

Year 9  
Guided  
Choices

SAMWORTH  
CHURCH  
ACADEMY





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# Year 9 into Year 10

## KS4 Guided Choices Information

We are pleased to enclose the Guided Pathway Information Booklet for Key Stage 4. At the Samworth Church Academy we firmly believe that all children, irrespective of their starting point, are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum which will enable them to succeed both whilst at the academy and in later life. This is one of the core ways we aim to equip our students for 70 great years and being the very best they can be. Therefore we are delighted to offer an innovative and knowledge-rich curriculum, which enables any student within our academy to fulfil their potential and develop the all-important skills and qualities which will serve them well in later life.

A further feature of our curriculum at Key Stage 4 is the flexible Guided Choices which, alongside a core entitlement, make up the broad and balanced range of subjects on offer. In this booklet you will see that the core subjects: GCSE English Language and Literature, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Sciences (Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are taken by all students alongside non-examined courses in Physical Education and Personal, Social, Health and Religious Studies. Students then have three subjects to choose as part of their Guided Pathways allocation, to start in Year 10. A process to decide whether students follow the combined or separate Science pathway will take place in June and July 2026. Separate information will follow for this process, for the relevant students in May 2026.

Furthermore, we fully support the entitlement that students have to study the group of qualifications which the government calls the English Baccalaureate (EBacc): a GCSE grade 5 or higher in one English, Mathematics, two Sciences, one Humanities subject (Geography or History) and a Modern Foreign Language. We will advise you if we believe that your child should be following this route (this will be done through the Guided Choices form), and as always, provide specialist independent careers advice to ensure that you have access to impartial support during this process.

We understand that this is a crucial time and the choosing of KS4 subjects is very important. Students have had a series of gradual support events to help with this process. This started with a PSHE Day partly looking at the impact of guided choices on chosen study and employment routes. Year 9 Progress Evening was designed to ensure students and parents received up to date information on performance in subjects they may wish to pick as part of this process. You will find information about further support available to you later in this booklet, including details of the Guided Choices Information Evening.

Whatever your child is hoping to study and then do in later life, I hope that you will find the Guided Choices process helpful, in the full knowledge that our sole aim is to ensure students are doing courses that they thrive in.

# What are guided choices?

Our approach means the process is:

- Tailored to the needs of the student.
- Specific to the individual
- Appropriate to the individual
- Outcome driven (GCSEs or equivalent)

How is my child matched to the best courses? On the basis of progress made so far:

- Cognitive Ability Tests
- Numeracy and Literacy levels
- Current Performance across a range of subjects
- Knowledge of the student's skills and strengths
- Progress Careers– Careers guidance

What happens next?

- Final choices form completed and returned by Monday 9th February 2026.
- Communication by letter to parents confirm choices by the end of June 2026 at the very latest.

How will I know how my child is doing?

- Termly reports.
- Contact with year team.
- Parents' Progress Meetings

Who will I contact if I want to know more?

- Tutor
- Mr Vallance
- Year 9 team – Mrs Walker, Mrs Severn and Miss Goodwin
- Relevant subject teachers/team leaders
- Progress Careers

Key date:

Deadline for forms to be returned to the Student Information Desk:

Monday 9th February 2026

# Changes to GCSE grades

Grades in all GCSE subjects will be graded 9-1; with 9 being the highest grade. Approximate grade comparator:

New GCSE Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Previous GCSE Grade	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*	

## Terminology that may help you and your child

**Core** These are compulsory subjects: English, Maths, Science, PE, RS/Life.

**Guided Pathway Choices** There is an element of choice about studying these subjects.

**Key Stage 4** Programmes of study for students in Years 10 and 11.

**Level 1** GCSE grades 3-1 or equivalent (grades 3-1 are replacing grades D - G at GCSE).

**Level 2** GCSE grades 9-4 or equivalent (grades 9 - 4 are replacing grades A\*- C at GCSE), with grades 5+ being classed as strong pass grades.

**Level 3** 'A' Level grade A\*- E or equivalent.

**GCSE** A course graded 9-1. These are assessed by a mix of examination and coursework (see individual subject guides for further information).

**BTEC / Cambridge National / Technical Award** Vocational qualifications graded Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\* and equivalent to a GCSE. Mostly portfolio/coursework based, with a small exam element (see individual subject guides for further information).

Designed to equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills; and closely aligned with the world of work.

**EBacc subjects (EBacc = English Baccalaureate)** The EBacc subjects are Maths, English, Sciences (including Computer Science), Geography, History and Modern Foreign Languages.

Please visit [Russell Group](#) for further information about the value placed on these subjects.

**Full EBacc** For students to achieve the full EBacc they must attain GCSE Grade 5+ in Maths, English, at least two Sciences, one of History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language.

## What sort of future planning should students be doing?

Where possible, if students have a goal to aim for, this can help focus their choice of courses. Having said that, we fully understand that many students will either not have a career path planned out or may change their plans. Our curriculum has the flexibility to accommodate this, and we would also encourage students to choose a broad range of courses over Key Stage 4 to keep their future options open.

## Attainment 8

The government has set a new Level 2 threshold measure called Attainment 8.

Whilst Attainment 8 is a measure of a school's performance, it may become the admissions criteria for further or higher education establishments and employment; as previous measures have, for example 5+ A\* - C. A student's Attainment 8 score not only indicates their average grade, it also demonstrates performance across a range of subjects. It expects students to have achieved best possible grades in:

- GCSE Maths and GCSE English.
- Any three GCSE qualifications from the Sciences, Geography, History or Languages.
- A further three qualifications can be either BTEC/Cambridge National/Technical Award, GCSE or other approved qualifications.

We will, therefore, support students in the core curriculum and through their Guided Pathway choices to achieve this threshold.

## Full EBacc

The full EBACC comprises of students studying GCSE English (Language or Literature), GCSE Maths, GCSE Trilogy or Separate Science, GCSE Geography/History and GCSE French/Spanish. To obtain the Full EBACC, students need to achieve a Grade 5 or above in all of these subjects.

The full EBACC is seen as a highly desirable feature of a student's qualification portfolio and is something that is highly known and respected in the academic community. In particular, Russell Group universities talk about the value of this in applications to these institutions. More information on this can be found in the guided choices narrated presentation.

In order to support this, the academy will be taking a more direct approach in student participation in Modern Foreign Languages. This is to ensure students can obtain the Full EBACC. Students from particular teaching sets will automatically 'opt-in' to the language they have studied in Key Stage 3. Parents and students will have to formally withdraw from this provision by writing to the academy via the guided choices process contact details. Please see separate parent letter for details.

## What if students cannot do their chosen course?

We hope that the courses offered will be available to all the students who want them, but we will ask you to give us two alternative/reserve choices.

Despite every effort to give all students their preferred choice, this may not always be possible. Alternatives may have to be considered if:

- Too many students opt for a particular course.
- Too few students select a particular course.
- We wish to advise a better range of courses to meet a student's needs.
- Combinations of courses are chosen which are impossible to timetable.

We will write to you in the summer term to confirm your choices.

## Can students change their mind?

We always do our best to ensure that all students' choices can be matched but please bear in mind that students who submit choices after the deadline may not find it possible to be placed on their first-choice courses. As soon as the options deadline has passed, work begins on timetabling. Alterations to choices may not be possible from this point onwards.

Once a decision has been made and a course has begun, it is extremely difficult to make any changes. It is, therefore, essential that time and thought be given to the combination of courses to be taken.

## What support is available to help decide which Guided Pathway subjects to take?

Guided choices evening. Furthermore, a copy of the guided choices evening presentation will be available on the academy website.

- Careers advisor student meetings – available on request – parents are welcome to attend these appointments.
- Students had a 'drop-down' day partly on the theme of guided choices on 13th January 2026. This gave students information to begin to be able to make their choices.
- Recent Year 9 Progress Evening.
- Copy of Key Stage 3 reports.
- Students are welcome to discuss course choices in relation to their future career plans and current level of performance with subject and tutors during lessons (where possible), over the next few weeks.

# Investing in your child's future

The Samworth Church Academy has formed a partnership with Progress Careers – an external, independent and impartial Careers Guidance Service - who will support your child to aim high in their career goals and aspirations.

Teachers in the Academy, and staff from Progress Careers, will support your child's career development in a number of ways including:

- Information and discussion in lessons, learning and pathway days and assemblies to help them make decisions about their future.
- Access to Careers Advisers in a variety of ways including individual meetings, drop-in sessions, learning pathway planning and results days.
- Careers information and IT based Careers Programmes.
- Information and updates on notice boards, plasma screens and websites.

Research has consistently shown that parents and carers are the most influential factor in students' decisions about the future. Your support and encouragement influences their choices and the guidance you provide will be invaluable to their eventual achievements and career pathways. This might feel a little daunting but there are some very simple and practical steps you can take to support your child.

- Talk to them about their current educational attainment and estimated grades and encourage them to aim high (the skills shortages of the future will be in higher level jobs).
- Discuss where they want to be and research how to get there (using resources in the Academy and on the internet).
- Encourage them to seek out the advice and experiences they need to help them achieve their goals.
- Help them with the steps they need to take.

If you wish for your child to have a careers guidance interview as part of this process then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Vallance or a member of the Year 9 team.

# Option Subjects

Most students will then choose one of these:

Animal Management (BTEC)  
Art and Design (GCSE)  
Business (GCSE)  
Computer Science (GCSE)  
Construction (BTEC Level 2)  
Dance (GCSE)  
Design & Technology (GCSE)  
Drama (Vocational Technical Award)  
Film Studies (GCSE)  
Food - Hospitality & Catering (Level 2 Vocational Award)  
French (GCSE)  
Geography (GCSE)  
Hairdressing (City & Guilds Level 2)  
Health and Social Care (BTEC)  
History (GCSE)  
Media Studies (GCSE)  
Music (GCSE)  
PE (GCSE)  
Photography (GCSE)  
Psychology (GCSE)  
Religious Studies (GCSE)  
Spanish (GCSE)  
Sports Science (BTEC Cambridge National)  
Travel and Tourism (BTEC Level 2)

# Subject Descriptions

## Animal Management (BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 )



### Why choose Animal Management?

The pet care sector is a fast-growing industry and continues to expand every year. In the UK, over half of households own a pet, and people are spending more than ever on animal care, welfare, and specialist services. This means there is strong demand for trained, knowledgeable animal care professionals.

If you have a real interest in animals and are dedicated, practical, and committed, this course could be an excellent choice.

### Where can this qualification lead?

This course can lead to further education, apprenticeships, or careers in the animal sector. Areas of significant growth include:

- Natural and specialist pet products
- Pet sitting and dog walking
- Dog grooming
- Specialist pet services
- Animal behaviour and training support

The qualification also develops transferable skills such as responsibility, teamwork, problem-solving, and confidence, which are valued in many careers.

### How is this course assessed?

This qualification is made up of 3 Units. One exam and two coursework-based units.

#### Component 1 – Animal Handling (Coursework)

Students carry out practical handling of chickens and a small mammal of their choice. They then write a handling plan explaining how animals are handled safely and correctly. Students also complete in-depth research into two animal species, explaining their needs and care requirements.

#### Component 2 – Animal Accommodation (Coursework)

Students complete a practical recorded assessment where they prepare and set up:

- A bearded dragon enclosure
- A hamster enclosure

They then evaluate their practical work and explain suitable accommodation for two additional animal species, showing understanding of different housing needs.

#### Component 3 – Animal Health and Welfare (Coursework)

Students learn about animal health, welfare, and responsible ownership. This includes understanding animal welfare legislation and the role of key animal organisations (such as animal charities and welfare bodies). Assessment is through written coursework showing how legislation and organisations help protect animal welfare.

## Art & Design (GCSE)



GCSE Art and Design will provide students with the opportunity to study a wide range of academic or practical Post-16 courses, plus open doors to many creative industries and job prospects. Art and Design is suited to students with a passion for creativity, who will be engrossed with their subject and be willing to invest time outside of the classroom to present their work. Anyone with a flair for creativity will excel on the course and have the opportunity to push the boundaries and their artistic vision.

### What topics and questions will I study in GCSE Art and Design?

- An individual approach to Art, Craft, and Design, looking at both contemporary and historical sources for inspiration.
- Gain experience and build a critical awareness of works of Art and Design through studying a range of artists and trips to galleries (when possible).
- Develop investigative, analytical, experimental, and interpretative capabilities, aesthetic understanding, and critical skills.
- Use written annotation and appropriate specialist terminology to record your ideas, observations, insights, and independent judgements.

### Assessment Objectives

- Developing ideas through investigations informed by critical and historical investigations.
- Refining and exploring ideas through experimentation with materials and techniques.
- Recording ideas through observational drawing and other visual forms of communication.
- Personal informed response leading to final pieces/outcomes of individual research.

### Where can this qualification lead?

There are many careers in the creative world appropriate to Art and Design GCSE and A level, including design for; Textiles, Fashion, Product, Furniture, Ceramics, Graphic Design and Illustration, Architecture, Interior Design, Theatre and Set Design, Film, Curating and Museum Archiving as well as conceptual and Fine Art careers.

### How is this course assessed?

The course comprises two elements;

- Component 1 (60%) is coursework
- Component 2 (40%) is an externally set exam which consists of 12 weeks preparatory work in class, followed by a 10-hour exam to create a final outcome.

All students will have to submit evidence of drawing to support the development process in both Component 1 and Component 2.

## Art & Photography (GCSE)



Photography is suited to students who have a keen interest in Photography, Digital Art, Digital Manipulation, or Media. Photography is about looking, learning, thinking, and communicating ideas. It inspires creative thinkers, and the most exciting aspect is that you are capturing the world as you see it. The course requires learners who are willing to put extra time in outside of the teaching hours, with a will to push the boundaries and their creative vision to develop as a Photographer. This course is ideal for

learners who wish to study a creative GCSE without needing the skills to draw confidently.

- Respond to a range of practitioners and project themes including still life, portraiture, surrealism, natural forms and many more.
- During Year 10 you will learn how to use a camera skillfully to take a successful photograph, manipulate imagery using Adobe Photoshop, and understand the importance of typography and how to analyse photographic sources to inspire your own.
- Document all your work throughout their GCSE in a digital portfolio, which also builds on their general ability to use a computer.
- Finally, the skills you'll learn in Year 10 will prepare you for further independent study during Year 11 where you'll have the freedom to take an individual approach to Photography, looking at both contemporary and historical Photographers and Artists for inspiration by developing a personal project which is meaningful to them

### Assessment Objectives

- Developing ideas through investigations informed by critical and historical investigations.
- Refining and exploring ideas through experimentation with materials and techniques.
- Recording ideas through observational drawing and other visual forms of communication.
- Personal informed response leading to final pieces/outcomes of individual research.

### Where can this qualification lead?

GCSE Photography will provides the opportunity to study a wide range of academic or practical Post-16 courses, plus open doors to many creative industries and job prospects, including Freelance Photographer; Artist; Curator; Fashion Photographer, Graphic Designer, Advertising, Editorial Design, Picture Researcher; Photojournalist; Picture Editor; Gallery Manager; Exhibitions Coordinator and many more.

### How is this course assessed?

The course comprises two elements

- Component 1 (60%) is coursework
- Component 2 (40%) is an externally set exam which consists of 12 weeks' preparatory work in class followed by a 10 hour exam to create a final outcome.

## Business (GCSE)



If you choose to study Business you will study REAL businesses, from your local market stalls to huge multinationals such as McDonalds.

You may even get the opportunity to work on real life business projects. Through this you will learn to lead a team, manage finances, cope with change and understand how outside factors such as new technology or environmental issues can affect a

business. This is a traditional GCSE course worth one GCSE at grades 9-1.

### Where can this qualification lead?

If you are a little unsure of what career you want to pursue, Business is the ideal option to give you a broad range of skills and knowledge of how most businesses work, including how to make yourself more employable and entrepreneurial.



### How is this course assessed?

- Part 1: Businesses in the real world, managing production and people (1 hour and 45 minute exam).
- Part 2: Influences on businesses, marketing and finances. (1 hour and 45 minute exam).

Exams consist of multiple-choice questions; case study data response questions from 2 to 9 marks, and one 12-mark longer answer question.

## Computer Science (GCSE)



Computer Science covers how a computer system functions from the main components to the understanding of how networks are created and used. Students will also develop a range of computational thinking skills that will be applied to solve problems by designing and creating appropriate solutions.

Students will also be taught how to program in Python for the controlled assessment element of the course and to demonstrate the theories covered. This GCSE is suitable for students who enjoy Maths, have an interest in technology, are logical, methodical and enjoy problem solving or are interested in a career in Engineering, Computing or related technical areas.

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. Understand the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

### Where can this qualification lead?

This course will enable students to proceed to qualifications at Level 3 and potentially Higher Education, including A-Level Computing, along with many different careers including App Development, Programming, Cyber Security, Games Programming, Web Development and Network Management.

### How is this course assessed?

Two written exams and a programming project

- Computer systems - written paper (no calculators allowed) 1 hour and 30 minutes, worth 50% of total GCSE
- Computational thinking - written paper (no calculators allowed) 1 hour and 30 minutes, worth 50% of total GCSE
- Programming project totaling 20 hours (non-exam assessment).

## Dance (GCSE)



Dance GCSE is a course suitable for an experienced dancer or someone who simply loves dance and enjoys being creative. This course is ideal for students who enjoy working with others and a subject that harnesses the whole child. Students are required to perform as a soloist, learning set material, as a group, in choreographies and in duets and trios. The course is underpinned with theory work where students have to learn about six professional

dance works and explore six styles in the studio, with professionals and at events.

The Dance department is forever growing and students who take Dance GCSE have extra benefits in terms of exciting national trips, performances in showcases, exhibitions, involvement with a professional photoshoot and a show at our school awards evening. We pride ourselves on maintaining the highest results in the academy and also want to make all the experiences of our students meaningful and memorable.



This option allows students to make costumes, learn about the technical aspects of a production including lighting, music, sound and set design.

### Where can this qualification lead?

As the creative industry continues to be the strongest in the UK and employers are constantly looking for young people with standout characteristics, this option allows students to develop their communication skills, confidence and interpersonal capabilities. Some of the wider skills this course also supports that employers look for are:- Teamwork, Creative Thinking, Problem Solving, being willing to try new ideas, Empathy and Emotional Literacy, Confidence, Practical and Academic approaches, Commitment and dedication, helpfulness, and organisation.

### How is this course assessed?

#### Component 1 - Practical (60%)

- Set phrases
- Performance piece
- Choreography

#### Component 2 - Exam (40%)

- Dance Anthology

## Drama (BTEC level 2 tech award in performing arts)



The BTEC TECH Award is an intensive and exciting two year course, delivered by highly qualified teaching staff who cover different aspects of the Performing Arts Acting programme by teaching technical skills through vocational contexts. The Acting Pathway is a practical course enabling students to develop and extend their acting technique, understanding of theatre practice and history, as well as honing their performance skills alongside an understanding of the Performing Arts

world. This specialist programme is aimed at students who are passionate about developing their acting skills, knowledge and understanding. Students should have a respect for collaborative learning, creativity, commitment and motivation. Students will be expected to develop good literacy skills alongside subject specific vocabulary and have a positive response to reading around the subject, including selected dramatic texts.

Over the two years students will specialise in developing their acting in a range of styles including contemporary, classical and physical theatre, together with extensively developing their evaluative and research written skills alongside performance. In addition, students will also learn about working in the Performing Arts industry and the jobs and opportunities available in this sector. Students will take part in explorative workshops, textual analysis, performance projects, and theoretical sessions led by the acting staff and industry specialists. Theatre trips and extra- curricular activities will also be offered to enhance the acting students' awareness and appreciation of theart form.

### Where can this qualification lead?

This course perfectly complements and sets students up for moving on to the Level 3 Diploma in Performing Arts - Acting. Due to the academic side of the course, it also allows for students to move on to more academic studies Post-16.



### How is this course assessed?

No written exams! Drama is all coursework. The BTEC TECH Award consists of 3 components:

- Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts: Production Arts (Internally assessed) (Year 10)
- Component 2: Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts (Internally Assessed) (Year 10 and Year 11)
- Component 3: Performing to a Brief(Externally Assessed + 40% of the overall grade) (Year 11)

## Construction (Level 1 introductory certificate)



The BTEC Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Construction is designed as a taster to give the learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills, techniques, personal skills and attributes that are essential for successful performance in working life.

### Where can this qualification lead?

The UK construction industry employs over two million people. Skills gaps mean that opportunities exist for many highly skilled support workers as well as for those directly involved in building.



### How is this course assessed?

This qualification is nationally recognised and is made up of 5 units, two core units and 3 sector units:

- Core unit - Being organized.
- Core unit - Developing a Personal Progression Plan.
- Sector unit - Drawing a Plan of a Room.
- Sector unit – Joinery (Making Carpentry Joints).
- Sector unit – Plumbing(Fixing a Water Pipe).

## Design in Technology (GCSE)



Do you like designing new products?

- Do you like working with different materials?
- Are you prepared to work hard to produce creative and innovative products?
- Do you want to find out more where materials come from?

If the answer is 'YES' to any of these questions, then it may be a good idea to choose GCSE Design and Technology as one of your options.

The GCSE Design and Technology courses will give you the opportunity to explore different materials, processes and techniques with the Technology Department.

### Where can this qualification lead?

All of the following courses are suitable to lead on to the Design and Technology: Product Design courses at AS and A2 level.

### How is this course assessed?

Component 1 - examination worth 50% of total GCSE, the paper includes calculations, short-open and open-response questions as well as extended-writing questions focused on:

- Analysis and evaluation of design decisions and outcomes, against a technical principle, for prototypes made by others.
- Analysis and evaluation of wider issues in design technology, including social, moral, ethical and environmental impacts.
- The paper is split into section A "core" and section B "material" categories.
- Students must answer all questions in section A.
- Students must choose one specialism in section B – either Metals, Papers and Boards, Polymers, Systems, Textiles or Timbers.

Component 2 - Design & Make project 50% of qualification worth 50% of total GCSE

- Three contextual challenges will be provided by the board on 1st June each year, from which students must choose one to respond to.
- Students will produce a project which consists of a portfolio and a prototype.
- There are four parts to the assessment:
  - Part 1: Investigate
  - Part 2: Design
  - Part 3 Make
  - Part 4 Evaluate

## Design in Technology specialising in woodworking and timbers (GCSE)



This course is concerned with the designing and making of products using a range of materials but specialising in different types of wood and manufactured boards.

The skills you have already gained in KS3 will be further developed and involve a range of new experiences in working, fabricating and joining materials.

You will become competent in the use of hand tools and machines such as lathes, pillar drills, milling machines, buffing wheels, CNC router and lathe, laser cutter and 3D printing! Computer Aided Design using new Fusion 360 will be a key aspect of your work in developing a marketable product that can be mass produced.

This course is ideal for those who enjoy working with materials and being able to make or fix products which is both rewarding and saves money. The course is also excellent for those planning to work in Construction or Engineering.

## Design in Technology specialising in electrical systems (GCSE)



Developments in systems are one of the key factors in creating the highly technological society we now live in.

This course will help you to gain an understanding into how basic electronic systems work. You will be taught about a variety of electronic components and how they work together to create useful circuits.

These include circuits that can detect changes in light, heat or moisture; ideal for designing products such as teenager's cool automatic night lights, hypothermia alarms for elderly people, bath full alarm, and so on; alarm circuitry designs will enable you to create novelty bedroom alarms and bicycle alarms; digital electronic design construction will help you develop simple games and counters.

- Year 10 – Gaining skills, knowledge and understanding in Systems.
- Year 11 – Design and Make Project



## Design in Technology specialising in graphical techniques (GCSE)



This course is about using formal industrial drawings - such as orthographic projection, isometric projection, planometric projection and oblique projection which might not mean very much to you at the moment, but by the end of the course you will be able to understand these types of drawings and be able to produce your own.

Knowledge of them is essential if you want to move into the field of designer architecture in any industry or place of work. Developing skills in Computer Aided Design is a key skill that will be developed. You will learn how to use programs such as Pro Desktop, Sketch-up, 2D Design and Boxford CAD/CAM. This course is ideal for those who enjoy drawing or would like to work in the field of product design or architecture.

- Year 10 – Gaining skills, knowledge and understanding in core materials.
- Year 11 – Design and Make Project

## Design in Technology specialising in textiles (GCSE)



As part of this course, you will be able to undertake the following activities:

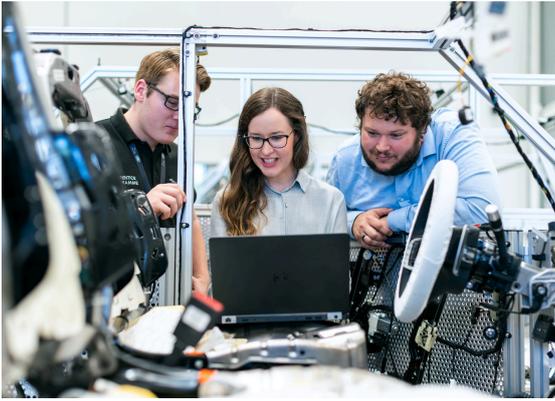
- Recycling and environmental issues.
- Exploring the sources and different properties of textiles Blending of fibres.
- Different types of weaving – Create your own unique weave.
- Manufacturing clothing on the sewing machine.
- Embroidery, tie dye and fabric painting

This course is ideal for those who enjoy textiles or would like to work in the field of Fashion Design, Interior Design, Car Interior Design, Textile Designer.

- Year 10 – Gaining skills, knowledge and understanding in core materials.
- Year 11 – Design and Make Project



## Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture (Technical award Level 2)



The OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture is aimed at students aged 14-16 and will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in the engineering, manufacturing, process and control sector.

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use what you learn in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- The materials used in engineering manufacture
- Safely producing a one-off product
- The use of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) to produce in quantity.

### Where can this qualification lead?

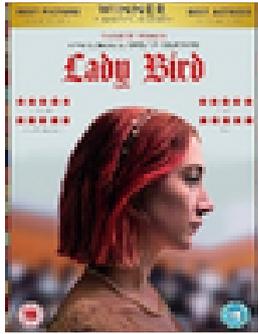
This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering manufacturing and development sector. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- Solving problems by exploring different engineering manufacture processes, tools and equipment.
- Planning a sequence of processes. This will involve managing your time and identifying the resources you will need, as well as reviewing your plans if necessary.

### How is this course assessed?

- R014 - Principles of engineering manufacture exam - 40% of grade
- R015 - Manufacturing a one-off product - non-exam assessment - 30% of grade
- R0146 - Manufacturing in quantity - non-exam assessment - 30% of grade

## Film Studies (GCSE)



Are you interested in learning about how films are made, how they 'work', and why films are so enjoyable – from being entertained by the latest Hollywood blockbuster through to learning about different cultures, viewpoints and countries?

Students have enjoyed how Film Studies has helped them to improve their analytical skills; it's helped them to appreciate films on a much deeper level.

Film Studies provides you with a wide range of transferrable skills that will help you in many other subjects and in general life:

- Critical thinking: questioning, exploring, discussing, and analysing
- Analytical writing: this will particularly support your English skills

You will study 6 films, from the 1950's all the way through to modern times.

Like with Art and English Literature, you will enjoy learning about the contexts behind the products (Why was this created? What are the deeper meanings within the film? What was happening in that time period that influenced the film's narrative and 'messages'?)

Film Studies has close links to Art, English Literature, Psychology and History.

Do you have an imaginative and creative mind? You will enjoy designing and producing a short film or writing the screenplay for a key scene within a film.

During the course you will gain knowledge of the film industry and film-making processes, develop your analytical skills, and then design your own products. You will get the chance to develop your writing skills and this will be supported by lots of discussion.

### Where can this qualification lead?

Film Studies is a great place to begin if you're interested in working in the film industry, teaching, journalism, creative writing, media broadcasting and more.

### How is this course assessed?

70% examination (2 exams) and 30% coursework (film sequence, screenplay, story board.)

The exam topics are US films, independent films, and British film.

## Food - Hospitality & Catering (Level 2 Vocational Award)



This course is ideal for students who enjoy practical learning, food, and cooking. You will develop your confidence in the kitchen, learn how to prepare and present a wide range of dishes, and understand food safety and nutrition. The course also helps you build valuable skills such as; teamwork, communication, organisation, and problem-solving skills.

If you have any questions or for any more information, please speak to Mrs Walker or email [jwalker@tscacademy.org.uk](mailto:jwalker@tscacademy.org.uk).

### Where can this qualification lead?

After completing this course, you can go on to study A-Levels, as well as Level 3 courses or apprenticeships in areas such as food, hospitality, nutrition, science, or business. The subject helps build practical skills, confidence and organisation that support a wide range of future study and career pathways.

The practical skills and knowledge gained are useful across many subjects in further education or career paths.



### How is this course assessed?

You will be assessed in two units:

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40% of your grade).

This is a written exam which will assess the theory knowledge that you have learned.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action (60% of your grade).

This is a practical assessment. You'll research, plan, prepare, cook and present dishes for a given brief, showing your practical skills and explaining your choices based on the nutritional needs of the brief.

## French (GCSE)



If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, continuing with your language to GCSE level is an excellent choice for you!

You will learn to understand far more of the language when you hear it spoken or read it and be able to express yourself both verbally and written in detail.

More reasons for taking a language:

- You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language.
- You will learn about the countries where the language is spoken.
- You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for.

To pursue the GCSE French course, you need to have studied French in Years 7, 8 and Year 9. This means you're well prepared to continue with it to GCSE. You already know some of the vocabulary you'll need for GCSE. You know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live, school, holidays, food and drink. You'll build on these topics during your GCSE course, as well as moving on to new topics and building a broader knowledge of language and grammar.

### Where can this qualification lead?

You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public, using problem-solving strategies, etc. You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links.

### How is this course assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 11 across the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing – each worth 25% of the final grade. You will be entered for foundation or higher for all four exams.

- Listening – assessing your understanding and responses to different types of spoken language with answers in both English and French, as well as a dictation task where you write down the French sentences you hear.
- Speaking – including role-play, photo card to describe and answer questions about. In addition, you will have a short passage of French to read aloud and briefly discuss.
- Reading – assessing your understanding and response to different types of written language with answers in both English and French, plus a translation task into English.
- Writing – a translation task from English to French with two writing tasks which could include describing a picture, writing from bullet points or an open-ended task.

## Geography (GCSE)



Are you interested in exotic and exciting places around the world? Do you have a passion for knowledge about the world we live in and different cultures? Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems can be explained using an understanding of geography and we will need the geographers of the future to help us tackle them.

Geography will help to prepare you for life in modern society and provides many opportunities for you to expand your knowledge and understanding of the world we live in, and the global issues faced by humans and the environment. Topics of study include Climate Change, Poverty, Natural Disasters, Deprivation, Global Shifts in Economic Power and the Challenge of Sustainable Resource Use.

The GCSE course will equip you with many important skills and areas of knowledge and understanding relevant to your present and future life. The subject encourages you to understand your role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. You have already explored many of the themes and developed several of the skills in KS3 Geography.

### Where can this qualification lead?

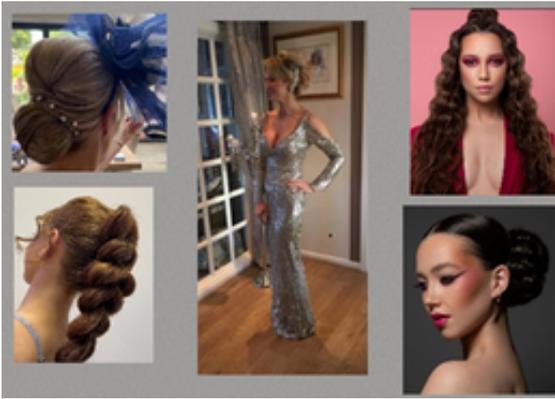
Geography helps you develop a huge skill base that is essential in both Further Education and the world of work, including: social, economic and environmental awareness, decision making, problem solving, teamwork, individual enquiry, communication, numerical skills, statistical skills, debating, organisation, presentation, ICT and geographical skills. This mix of knowledge and skills makes Geography a desirable subject to have on your CV.

### How is this course assessed?

We currently follow the AQA specification, which is examined at the end of Year 11. Students will answer a range of questions ranging from multiple choice questions to longer essay style answers in their three exam papers.

- Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35% of GCSE)
- Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35% of GCSE)
- Paper 3: Geographical Applications (30% of GCSE). This section provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate geographical skills and apply knowledge / understanding, by looking at particular issues developed in Paper 1 and Paper 2. The students will be provided with a theme set by the Exam Board to study in the period leading up to the final exams.

# Hairdressing (City and Guilds) Level 2 Technical Award in Hair and Beauty Studies



The Salon offers an amazing opportunity to study Hairdressing in a City and Guilds accredited and professional salon, along with extremely skilled staff who has vast experience in the Hairdressing world.

This is a taster course to give students thinking of a career in hairdressing an idea of what it would be like to work in the industry.

The topics covered are:

- 201
  - 1. Understand key features of the hair and beauty sector
  - 2. Understand the development of the hair and beauty sector
- 202
  - 1. Understand chemistry of cosmetics and consider their uses within hair and beauty products
  - 2. Understand biology related to the hair and beauty sector
- 203
  - 1. Understand the use of design in business
  - 2. Develop technical skills required to create a hair and beauty image
  - 3. Plan, create and evaluate an image for business use

## Where can this qualification lead?

Some of the career pathways after this course are: NVQ Level 2 and 3 in College or school or an Apprenticeship.

Places you can work when a stylist: Cruise Liner, Salon, Teaching, TV, Theatre and Film, Manufacturing Company testing products, Photo Shoots among others.

## How is this course assessed?

The course includes coursework, tests and practical.

Students must attain 97.6% course attendance to receive certification.

## Health and Social Care (BTEC)



The BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care is a KS4 qualification designed for 14-16 students, to be taken alongside GCSEs.

Topics are Human Lifespan and Development, Health and Social Care Services and Values and Health and Wellbeing.

Tech Awards give learners the opportunity to build skills that show an aptitude for further learning both in the sector and more widely.

### Where can this qualification lead?

As preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects.

Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Health and Social Care, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or be able to go into the workplace e.g.

- Registered care homes.
- Hospitals and primary care trusts.
- Nursing homes.
- Health Centres.

### How is this course assessed?

This course is made up of three components, two of which are internally assessed by coursework and component 3 is an exam.

All units are assessed and graded and an overall grade for the qualification is awarded.

## History (GCSE)



“History gives answers to those who know how to ask questions.”

History is one of the most thrilling, fascinating and thought-provoking subjects that you can take. You will be taught about key events in history, how and why they happened and the impact that these events had. We will also continue building on skills you have learned in KS3 – how to analyse sources and what sources mean to us as Historians. There will also be a strong focus on improving your ability to communicate your thoughts effectively.

You will study 4 topics:

1. Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches. This covers the ideas about causes of disease and the different treatments from the Middle Ages to the Modern Age and includes case studies on the Black Death, Plague, Cholera outbreaks and the development of penicillin. It also covers Trench Warfare, the conditions faced by soldiers; the nature of wounds from rifles, explosives, shrapnel and gas attacks. We will explore the development of new techniques in the treatment of wounds and infection.
2. Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88. We will look at the death of Edward the Confessor and the succession crisis, including the rival claimants for the throne were; Harold Godwinson, William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada & Edgar. We will study the Norman Invasion including the Battle of Hastings and how William I established and kept control.
3. Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991. The Cold War is over, but its legacy remains. This period study of twentieth-century international relations will help students to engage with new as well as familiar issues in the twenty-first century. In this option, we will study a period of immense recent significance in the development of our modern world. It is a story beginning with the alliance of the USA and USSR and ending with the fall of the Berlin Wall; a story of mistrust and nervous tension, spying and treachery, tragedy and new hope, destruction and rebuilding.
4. Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39. We will look at Germany in the aftermath of World War One, The Weimar Republic and the problems they faced, the rise of the Hitler and the Nazis. We will examine how the Nazi's kept control and Hitler's dictatorship. We will look at what life was like for people living in Nazi Germany 1933-39 including the persecution of the Jews.

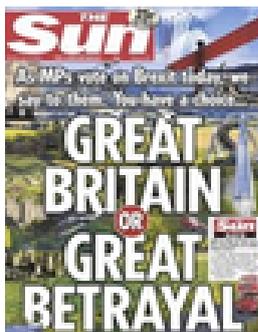
Where can this qualification lead?

Law, Journalism, Teaching, Research, Politics, Museum work, Archaeology

How is this course assessed?

At the end of your GCSEs, you will have 3 exams.

## Media Studies (GCSE)



The media has a huge influence on us; we all interact with media everyday. Studying this course could change the way you look at the world!

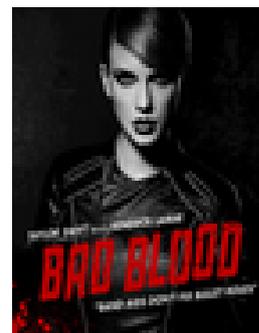
The media plays an important role in how we learn about the world around us. In a world of fake news, clickbait and photoshopped images, it's important for young people to learn about the psychology behind this, and why media producers do what they do.

You will also learn about the positive impact that media can have, and how it can encourage change in society.

We study music, magazines, newspapers, advertising, film promotion, radio, video games and television! Learn about how media is created, how people are affected by the media, and how different media industries work.

Media Studies provides you with a wide range of transferrable skills that will help you in many other subjects and in general life:

- Critical thinking: questioning, exploring, discussing, and analysing
- Analytical writing: this will particularly support your English skills



Like with Art and English Literature, you will enjoy learning about the contexts behind the products (Why was this created? What are the deeper meanings within the product? What was happening in that time period that influenced the product's 'messages'?)

Media Studies has close links to Psychology, Sociology, Art and Business Studies.

### Where can this qualification lead?

Marketing, Film, Advertising, Music video, Journalism, Video games

### How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed through 70% examination (2 exams) and 30% coursework.

For the coursework, you will create a media product such as a film poster, magazine or music video.

## Music (GCSE)



GCSE Music encourages an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four interrelated areas of study.

The four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles in a wider context.

Students study four areas of study which are Western Classical tradition, Popular Music, Traditional music, and Music in the 20th Century.

Studying music:

- Provides students the opportunity to gain self-confidence through performing to others.
- Develops team-working skills through performing with others.
- Extends students' creative skills through composing music.
- Encourages the understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process.
- Provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including A-level Music and a career in music professions.

An ability to play a musical instrument is beneficial but is not essential as students can take a music technology-based route or start learning an instrument on the course. So, whether you are a guitarist, singer, violinist or just love music this is a suitable course for you.

### Where can this qualification lead?

Musician, Composer, Sound engineer, Producer, Musicologist, Music therapist, Private tutor and teacher

### How is this course assessed?

- Composition (two compositions one of which is from a brief) 30%
- Performing (two recorded performances on any instrument, one solo, one group) 30%
- Listening Exam based on appraising music from classic to rock. 40%

## Physical Education (GCSE)



Have you ever wondered. . .

Why you are a great footballer but hate swimming?

Why people take performance enhancing drugs?

What an elite athlete eats?

How the muscles and bones work to create movement?

Then take GCSE PE to find out the answers!

GCSE PE consists of 60% theory, 30% practical performance and 10% written coursework.

Unit 1 Physical factors affecting performance exam (30%)

1.1 Skeletal system, Muscular system, Movement Analysis, Cardiovascular and Respiratory systems and Effects of exercise on the body systems.

1.2 Components of fitness, principles of training and preventing injury.

Unit 2 Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology exam (30%)

2.1 Engagement patterns of different social groups, commercialisation and ethical and socio-cultural issues.

2.2 Sport psychology.

2.3 Health, fitness and well-being.

Practical (30%)

You will be assessed in three practical performances.

The activities are divided into individual activities e.g. Golf, Athletics etc. and team activities e.g. Football, Rugby, Netball etc. You must be assessed in one sport from each category and the third sport can be from either category.

You MUST be playing sport out of school to score highly in the practical element of this course and be committed to attend after school clubs to improve your practical grade.

Written Coursework - Analysing and Evaluating Performance(10%)

- Analyse persona performance
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the performance.
- Produce an action plan which aims to improve performance.

### How is this course assessed?

Theory (60%) Over half of your grade will be assessed in two 1-hour exams at the end of Year 11.

Practical (30%)

Written Coursework - Analysing and Evaluating Performance (10%)

## Cambridge Nationals Sport Science



Learn how Sports Science can be used to reduce injuries, improve sporting performance and train more effectively.

Unit R180 (Exam) - Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions.

Learn how to prepare participants to take part in sport and physical activity in a way which minimises the risk of injuries occurring; prepare them to be able to respond to common injuries that can occur during sport and physical activity and to recognise the symptoms of some common medical conditions.

Unit R181: Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance. (Centre-Assessed Coursework Task)

Learn how to conduct a range of fitness tests, what they test and their advantages and disadvantages. You will also learn how to design, plan and evaluate a fitness training programme. This will give you the background knowledge you need to be able to plan and deliver appropriate fitness tests, some of which will be adapted to suit the skills of the sporting activity. You will then interpret the data collected from fitness tests and learn how best to feed this back so that participants can go on to make informed decisions about their fitness training.

Unit R183: Nutrition and Sports Performance

Learn to consider the composition of healthy, balanced nutrition. You will consider the necessity of certain nutrients and their role in enabling effective performance in different sporting activities. The knowledge gained will be used to produce an appropriate, effective nutrition plan for a performer.

Where can this qualification lead?

Fitness trainer, Sports Coach, Sports Science, PE Teacher

How is this course assessed?

- Exam – 1hr 15 minutes
- 2 x Units of Coursework

## Psychology (GCSE)



Have you ever wondered how our minds work? The Science behind the brain, how it works and why everybody is so different. Also, how is it we are able to remember lots of different things, or can't get that cheesy song or viral video out of our head? Or maybe you are interested in how we are influenced by others, either online or in real life, and how we can understand mental health, in our everyday lives.

If this sounds like the sort of thing you would be interested in learning, plus much more, then Psychology could be the subject for you!

You will have already covered some parts of Psychology in your lessons from Year 7 to Year 9, particularly in subjects such as Biology and PSHE and especially aspects of mental health and well-being.

### Where can this qualification lead?

Psychology at GCSE is a great first step for anyone considering taking this subject at A level (as well as similar subjects such as Forensics, Criminology and Sociology), as the topics covered cross over to these A Levels and prepare you for the types of assessments and assignments you will see in these subjects.

Psychology is a very adaptable GCSE for any CV or application to Further Education, as it is based on human behaviour in everyday life no matter what the environment, so being able to understand this better could help you with people skills, working as a group, and understanding the diversity and different types of people you will come across in any career choice.

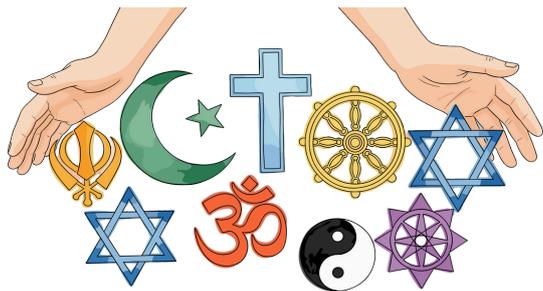
### How is this course assessed?

Psychology is assessed with two exams at the end of Year 11, with each one contributing 50% to your overall GCSE grade.

Exam 1 Cognition and Behaviour  
Memory.  
Perception.  
Development.  
Research methods.

Exam 2 Social Context and Behaviour  
Social influence.  
Language, thought and communication.  
Brain and neuropsychology.  
Psychological problems.

## Religious Studies (GCSE)



You will already be studying the AQA GCSE short course in religious studies.

This course is designed to top up your short course to a full GCSE.

The course goes into more depth for Christian and Buddhist practices, with themes of religion and crimes, and religion and life.

This course provides a knowledge and understanding of religions. You will learn how to analyse questions to do with religious beliefs and values. You'll be able to construct well-informed and balanced arguments on religious beliefs.

### Where can this qualification lead?

People who study Religious Studies are very employable, with the skills, knowledge and understanding gained during a Religious Studies qualification held in high regard by employers. Studying religion and ethics opens a wide range of job opportunities due to transferable skills such as questioning, analysis and understanding balanced arguments.

Roles Religious Studies can lead to include lawyer, international development, journalism, teaching, civil service and healthcare.

### How is this course assessed?

Religious Studies is assessed with two exams at the end of Year 11, with each one contributing 50% to your overall GCSE grade.

#### Exam 1 - Religion

- Christian Practices
- Buddhist Practices

#### Exam 2 - Themes

- Religion & Crimes
- Religion & Life

## Spanish (GCSE)



If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, continuing with your language to GCSE level is an excellent choice for you!

You will learn to understand far more of the language when you hear it spoken or read it and be able to express yourself both verbally and written in detail. More reasons for taking a language:

- You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language.
- You will learn about the countries where the language is spoken.
- You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for.

To pursue the GCSE Spanish course, you need to have studied Spanish in Years 7, 8 and Year 9. This means you're well prepared to continue with it to GCSE. You already know some of the vocabulary you'll need for GCSE. You know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live, school, holidays, food and drink. You'll build on these topics during your GCSE course, as well as moving on to new topics and building a broader knowledge of language and grammar.

### Where can this qualification lead?

You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public, using problem-solving strategies, etc. You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links.

### How is this course assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 11 across the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing – each worth 25% of the final grade. You will be entered for foundation or higher for all four exams.

- Listening – assessing your understanding and responses to different types of spoken language with answers in both English and Spanish, as well as a dictation task where you write down the Spanish sentences you hear.
- Speaking – including role-play, photo card to describe and answer questions about. In addition, you will have a short passage of Spanish to read aloud and briefly discuss.
- Reading – assessing your understanding and response to different types of written language with answers in both English and Spanish, plus a translation task into English.
- Writing – a translation task from English to Spanish with two writing tasks which could include describing a picture, writing from bullet points or an open-ended task.

## Travel and Tourism (BTEC level 2)



Are you interested in studying different tourist destinations in the UK and around the world? Do you want to find out the different reasons why people visit different places or stop visiting them?

Travel and Tourism helps to develop your knowledge of the world and help you to understand why tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world and why the tourist industry employs the most people.

### Unit 1 UK Travel and Tourism Sector

This unit looks at why the travel and tourism sector is important to the UK economy. You will study the different organisations and industries involved in the travel and tourism sector. Finally, we look at technology and how this has changed and the impacts this has had on the tourist industry.

### Unit 2 UK Travel and Tourism Destinations

This unit looks at the different destinations that people visit in the UK and the reasons why people visit them. You will look at the appeal of different destinations and how this might change over time, and plan holidays to meet the needs of different visitors.

### Unit 3 The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience

This unit looks at what we mean by customer service and the main aims of effective customer service. You will look at the needs of a range of different types of tourists who might use different tourist organisations. You will explore what we mean by good and bad customer service and the impacts that this can have on both companies and the individual tourists.

### Unit 4 International travel and tourism destinations

This unit looks at major international destinations that people from around the world visit. You will study why different destinations are appealing for different people around the world. You will look at a range of destinations and plan holidays to meet the needs of different visitors.

## Where can this qualification lead?

Travel and Tourism helps you to develop a range of skills that are essential for the future. These include decision-making, teamwork, individual enquiry, communication skills, organisation, presentation and ICT skills. This mix of knowledge and skills make Travel and Tourism a desirable subject to have on your CV.

### How is this course assessed?

- Unit 1 UK Travel and Tourism Sector - exam
- Unit 2 UK Travel and Tourism Destinations - coursework
- Unit 3 The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience - coursework
- Unit 4 International travel and tourism destinations - coursework



# Notes



# Notes

## Contact the Year 9 Team

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