; develop skills of analysis; research different artist's work linked to your own projects; encourage expression and development of ideas in the production of final pieces.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Portfolio

60% of GCSE

A portfolio of work that includes a sustained project evidencing an investigative journey from initial engagement of a theme to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further supporting work.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

40% of GCSE

A sustained project in which students respond to a starting point set by the exam board.

For more information contact: **Ms H Murphy**

"Studying Business is great because you get the opportunity to learn things that are relevant to the society that we live in. I often learn about something in class and then go home and see something related to it on the news. Everything I learn in business studies is relevant for the world of work."
Year 11 Pupil

"I didn't know if Business Studies was the right choice for me however I have learnt a lot! I have really enjoyed the guest speakers because it is a real business, bringing to life everything we learn. I'm so glad I chose it now!"
Year 10 Pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

This course will enable you to explore real business issues and how businesses work. You will consider the practical application of business concepts and theories in the most relevant way linked to the context of events in the business and economic world.

This course includes studying units of work in the following areas.

1. Business in the Real World
2. Influences on business
3. Operations
4. Human Resources
5. Marketing
6. Business Finance

WHY STUDY BUSINESS STUDIES?

Opting for GCSE Business can help you develop essential skills like critical thinking, problem solving, and understanding how businesses operate, which can be valuable in many businesses and industries.

With a business qualification you could go on to study 'A' level business, vocational business courses or a business apprenticeship. With a business qualification you can pursue a variety of career paths in areas such as marketing, finance, Human Resources, operations and sales. You could also become an entrepreneur, work in consulting, business analysis and project management.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are two written examinations of 1 hour and 45 minutes each.

Paper 1 – Influences of operations and Human Resources on business activity.

Paper 2 – Influence of marketing and finance on business activity.



For more information contact: **Mrs G Thompson**

"Studying Citizenship is fun as we get to debate and discuss issues that are currently happening in the world. I now have a better understanding of politics and how I can be politically active." **Year 10 Pupil**

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

This course will help you take your first steps towards many different careers. You will learn about;

- Politics and Participation: What is the role of government and parliament?
- Rights and responsibilities: What are my rights and responsibilities in the UK?
- Life in Modern Britain: the role of the media and the British identity.
- Citizenship in action: How can we make a difference in society?

Who is this course for?

This subject is for the students who enjoy debate and discussions. Students will need to not only argue their own opinions but be prepared to consider other points of view.

WHY STUDY CITIZENSHIP?

Citizenship education provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to become active, informed members of society who can make a positive impact. It helps them understand societal structures, their role within them, and how they can influence change. The course prepares young people to handle situations of conflict and controversy with tolerance, rationality, and an understanding of the consequences of their own actions and those of others.

Students learn to critically evaluate arguments, recognize bias, and weigh evidence while exploring alternative viewpoints and interpretations. This approach fosters thoughtful decision-making and encourages them to give and expect well-reasoned explanations for their ideas and actions.

The course focuses on current issues and debates that highlight challenges faced by modern society. It covers key aspects of British society, such as justice, democracy, rights, identity, and diversity, while examining how these concepts have evolved over time. Students gain a deeper appreciation of how society functions and the values underpinning it.

Additionally, the course emphasises practical skills development. Students engage in activities that enhance their debating and campaigning abilities while working with external organizations to apply their learning in real-world contexts. This dynamic and varied program equips students to address societal challenges confidently and become responsible, empowered citizens.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Students who study citizenship will be assessed through two exams at the end of year 11. Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

Question types: multiple choice, short answer, source-based questions, extended writing answers.

For more information contact: **Miss S Porter**

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Drama offers an exciting and dynamic opportunity to work collaboratively, generate innovative ideas, and bring them to life. You'll refine your practical skills while showcasing creativity and resilience. Through a range of tasks, you'll enhance your written skills—both analytical and creative—and build your ability to self-reflect. Studying Drama encourages higher-order thinking, enabling you to explore ideas that go beyond language and delve into human expression on a deeper level.

One of the highlights of the course is the opportunity to watch and review live theatre. These experiences will inspire you, broaden your understanding of the performing arts, and deepen your appreciation for the craft. Pupils will be asked to offer a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of such visits—transport, theatre tickets, and workshop fees—but we aim to ensure these experiences are accessible to everyone, with support available where needed.

WHY STUDY DRAMA?

The Drama GCSE is a highly respected qualification, recognised by employers, colleges, and universities for its academic rigor and the invaluable transferable skills it develops. These include analytical thinking, problem-solving, organisation, communication, and time management—skills that are essential in countless career paths.

This course is your chance to combine literary theory with creative, practical learning. It offers a unique opportunity to explore theatre in all its forms, from script to stage, while developing confidence and resilience. Whether you're interested in performing, directing, or analysing plays and productions, Drama allows you to unleash your imagination and turn ideas into reality.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

60% of your final GCSE grade is assessed throughout the course, with pupils participating in practical performances throughout Year 11 and creating reflective and analytical written work based on these performances.

The final 40% is then assessed through the written examination consisting of two components:

- Section A: Set Text - A series of directing, acting and design questions based on the set text that you will have studied.
- Section B: Live Theatre Review – analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

For more information contact: **Mrs A Downing**

"Drama GCSE is an amazing opportunity to express yourself and develop confidence. I've really enjoyed both the practical and theoretical aspects of the course so far: reading, analysing, performing and going to watch fantastic plays.

It has been really nice to share my passion and love for theatre with others that feel the same way! I have also really appreciated the support and guidance given to make me feel more confident in what is being asked."
Year 10 pupil

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

AQA exam board

"I enjoy Food as it enables me to unleash my creative side when preparing and cooking different dishes. This subject provides a great balance between theory and coursework. It's an interesting subject which helps you develop skills and knowledge that prepares you for life, as you don't just learn how to prepare and cook simple dishes, but also the more complex and high skilled ones."

Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills, sensory evaluation, nutritional values of food and food science.

In Year 10 you will learn about how you can apply nutrition through practical work; preparing and cooking food, recipe testing and evaluation, heat transfer, functional and chemical properties of food, food spoilage and safety, sustainability, food processing and production. In Year 11 you will undertake a 10-hour food science project which is worth 15% of the GCSE and a 20-hour practical study which is worth 35% of the GCSE.

WHY STUDY FOOD TECHNOLOGY?

This is an excellent GCSE if you love food and cooking. You will be able to build on existing skills learnt in KS3. You will also learn new complex skills, make new dishes, try different ingredients and evaluate how to improve. You will also have to cook against the clock as well as learn about the science of ingredients and the nutritional content of foods.

You will develop your practical skills with recipes that will stretch and challenge you as well as help you gain valuable planning and organisational skills. This course can lead to progression towards future courses, both academic and vocational.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment consists of two components, a single tier exam worth 50% of the final grade (1.45 hours) and a two-part controlled assessment worth 50% of the final grade.



For more information contact: **Ms E Bridge**

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The Eduqas specification allows us to study the three disciplines of performance, composition and appraising through four interlinked Areas of Study. The Areas of Study are: Musical Forms and Devices; Music for Ensemble; Film Music; and, Popular Music.

In Year 10, we will learn compositional techniques in order to complete our free composition and start to prepare for our performance assessments. We will also begin to explore the four Areas of Study and two set works we need to learn about for the appraising exam.

In Year 11, we will complete our performance assessments and the second piece of composition coursework (to a brief set by Eduqas). We will further develop our mastery and understanding of the two set works and the language and listening skills needed for the appraisal exam.

I like doing GCSE music because it promotes creativity, critical thinking and discipline. I enjoy creating music and doing so boosts my self-esteem.

Year 10 pupil

GCSE music allowed me to unshackle my creative talents and discover new ideas from diverse cultures

Year 11 pupil

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

GCSE Music is a natural choice for those who want to have a career as a performer or composer, but did you know that the Creative Industries are one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK? Music is an essential part of much of the media we see each day, such as video games, marketing, advertising, television and film production. As the industry experiences rapid growth, we need skilled musicians to fill these roles.

Even if you don't want to work in the creative industries in the future, having GCSE Music on your application for college or university can help you to stand out. A GCSE Music qualification shows future prospective employers that you can come up with your own ideas and complete creative projects to deadlines, that you have the confidence to perform by yourself and with others and that you can learn and use technical vocabulary. If you enjoy music, it's a great option to study at GCSE!

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

60% is coursework-based assessment completed during Years 10 and 11. This 60% consists equally of Performing (4-6 minutes total, minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration) and Composing (two compositions, 3-6 minutes total duration, one is in response to a brief set by the exam board and the other is a free composition for which students set their own brief). The remaining 40% is assessed in a 1h15m written examination in June of Year 11. This consists of eight listening questions, two on each Area of Study (including one question on each of the set works).

For more information contact: **Mrs S Farnworth**

GCSE Physical Education – OCR exam board

*"I've always enjoyed participating in sport and PE. Taking GCSE PE has allowed me to further improve my knowledge and has made me explore my sports in greater detail."
Year 11 pupil*

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

In GCSE Physical Education (PE) you will study applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences and health, fitness and well-being. The theory content will be assessed in two written examinations which in total contribute to 60% of the overall GCSE grade.

WHY STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

This GCSE PE specification is designed to enable pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of sport as a whole. Sport is a huge business and the course gives a great foundation to follow a future path in higher & further education eventually leading to a career in sport. If students are participating to a high level outside of school it allows them to be rewarded for their dedication to sport. The course has been designed to lead into future careers such as physiotherapy, sports science, professional performer/coach or a fitness/diet instructor to name a few.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is 30% practical and 70% theory based. With the practical weighting of this subject you will need to be highly competent in 3 sports (a team sport, an individual sport, and another team/individual sport). You will need to play for school teams as a minimum in the sports you offer, and will be committed to attending clubs outside of school. During Years 10 & 11 you will complete several practical controlled assessments and will complete an analysis of performance, which will include various fitness testing. Collectively, the practical and analysing and evaluating performance contribute to 40% of your final mark. At the end of Year 11 you will sit two external written exams, totalling 2 hours, which are worth 60% of your final mark.



For more information contact: **Mr D Taberner**

GCSE **Statistics** – Edexcel exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Throughout the GCSE Statistics programme, students are encouraged to think about 'the bigger picture' of modern statistics logically and analytically. These fundamental statistical and lateral thinking skills are useful across all kinds of disciplines and careers. Students will cover topics in the following areas:

- Planning a strategy
- Data collection
- Tabulation and representation
- Data analysis
- Probability
- Data interpretation
- An understanding of statistics in everyday life
- The ability to carry out enquiries confidently and skilfully
- The ability to apply knowledge successfully in different contexts
- Data presentation and evidence-gathering skills.

WHY STUDY STATISTICS?

Studying GCSE Statistics offers a wide range of benefits, equipping students with essential skills to understand and interpret data in an increasingly data-driven world. It provides a strong foundation in critical thinking, problem-solving, and logical reasoning, as students learn to analyze trends, draw conclusions, and make informed decisions based on evidence. These skills are valuable not only in further education but also in various careers, from business and economics to science and technology.

Additionally, the subject enhances numeracy and the ability to handle real-world data, such as understanding probabilities, averages, and distributions, which are practical skills applicable to everyday life. By studying statistics, students also develop a greater appreciation for how data shapes society, making them more informed citizens capable of evaluating information critically in contexts like media, politics, and healthcare.

GCSE Statistics could lead on to further study in Statistics at 'A' level or other related subjects such as Maths, Further Maths and the Social Sciences. It could lead to higher study in subjects such as: Computer Science, Biochemical Sciences, Natural Sciences, Anthropology, Geography, Engineering, Medical Science, Psychology, Sociology, Linguistics, Politics, Economics, Law, Accountancy and Management.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The entire GCSE grade will be assessed through examinations:

- Paper 1 (80 marks) – 50% (Foundation or Higher tier)
- Paper 2 (80 marks) – 50% (Foundation or Higher tier)

The questions on both papers will be a combination of multiple choice, short answers, and a Statistical Enquiry Cycle (SEC) question.

For more information contact: **Mr S O'Leary**

Cambridge Nationals **Sport Studies** – OCR exam board

"Taking Sport Studies has given me a lot of opportunities to develop leadership skills with younger students and improve my knowledge of sport."

Year 11 Pupil

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies will focus on three main areas, contemporary issues in sport, performance and leadership in sports and outdoor adventurous activities. These areas of study will be completed in the classroom for theory lessons and practically using the sport facilities.

WHY STUDY SPORT STUDIES?

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/Physical Education themes. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as barriers to participation, national governing bodies and hosting events and sports values. Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed by two centre assessed tasks and one written exam paper. All three assessments are given an overall grade from Pass L1 to Distinction*.

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies will focus on three main areas:

- R184 Contemporary issues in sport. Written exam at the end of the two years' worth 70 marks.
- R185 Performance and leadership in sports activities. Coursework based assignment worth 60 marks.
- R187 increasing awareness of outdoor adventurous activities. Coursework based assignment worth 40 marks.

The qualifications are recognised by Ofqual, DfE and by 16-19 providers as progression to 'A' Level, further education or on to an apprenticeship.

For more information contact: **Mr D Taberner**

GCSE Technology - Resistant Materials

Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Resistant Materials is a practical and creative course where you will design and manufacture real products using a range of modern and traditional techniques.

You will learn about contemporary technologies, materials and manufacturing processes, while also developing key workshop skills and confidence using tools and equipment. You will work primarily with natural and manufactured timbers to design and make high-quality outcomes.

A major focus of the course is the iterative design process — meaning you will explore ideas, test and improve them, and develop a final outcome that solves a real problem. You will design and make prototypes that meet the needs of users, considering function, aesthetics, sustainability and quality.

WHY STUDY GCSE TECHNOLOGY?

GCSE Resistant Materials is perfect for pupils who enjoy being hands-on, problem solving, designing, and creating products they can be proud of. Throughout the course, you will develop valuable skills that prepare you for the modern world, including design thinking and creativity, workshop confidence and practical making skills, safe use of tools, machinery and equipment, and the use of CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture). You will also learn how products are influenced by sustainability, culture, society and the environment.

This subject supports future pathways into a wide range of careers and further study such as engineering, product design, architecture, construction and trades, manufacturing, and CAD/CAM or other technical design careers. Employers and industries value Design & Technology because it develops independence, resilience, and real-world problem-solving skills.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Written examination: 50% of qualification (2 hours)

NEA Coursework: 50% of qualification (approximately 35 hours)

For more information contact: **Mr G Taylor**

“Resistant Materials gives me the freedom to be creative in the classroom through designing and making. It has allowed me to explore different ways of learning, from understanding the theory to practical production. It has also helped me to develop important life skills such as teamwork, problem solving, and learning about new and emerging technologies.”
Year 11 pupil



GCSE Technology - Graphic Products

Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Graphic Products is a creative course where you will learn how to communicate ideas visually and design products that look professional, exciting and purposeful. The emphasis in this subject is board (card) based materials, branding, and how graphics are used in packaging, promotional displays and product presentation, while also considering the environmental impact of materials and manufacturing choices. Pupils will build on their KS3 Product Design skills and learn how to apply them to a specific design brief, just like a real designer working for a client.

A key part of the course is the iterative design process, where you develop ideas, test them, refine them and improve them over time. You will use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, meeting the needs and wants of a target audience. You will work to create high-quality outcomes, with a strong focus on layout, typography, colour, logo design and visual identity, supported by CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) to produce accurate and high-quality final results.

WHY STUDY GCSE TECHNOLOGY?

GCSE Graphic Products prepares pupils to take part confidently in an increasingly technological and creative world. Pupils will learn how design is influenced by historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors, while developing strong creative thinking and practical skills through designing and making.

The course covers core technical principles and a wide range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment, with opportunities to explore specialist areas in more depth. Pupils who choose GCSE Technology can progress into careers and further study in visual communication and design, including architecture, graphic design, advertising, web design, packaging design, CAD/CAM, engineering and other technical careers.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Written examination: 50% of qualification (2 hours)
NEA Coursework: 50% of qualification (approximately 35 hours)

For more information contact: **Mr I Baybutt and Mr G Taylor**

"Graphics Products is an exciting and rewarding subject that lets you unleash your creative side. I've loved learning about branding, CAD, different materials, and using tools and equipment to design and make professional packaging products."
Year 11 pupil

GCSE **Fashion and Textiles** – Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The specification enables learners to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise, in order to:

- develop an appreciation of the importance of creativity and innovation to good design practice;
- actively engage in the processes of design and technology to develop as effective and independent learners;
- understand the key principles of designing and making;
- use their knowledge, skills and understanding to make design decisions in order to make a quality prototype;
- analyse existing products and produce practical solutions to meet needs, wants and opportunities, recognising their impact on quality of life;
- critically analyse links between the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge;
- understand the underlying technical principles within design and technology within FASHION AND TEXTILES, with emphasis on emerging technologies, materials and practices.

"I enjoy textiles because it allows me to be creative and develop knowledge about materials and making skills. It has also helped open pathways into the future where I can pursue my love of fashion and design."
Year 11 pupil

WHY STUDY TEXTILES?

Do you have an interest in fashion, follow the latest trends in magazines or have an interest in interior design? Would you like to know how the fashion industry works or how to make your own clothes or soft furnishings? Then this could be the course for you.

GCSE Textiles allows pupils to study core technical and designing & making principles through a wide range of creative design processes, textile materials, techniques and specialist equipment. Pupils will also have the opportunity to explore more advanced textile skills in greater depth, including construction methods, surface decoration and finishing techniques.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Written examination: 50% of qualification (2 hours)
NEA Coursework: 50% of qualification (approximately 35 hours)

For more information contact: **Miss C Barker**

