




HAREFIELD
Achievement through Active Learning

YEAR 9 OPTIONS BOOKLET



Choosing your Options for Key Stage 4

At Harefield School, Year 9 is an exciting milestone where students begin to shape their future by choosing the subjects that will inspire their academic and personal growth. Our broad and diverse range of options allows every student to pursue their passions and develop the skills needed for success in a rapidly evolving world.

We offer a wide selection of both academic and vocational subjects, providing students with opportunities to explore their creativity, critical thinking, and practical abilities. From **Art, Design & Technology**, to **Spanish, Geography, History**, and **PE**, our curriculum is designed to empower students with the knowledge and experiences that will help them thrive.

Whether you're passionate about the arts, eager to explore the sciences, or inspired by sport and physical education, there's something for everyone. Choosing your Year 9 options at Harefield School is about more than just selecting subjects; it's about starting a journey towards your aspirations, unlocking your full potential, and preparing for the bright future ahead.

There are subjects that are **Compulsory** for all students these are:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Science (double award - worth 2 GCSEs)
- Physical Education (Core)
- PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship & Economic Education)
- REP (Religion, Ethics & Philosophy)

Students will then be able to choose from the following options:

- History GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- Spanish GCSE
- Art & Design GCSE
- Business Studies GCSE
- Design & Technology (Resistant Materials)
- Design & Technology (Food and Nutrition)
- Drama GCSE
- Health and Social Care Level 2 BTEC
- Media Studies GCSE
- Physical Education GCSE



GCSE Option Timeline

Date	Event
Friday 17th January 2025	Year 9 Taster Day
Thursday 23rd January 2025	Year 9 Options Evening 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Monday 3rd February - Wednesday 12th February 2025	Individual meetings with students to finalise choices. (Parents are invited to attend)
April 2025	Letters sent to parents and carers confirming students' Key Stage 4 choices



Raising the Participation Age

All young people are now required to stay in education and training until they reach the age of 18.

Do I need to stay on at school?

No. There are a number of choices and these include:

- Full-time education such as school or college
- Work-based learning, such as an apprenticeship
- Part-time education or training if you are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.

It is important that you start thinking about what you want to do now so that you can make the right decisions for you. Your parents and teachers are here to provide guidance and speaking to Connexions can also be helpful.

Where can I find information about staying in education and training until I am 18?

An Apprenticeship is a real job with training so you can earn while you learn and pick up recognised qualifications as you go. If you live in England, are over 16 and not in full-time education, you can apply. Apprenticeships take between one and four years to complete and cover 1400 job roles in a wide range of industries, from things like engineering to financial advice, veterinary nursing to accountancy.

- Intermediate Apprenticeship: Equivalent to GCSE study
- Advanced Apprenticeship: Equivalent to A-level study
- Higher and Degree Apprenticeships: Equivalent to university study

You can find out more about apprenticeships at www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

UCAS Progress is a national online prospectus of courses for 16-19 year olds including those offered in Hillingdon and surrounding areas. www.ucasprogress.com .



New GCSE Grades 1 - 9

In all new GCSE courses (please see previous page) including English and Maths, students will be awarded new 9-1 grades. Higher and Foundation tiers remain only in Maths, Science and Modern Languages, meaning that there is a possibility of all students achieving the full range of grades in all other subjects. The table below summarises how these new grades equate to the current A*-G grades.

New Grading System (introduced in 2019)	Old Grading System
9	A*
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U



COURSE NAME: English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

English is the communication of thoughts and ideas in both written and spoken form. The examination is designed to see how well students can communicate by expressing themselves through their writing. The skills that are explicitly taught across every unit are: inference, analysis of language, structure and form, the relationship between texts, the context and technical accuracy.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SYLLABUS: English Language 8700 and English Literature 8702

ASSESSMENT:

- **English Language Paper One - Explorations in creative reading and writing**
- **English Language Paper Two- writers' viewpoint and perspectives**
- **English Literature Paper One- Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel, Macbeth and Jekyll and Hyde**
- **English Literature Paper Two- Modern texts and poetry - An Inspector Calls, Power and conflict**

Students would benefit from the following revision guides.

English Literature:

- CGP AQA Poetry Anthology - Power and Conflict
- CGP Macbeth text guide
- CGP Jekyll and Hyde text guide
- CGP An Inspector Calls text guide

English Language:

- CGP GCSE English Language AQA Complete Revision & Practice - Grade 9-1 Course
- AQA GCSE English Language: Targeting Grades 6-9: Revision Workbook Published by Oxford

POST 16 CHOICES:

English is a subject that opens doors to a wealth of lifelong skills such as written and spoken communication and working independently. It is a highly valued A-level to have and is universally respected by both university and employers.



COURSE NAME: Mathematics GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

Over the five years students are in school, working towards GCSE Mathematics, students will build up their reference bank of tools for problem solving. We will challenge students' curiosity by providing problems that stimulate independent thinking.

The GCSE course that we work towards for the **Higher tier** (grades 4 – 9) is **EDEXCEL (1MA1)**

The GCSE course that we work towards for the **Foundation tier** (grades 1 – 5) is **EDEXCEL (1MA1)**

We encourage mental agility by showing the students how to think and work out problems without the use of a calculator. However, there is a place for such an instrument and we teach the students how to use it effectively as part of the problem solving process. To this end, all of our students must purchase a calculator. It is essential that they learn how their own calculator works and are completely familiar with it when they sit their examination.

ASSESSMENT: 100% exam

- **Foundation tier** will cover grades 1-5.
- **Higher tier** will cover grades 4-9.

- Paper One: Non-Calculator (1 Hour 30 Minutes)
- Paper Two: Calculator (1 Hour 30 Minutes)
- Paper Three: Calculator (1 Hour 30 Minutes)

Sparx maths is the online platform used to help improve retrieval skills by having questions set on topics delivered in the previous few weeks. Sparx creates a profile of each student's ability level, working speed and activity on specific topics. One of the key components of Sparx Maths is personalised, achievable homework for every student.

POST 16 CHOICES:

Students can progress from this qualification to Level 3 qualifications in numerate subjects such as: Core Mathematics (a new qualification A Levels in Mathematics and / or Further Mathematics; Science; Geography; Psychology; and Economics.



COURSE NAME: Combined Science (9-1) GCSE - Trilogy

COURSE OUTLINE:

Combined Science gives the opportunity for all students to enjoy science and succeed in their studies. The course combines Biology, Chemistry and Physics to give two separate GCSE qualifications. Students carry out a list of required practicals, alongside their theory, which are designed to help bring science learning to life and develop students' independent thinking skills.

EXAM BOARD: AQA (9-1)

SYLLABUS: GCSE Combined Science (8464) - Trilogy

ASSESSMENT: 100% exam

- **Foundation tier** will cover grades 1-5.
- **Higher tier** will cover grades 4-9.

Six exams: 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics papers . The combined science course is worth two GCSEs.

Support with ensuring Tassomai homework completion - 120 minutes per week

Purchase the textbook to support the learning in the class (this will be recommended by the teacher at the start of the course).

Purchase revision guides which students can use to consolidate their learning (**Revision Guide: CGP AQA 9-1 GCSE Combined Science**).

POST 16 CHOICES:

Students can progress from this qualification to Level 3 qualifications in numerate subjects such as: Core Mathematics (a new qualification A Levels in Mathematics and / or Further Mathematics; Science; Geography; Psychology; and Economics.



COURSE NAME: History (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

History informs you about the past, allows you to consider why things happen and examines the consequences of actions upon the world we live in today. Take a step back in time and explore the world that once was; understand places, people and time in a way you would not have imagined. History allows you to develop critical thinking skills, the ability to debate and most importantly form opinions from what you see and hear; these are transferable skills which will help any student in later life.

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

SYLLABUS: History GCSE 1H10

- Crime and Punishment in Britain over a 1000-year period.
- A British depth study of Elizabethan England.
- A modern study of Nazi Germany 1918 – 45.
- A period study of the Cold War in the 20th Century.

ASSESSMENT: 100% exam

- Paper One - British Thematic Study with Historic Environment
- Paper Two - Period Study and British Depth Study
- Paper Three - Modern Depth Study

Why study this course?

Studying History GCSE offers a comprehensive understanding of the past, equipping students with essential analytical skills and critical thinking abilities. This qualification encourages learners to engage with diverse perspectives and evaluate historical events' significance. Furthermore, the curriculum covers a range of topics, from British history to global contexts, cultivating an appreciation for cultural heritage and societal development. Ultimately, this subject empowers students to become informed citizens, capable of contributing thoughtfully to contemporary debates.

POST 16 CHOICES:

Students may pursue further education in History, Politics, or Law, leading to careers in journalism, education, public history, or government. Equally, the skills acquired in historical analysis are transferable to fields such as business, marketing, and research, where problem-solving and effective communication are paramount.



COURSE NAME: Geography (9-1) GCSE

The Geography GCSE is split into three components, these address both U.K. and global issues. The main areas are:

- Living with the physical environment - the main physical Geography areas of focus are volcanoes, earthquakes, weather and climate, hurricanes, flooding, coastal erosion and climate change. Students are asked to consider why these hazards occur and how countries can prepare for them.
- Challenges in the human environment and resource management - students will consider migration, employment, growth and sustainability.
- The third area of study is concerning environmental issues. Deforestation, biodiversity and impacts of energy creation being the major focus.
- Field Work - students must undertake two pieces of fieldwork; one area of study will be a large town and the other a coastal settlement. Fieldwork will take approximately 3 to 4 days depending on location.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SYLLABUS: Geography 8035

ASSESSMENT: 100% exam

There are three exams. The first is connected to global studies, the second is based on the U.K. and the third is application of the information and skills acquired whilst undertaking fieldwork, considering man's impact on the environment.

- Paper One - Living with the physical environment
- Paper Two - Living with the human environment
- Paper Three - Geographical Investigations, People and the Environment.

Why study this course?

Studying Geography at GCSE level offers numerous benefits that extend beyond the classroom. It equips students with an understanding of the world's physical and human processes, fostering an appreciation for diverse cultures and environments. Geography enhances critical thinking and analytical skills through the exploration of complex issues such as climate change, urbanisation, and globalisation. Furthermore, it encourages a sense of responsibility towards sustainable living.

POST 16 CHOICES:

The skills acquired can lead to roles in urban planning, environmental consultancy, international relations, and education, among others. As industries increasingly require professionals adept at navigating complex global issues.



COURSE NAME: Spanish (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

The AQA Spanish course is designed to equip students with the linguistic skills and cultural awareness necessary for effective communication in Spanish-speaking environments. The curriculum is comprehensive, encompassing a range of topics such as identity and culture, local, national, international, and global areas of interest, as well as current and future study and employment.

Students engage with authentic materials, including literary texts and visual media, to enhance their understanding of contemporary Spanish-speaking societies. The course also emphasises the development of grammar and vocabulary, ensuring that learners can articulate their thoughts coherently and accurately. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills are all developed in an integrated manner, allowing students to achieve fluency and comprehension.

Exam Board: AQA

ASSESSMENT:

There are four exams all equally weighted.

- Listening Paper
- Reading Paper
- Writing Paper
- Speaking Examination

Why study this course?

Studying Spanish at GCSE level offers essential communication and language skills in today’s globalised world. Mastering another language not only enhances cognitive abilities but also provides a profound sense of achievement. Throughout this course, you will delve into the captivating cultures of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world.

POST 16 CHOICES:

Language learning is a great choice for everyone – but particularly those pupils who are interested in working or travelling abroad in the future, keen to engage with a multicultural or multinational job, and for pupils wishing to broaden their horizons and learn about the wider world.



COURSE NAME: Art and Design (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

The AQA Art and Design course is a dynamic and stimulating qualification that encourages students to explore their creativity and develop their artistic skills. This course is designed for those with a keen interest in the visual arts, offering a comprehensive understanding of a variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture, photography, and digital media.

The course outline comprises a series of practical assessments and theoretical studies, enabling pupils to engage with diverse artistic methods and historical contexts. Students will be required to produce a portfolio of work, showcasing their ability to generate ideas, develop concepts, and execute finished pieces. The programme is structured to allow for exploration of personal themes and influences, culminating in a final exhibition that reflects their individual journey throughout the course.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment consists of two main components:

- A Coursework Portfolio, which accounts for **60%** of the final grade
- An Externally Set Assignment, comprising **40%**.

The coursework allows for continuous evaluation of skills and creativity throughout the learning process, while the externally set assignment challenges students to demonstrate their capabilities under timed conditions.

Why study this course?

Studying Art and Design GCSE equips students with invaluable skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication. These competencies are not only crucial within the field of art but are also transferable to various career paths.

POST 16 CHOICES:

Post 16 choices include A-levels in Art, Design, or related fields, as well as vocational qualifications and training programmes that further cultivate creative talents and prepare students for future endeavours in the arts sector or other industries.



COURSE NAME: Business Studies (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

Business Studies allow students to become leading decision-makers in whichever career you choose. You will analyse the actions of modern-day businesses and be presented with problem-solving issues.

To study GCSE Business Studies, it is important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in business, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas both verbally and in written form. Maths is a key component of the business course, and it is important that you are prepared for this when choosing it as an option, calculators can be used in the assessments.

Topics to be covered will include Finance, Marketing, Business Ethics, Human resources and the Economy.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

ASSESSMENT:

The course is split into two components:

- **50%** Paper 1: Investigating a small Business
- **50%** Paper 2: Building a Business

Why study this course?

GCSE Business Studies is an essential course for students seeking to understand the dynamic world of commerce and enterprise. Studying this subject provides learners with a robust foundation in various business concepts, including finance, marketing, human resources, and operations management.

POST 16 CHOICES:

A-level Business Studies, BTEC Level 3 in Business and A-level Economics are well suited to those who want to pursue further study or career in Accountancy, Management Studies and Business Law/Marketing. It is also likely to appeal to those interested in becoming an Entrepreneur and starting their own business.



COURSE NAME: Design & Technology - Resistant Materials (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

On this course you will work with a number of different materials including wood, metal, plastics, and fabric in order to devise creative solutions for a brief. You will complete a number of small projects including a nail puzzle, recycling based projects, teamwork task, and much more. You will be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of graphic and modelling materials. You will be given the opportunity to make product(s) using graphic media and new technologies to prepare for the world of work. Throughout your projects, you will complete folder work which will build up a portfolio of your skills and will be followed by an extended project in which you will design and make a product. In your final project you will specialise in a particular area. Theory is taught through both traditional classroom activities and practical-based learning which are teacher and student led. Homework is set weekly (which can be extra time in the workshop). Students have access to regular after school sessions if they wish to do extra work or catch up.

Exam Board: AQA

ASSESSMENT:

The practical section of the course makes up 50% of the final grade and is one extended project. The written exam is made up of a section covering all aspects of technology core theory and in the second section students choose one question on their chosen specialism.

Why study this course?

Design Technology is excellent for students that prefer learning in a practical way to achieve their full potential. If you are someone that enjoys a challenge, working with others and has an interest in designing as well as making, then this is the course for you. The theory of the course is taught in as practical a way as possible. Students are encouraged to learn at their own speed and in their own way, through asking questions, group work and class discussions.

POST 16 CHOICES:

If university is the direction you wish to go in, Design Technology can help you secure a place on degree courses in engineering, architecture, product design, graphic design, textiles and teaching amongst many others. Design Technology can also open up opportunities to gain entry into vocational college courses such as construction, plumbing and carpentry to name a few. It also opens the door to apprenticeships into many trades such as building and engineering.



COURSE NAME: Drama (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

Drama GCSE allows students to study two plays, one as a complete text and two extracts from the other. The plays are studied practically but a set text is examined through the written exam. Students also get to devise and create their own play. A journal which reflects, and records progress and skills development will be an ongoing part of the course. Students develop their performance work in most lessons and over the two-year course, having lots of opportunities to perform. Students are also given the opportunity to go to the theatre and attend drama workshops.

Exam Board: AQA - performing Arts

ASSESSMENT:

The course is split into three components:

- **40% Understanding Drama-** This is a written exam lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. Students will answer a short multiple-choice question and then write about any given scene from a play that is studied over two years. The play is taught mostly through practical lessons. The final part is a theatre review of one performance of live theatre, so we get to go and see a show.
- **40% Devising Drama-** This is mostly marked on practical performance of a play that students create in groups. This component is completed in Year 10. A drama journal is also assessed.
- **20% Texts in Practice.** This is a practical performance of 2 extracts from one play. This is a scripted performance. This can be any play.

Why study this course?

Studying Drama at GCSE level allows learners to explore a variety of theatrical styles and techniques, enhancing their understanding of performance, production, and the collaborative nature of theatre.

Through practical workshops, students will refine their acting abilities, improve their confidence, and cultivate effective communication skills. Moreover, they will gain insights into script analysis, character development, and stagecraft, all of which are essential components of theatre production.

POST 16 CHOICES:

A Drama GCSE is an essential choice for anyone who wants to work in the Arts and Entertainment, whether that be in Theatre, Television production or Advertising. However, It is also an excellent choice for anyone who wants to work in an environment where there is plenty of social interaction.



COURSE NAME: Food & Nutrition (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

Studying Food and Nutrition at GCSE level with WJEC provides students with an invaluable understanding of the principles of healthy eating and the science behind food preparation. The course outline encompasses key topics such as the nutritional content of foods, dietary requirements throughout different life stages, and the importance of food safety and hygiene. Additionally, practical skills are developed through hands-on cooking sessions, enabling students to gain confidence in meal preparation and culinary creativity.

Exam Board: WJEC - Eduqas

ASSESSMENT:

There are two components:

- The written examination, lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes, constitutes **40%** of the overall qualification and assesses students' theoretical knowledge of food science, nutrition, and food safety.
- The "Cooking and Nutrition in Action" non-examination assessment, which accounts for **60%** of the qualification, allows students to demonstrate their practical skills through the preparation and cooking of dishes, evaluating their understanding of ingredients and techniques.

Why study this course?

Studying Food and Nutrition GCSE offers students essential knowledge and skills in culinary arts, health, and nutrition. This qualification fosters holistic understanding of food science, encourages critical thinking, and prepares learners for diverse career pathways, ultimately promoting healthier lifestyles and informed choices in personal and professional contexts.

POST 16 CHOICES:

Upon completion of the GCSE, students have numerous post-16 options. They may choose to pursue further studies in Food Technology, Health and Social Care, or Hospitality. Alternatively, this qualification can serve as a foundation for careers in nutrition, dietetics, or culinary arts, making it a versatile and highly relevant choice for future aspirations.



COURSE NAME: Media Studies (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

Media is about communication, particularly mass communication with lots of people. The media creates products that are designed to entertain and inform, created for lots of people to hear, watch or read, often at roughly the same time. Whenever you are watching television, streaming films, scrolling through social media or listening to a podcast, you are consuming media.

You will analyse how media products like TV programmes and music videos use images, sounds, language, and representations to create meaning. You will learn about the media industry and how the industry affects how media products are made. You will investigate media audiences, exploring who are the people who watch, read and consume the products, and consider how different people might be affected by media products differently, and why. You will study lots of different media forms, such as: Television, Magazines, Music Video, Radio and video games.

There will also be a significant amount of practical work where you might create music videos, magazines, television programmes, advertisements and more. In your practical work, you'll be able to apply what you've learned about the media in the production of your own media products.

Exam Board: WJEC - Eduqas

ASSESSMENT:

There are three components:

- Exploring the Media **40%**
- Understanding Media Forms and Products **30%**
- Creating Media Products - coursework **30%**

Why study this course?

In an increasingly media-saturated world, GCSE Media Studies prepares students for responsible media consumption and production, essential skills for both further education and future career paths. This subject not only enriches learners academically but also cultivates informed citizens capable of navigating and contributing to the media landscape.

POST 16 CHOICES:

There is a huge array of career opportunities in the media, and it's an industry that is growing very quickly. If you are interested in the idea of a career in TV and Film Production, Advertising, Journalism, Interactive Media, and Digital Marketing, Technical Production, Special Effects, Web Design and Post-Production, then studying Media at GCSE level is a great place to start.



COURSE NAME: Health and Social Care BTEC Technical Award level 1/2

COURSE OUTLINE:

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment.

Component one:

Human Lifespan and Development gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age.

Component 2:

Health and Social Care Services you will investigate common services as well as those for specific needs and consider how they may work together to meet individuals needs. You will examine the barriers to individuals accessing services and how they may be overcome.

Component 3:

Health and Wellbeing explores the factors that can have a positive or negative influence on an individual's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators, and what they mean for someone's state of health.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

ASSESSMENT:

- Component One: Human Lifespan Development -internally assessed assignment
- Component Two: Health and Social Care and Values - internally assessed assignment
- Component Three: Health and WellBeing - externally assessed assignment

Why study this course?

Studying for a Level 2 GCSE in Health and Social Care provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the sector's fundamental principles and practices. This course equips learners with the essential knowledge required to navigate the complexities of health and social care environments. Engaging with this subject fosters critical thinking and encourages students to appreciate the diverse needs of individuals within various care contexts. It promotes empathy, cultural awareness, and ethical considerations, all of which are paramount in delivering effective care and support.

POST 16 CHOICES:

Health and Social Care course covers a broad range of issues and helps you develop the skills to follow a career in health, social care, leisure or education.



COURSE NAME: Physical Education (9-1) GCSE

COURSE OUTLINE:

Studying GCSE Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports, you will also develop a wide ranging knowledge of the how and why of physical activity and sport. If you are interested in starting a career or educational journey in performance, health or exercise science, then PE is a subject for you.

Exam Board: OCR

ASSESSMENT:

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology physical training, worth **30%**.
- Socio-cultural influences, sports psychology, health, fitness and wellbeing - worth **30%**.
- Practical assessment is worth **30%** of your grade
- 'Analysing and Evaluating performance (AEP) worth **10%**

Why study this course?

You will learn about what it takes to perform , mentally and physically, exploring the ethical considerations behind drug use,whilst also learning about the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

You will also develop understanding of anatomy and physiology, reinforcing your study in Science. In addition to your theory work you will develop your practical skills, with the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of human performance.

Additionally, GCSE PE promotes the development of vital skills such as teamwork, leadership, and communication. These transferable skills are invaluable in numerous professional contexts, enhancing employability and personal growth. Furthermore, the course encourages students to adopt a healthy lifestyle, fostering long-term habits that contribute to physical well-being.

POST 16 CHOICES:

GCSE PE lays a strong foundation for numerous Post 16 career choices. Students may choose to further their education with A Levels in PE or Sports Science, leading to higher education opportunities in areas such as Sports Management, Physiotherapy, or Nutrition. Furthermore, the skills acquired through this qualification are highly transferable, providing pathways into careers in coaching, sports therapy, teaching, or event management.



