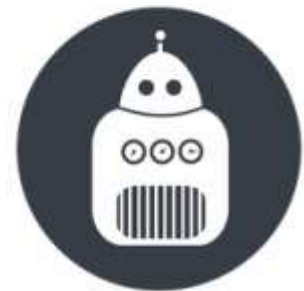
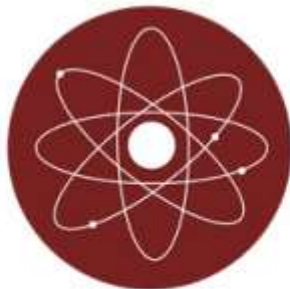




The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College

'Inspiring learners for their future'



Year 9 Pathway Guidance 2024



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Our Curriculum

This is an exciting time for our Year 9 students, it is an opportunity for new challenges and to take steps towards their aspirations as they move into Key Stage 4 (KS4).

Our curriculum is academic and ambitious for all of our learners. We offer a balanced and inclusive experience in which all learners will be enriched by a core curriculum designed with a social conscience, preparing our students to enter increasingly competitive higher education and employment sectors as truly global citizens. This is why we prioritise the English Baccalaureate for all but a small number of students who have previously followed a different curriculum pathway.

Our Core Curriculum ensures students study the breadth of nationally required and recognised qualifications. In core subjects all students will achieve GCSEs that prepare them for further education or training, whether that is in our own Sixth Form, an alternative Sixth Form, College or an Apprenticeship.

The English Baccalaureate, or EBacc, ensures that students study a range of qualifications and acquire a range of academic skills that will support their transition to post-16 education or training. The significant majority of students will continue to study the same Modern Language that they have built a foundation in during Year 9.

Our Pathway subjects enable students to focus on subjects that they will thrive in, will be beneficial to their future career ideas and that they are confident they will make progress in. When selecting Pathway subjects, consideration should be given to progress achieved in Year 9 and ability to work independently, especially when considering subjects with coursework requiring students to be examined throughout the course in each lesson. Excellent attendance is essential for success here and these subjects are clearly indicated in this booklet.

Core Curriculum: All will study...

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Combined Science

History OR Geography
(You may choose both,
choosing the second as a
Pathway Subject)

French OR German OR Spanish
(The language currently studied. A small
number of students will follow an EBacc
Optional Pathway)

Core PE (non examined)

PSHE (non examined)

Pathway Subjects: Students will choose two from...

Art or Textiles or Graphic Design

Drama

Music

Performing Arts

Design & Technology

Food & Nutrition

Health and Social Care

History

Geography

Religious Studies

Separate Sciences
("Triple Science": selected students only)

Computer Science

Business Studies or Economics

PE

Core Subjects



Core PE

Faculty Leader -
Mr M McMeeking

Email -
mcmeekingm@ridgewayschool.com

PE is an entitlement for all students. Not only does it help to develop their physical fitness and confidence, it also develops their awareness of healthy lifestyle choices. Beyond this, PE has an important role in raising awareness of our shared heritage and community, as well as teaching values such as respect, endeavour and fairness.

Students in Years 10 and 11 can choose from a range of different options, designing their own pathway through Core PE.

PSHE



PSHE

Faculty Leader - Mrs H Clapton

Email -
claptonh@ridgewayschool.com

The PSHE programme prepares students to think critically about issues in the world we live in, and supports them to stay healthy, safe and informed about life in Modern Britain.

PSHE education incorporates Personal, Social, health and Economic education as well as the now statutory Relationships Education.



English Language

Faculty Leader - Mr M Webber

Email - webberm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE English Language
 Board - AQA
 Code - 8700

There are two formal examinations worth 100% at the end of the course. AQA has developed two equally-balanced papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way. The final grade is awarded for students' performance in the examinations.

Course Content:

The English Language specification is designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge, whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are accessible to all students. Students will develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.

What will I study on this course?

You will explore creative reading and writing and writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

In order to gain accreditation you will also be required to complete a stand-alone spoken language presentation. This assesses:

- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of Standard English

This does not contribute to the English Language GCSE final grade but must be completed in order to pass the course.



Where can English take me?

Lots of careers including..	R6 and post-16
Publishing or Teaching	English Literature
Journalist or Librarian	English Language
Web Editor or Researcher	History
Marketing or Advertising	Drama



English Literature

Faculty Leader - Mr M Webber

Email - webberm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE English Literature
Board - AQA
Code - 8702

There are two formal 'closed book' examinations worth 100% at the end of the course.

The final grade is awarded for students' performance in the examinations.

Course Content:

The English Literature specification is designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, regardless of ability level. We cover a range of texts that explore a broad range of engaging themes and ideas whilst fostering an appreciation of literary craft and the power of language.

The course is taught alongside GCSE English Language, so students will benefit from the transferable skills of the two courses and be awarded a second GCSE certified by AQA.

What will I study on this course?

You will study whole texts including:

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *An Inspector Calls* by J.B Priestley
- Power and Conflict Anthology poetry
- Unseen poetry

All students are required to take both Language and Literature





Mathematics

Faculty Leader - Mrs C Horton
 Email - hortonc@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:
 Name - Mathematics (9-1)
 Board - OCR
 Code - J560

Assessment of Course:

Foundation Tier (grades 5 to 1)

- Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes
Calculator permitted
 - Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes
Calculator not permitted
 - Paper 3 1 hour 30 minutes
Calculator permitted
- Each paper has an equal weighting

Higher Tier (grades 9 to 4)

- Paper 4 1 hour 30 minutes
Calculator permitted
 - Paper 5 1 hour 30 minutes
Calculator not permitted
 - Paper 6 1 hour 30 minutes
Calculator permitted
- Each paper has an equal weighting

Course Content:

Maths is one of the core subjects of the National Curriculum and is compulsory.

Year 10 will be studying the OCR GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics. As well as testing students' skills across all areas of mathematics there is an increased emphasis on students being able to demonstrate their understanding of concepts and apply their mathematical skills through problem solving based in a range of unfamiliar contexts.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment in Maths, just 3 exams all of which will be sat at the end of Year 11.

The GCSE exam papers are a mixture of calculator and non-calculator exams and students will be entered at either Higher or Foundation Tier.

For all maths exams you will need some specialist equipment:

- A protractor
- A pair of compasses
- A scientific calculator

(

Where can Mathematics take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Banking, Investment	Maths
Economist, Engineer	Further Maths
Accountant, Architect	Physics



Combined Science

Faculty Leader - Miss M Tuck
 Email - tuckm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy 8464

Course Content:

The Science team are dedicated in teaching:

Ridgeway scientists who are knowledgeable, confident, curious, can link ideas and are resilient problem solvers who enjoy science.

Excellent outcomes which enable students to take the next steps in their education.

This will be achieved via...

The Science curriculum is based on a study of the 4 key models that underpin scientific understanding; Cells, Particles, Forces and Energy. Alongside this students will be taught the skills they need to work scientifically. They will learn to use equipment with accuracy and precision, to work as a team, to plan their time and resources effectively and about the wide variety of ways in which results can be presented.

Assessment of Course:

Combined Science:

Combined Science will study all three science disciplines throughout Years 10 and 11 before taking exams covering all three sciences at the end of Year 11, allowing them to achieve two overall science GCSEs.

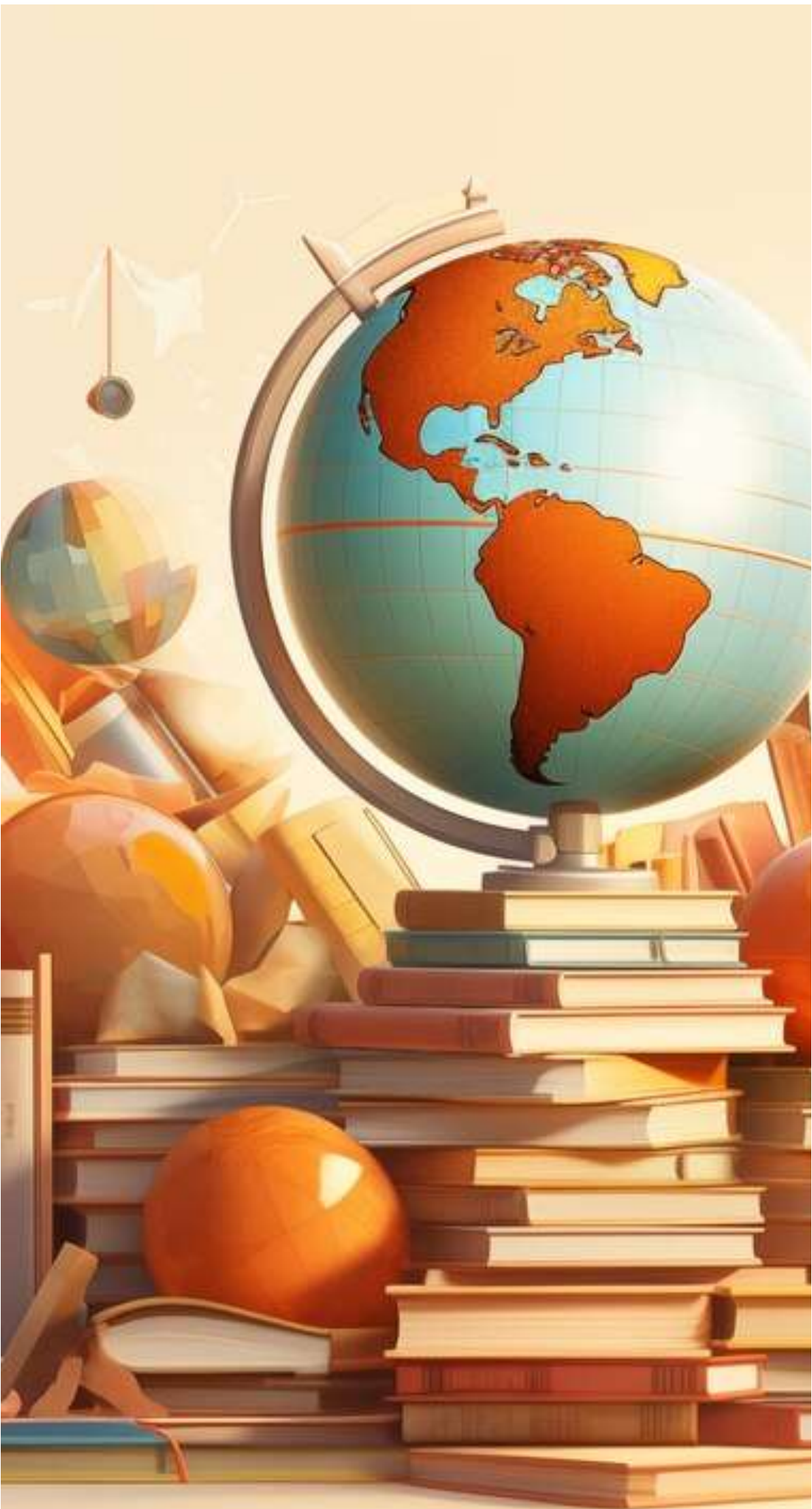
Required Practical element

The new science GCSE contain no coursework and are assessed only through exams sat at the end of Year 11. There are a number of required practical tasks (21 for Combined Science and 28 for Single Sciences) which students will complete during the two years. There will be questions in the final exams based on these practical tasks.

Where can Science take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Vet, Doctor, Nurse	Biology, Psychology
Midwife, Engineer	Chemistry, Physics
Zoologist, Astronomer	Applied Science

EBacc Subjects





French

Subject Leader - Mr J Robertson

Email - robertsonj@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE French
Board - Edexcel

Assessment of Course:

The language is assessed through examination at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 listening 25%
- Paper 2 speaking 25%
- Paper 3 reading 25%
- Paper 4 writing 25%



Topics and themes covered:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Course Content:

Planning to go to University? Want better job prospects? Interested in other cultures? Want to become a better communicator? Enjoy making new friends? Want to *travel*? Planning to teach in primary schools?

THEN YOU SHOULD BE CONTINUING WITH A LANGUAGE!!!!...

Keeping up a language will help in the future, if you want to learn other Western or Eastern European languages. Not only that, but you'll be a great asset to your employer.

In any environment, speaking a language can open the door to a whole new world! Whether on holiday, meeting people at work, socialising or discovering other cultures, your language skills will widen your horizons, create new opportunities and increase your appreciation of what's out there. Not only that, it's likely you'll be paid more too! According to recruitment agencies, salary uplift for those using languages at work can be anything from 8-20%!

We live in a multilingual world and British companies are increasingly aware of the advantages of hiring young people with language skills. We can no longer rely on the reassuring motion that 'everyone speaks English', because 75% of the world does not!

What the papers say

"Languages graduates are more employable than those in computing, or science, or even business studies. Employers cannot get enough people with language skills. Surveys show that agencies believe they have lost business because of language skills failure."

"Language skills are the key to success in today's globalised job markets."

Where can French take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
RAF, Army, Navy, GCHQ	French
Journalist, Interpreter	Law, Politics
Publishing, Law, Politics	Economics, Business



German

Subject Leader - Mr J Robertson

Email - robertsonj@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE German
Board - Edexcel

Assessment of Course:

The language is assessed through examination at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 listening 25%
- Paper 2 speaking 25%
- Paper 3 reading 25%
- Paper 4 writing 25%



Topics and themes covered:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Course Content:

Planning to go to University? Want better job prospects? Interested in other cultures? Want to become a better communicator? Enjoy making new friends? Want to travel? Planning to teach in primary schools?

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"Language skills are the key to success in today's globalised job markets."

Where can German take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
RAF, Army, Navy, GCHQ	German
Journalist, Interpreter	Law, Politics
Publishing, Law, Politics	Economics, Business



Spanish

Subject Leader - Mrs A Melo

Email - meloa@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE Spanish
Board - Edexcel

Assessment of Course:

The language is assessed through examination at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 listening 25%
- Paper 2 speaking 25%
- Paper 3 reading 25%
- Paper 4 writing 25%

Topics and themes covered:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Course Content:

Planning to go to University? Want great job prospects? Interested in other cultures? Want to become a better communicator? Enjoy making new friends? Want to travel? Planning to teach in primary schools?

Keeping up a language will help in the future, if you want to learn other Western or Eastern European languages. Not only that, but you'll be a great asset to your employer.

In any environment, speaking a language can open the door to a whole new world! Whether on holiday, meeting people at work, socialising or discovering other cultures, your language skills will widen your horizons, create new opportunities and increase your appreciation of what's out there. Not only that, it's likely you'll be paid more too! According to recruitment agencies, salary uplift for those using languages at work can be anything from 8-20%!

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"Language skills are the key to success in today's globalised job markets."

Where can Spanish take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
RAF, Army, Navy, GCHQ	Spanish
Journalist, Interpreter	Law, Politics
Publishing, Law, Politics	Economics, Business



Current Course Content:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35% of GCSE) – Exam 1 hour 30 mins.

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

- Tectonic hazards
- Weather hazards
- Climate change

Section B: The living world

- Ecosystems
- Tropical rainforests
- Cold environments

Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

- Coastal landscapes in the UK
- River landscapes in the UK

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35% of GCSE) – Exam 1 hour 30 mins.

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

- Urban growth
- Urban sustainability

Section B: The changing economic world

- Development
- Changing economy of Nigeria
- Major changes in the UK economy

Section C: The challenge of resource management

- Water

Paper 3: Geographical applications (30% of GCSE) Exam 1 hour 15 mins.

Section A: Issue evaluation

- Critical thinking and problem solving using a pre-released resource booklet

Section B: Fieldwork

- Students will be examined on two geographical enquiries, each of which will require them to collect and interpret primary data from a fieldtrip.

Modules are subject to change as we review the curriculum for September 2025

Why we study Geography?

Successful geography students are amongst the most employable people as they develop the skills necessary for any job in the future. This is because the subject combines a knowledge of science and an understanding of the arts.

A good grade in Geography is evidence to employers and universities that you have an advanced understanding of the world.

During the course you will use a wide range of mathematical and graphical skills related to geographical concepts and issues. Studying Geography allows you to develop your decision making abilities, something that will be useful for whatever you choose to do in the future.

Geography

Subject Leader - Miss A Curtis-Slater

Email - slatera@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE Geography
Board - AQA
Code - 8035

Assessment of Course:

The world is constantly changing. To be a successful person in today's society, knowing how and why it changes is important. That is why Geography is a great subject to study. This is an exciting course teaching you about the world today!

Where can Geography take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Biologist, Travel writer	Geography
Quantity Surveyor,	Biology
Scientist, Geologist	Travel & Tourism



History

Subject Leader - Mr J Bister

Email - bisterj@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - Edexcel
Units & Codes:

1HI0/13 - Exam : 1 hour 20 mins

- Migration in Britain, c.800-present and Depth Study on Notting Hill c.1948-1970 - 30%

1HI0/ B1/P4 - Exam: 1 hour 50mins

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91, - 20%
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-88, - 20%

1HI0/31 - Exam: 1 hour 30 mins

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39, - 30%

Assessment of Course:

The History exam paper is not tiered. This means that you have as much chance of getting a level 9 as anyone else in your class.

There are three examined papers with different sections that are worth different weightings. All topics will be taught along with exam skills over the two year course.

Current course Content:

The course will enable you to develop a variety of skills, which will help you in your general academic studies and transfer to your future career.

History GCSE enables you to develop your ability to analyse key features and events, evaluate a range of sources of information including interpretations of events, people and issues, and develop your ability to structure arguments.

These skills are useful in every aspect of life, even if you do not study History after GCSE.

The History department currently visits Berlin in Year 10 to learn more about the key events in Germany's history whilst under Nazi rule.

The skills which you develop on the course means that it is highly valued by universities and employers. It is a favoured subject by many top universities. It is useful for a huge range of careers including law, journalism, media, the police, the armed forces, teaching, medicine and business.

Modules are subject to change as we review the curriculum for September 2025

Where can History take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
RAF, Army, Navy, Teacher	History
Journalist, Heritage	Law, Politics
Publishing, Law, Tourism	English, Sociology



Pathway Subjects



Art

Subject Leader - Mrs A Fair

Email - faira@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Art & Design
 Board - AQA
 Code - 8202

Assessment of Course:

Portfolio - 60% of total marks
 Exam Project and 10 hour exam - 40% of total

Course Content:

You will have the opportunity to explore a number of different ideas and materials as you follow set themes. You will develop the skills and processes that you have already tried in earlier years in KS3 as well as trying out new, exciting ideas and developing these with new materials and techniques. You will be introduced to different Artists and have the opportunity to discover your own to inspire your art work.

Most of the course is taken up with developing your coursework portfolio. This allows you to explore interests in the subject and experiment with a wide range of art processes and materials, creating exciting and individual responses.

You will produce a portfolio, selected from work undertaken during the course. This must include more than one project. This unit is worth 60% of your total marks.

You will also choose a project theme from a selection provided within the exam paper. This consists of a preparatory project of at least 6 weeks and a 10 hour exam. This is worth 40% of your total marks.

GCSE art and design is a recognised qualification for further study of A level in the Sixth Form. It is a desirable qualification to have as you start on your journey to further education or the world of work. Providing important skills in communication, idea exploration, resilience and problem solving.

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how we remain an artist once we grow up.”
Pablo Picasso

Where can Art take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Film, Fashion, Interior Design, Animation, Game design, Textiles	Fine Art, Photography, Illustration, Graphics
Architecture, 3D Design, Illustration, Graphics	Fashion design and Textiles, Media Makeup
Photography, Marketing, Advertising, Journalism	3D Design



Business

Subject Leader - Miss H Lamporth
Email - lamporth@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - Edexcel
 Units & Codes:

1BSO/01— Exam : 1 hour 45 mins

- Investigating Small Businesses: Spotting opportunities, putting ideas in to practice and how to make the business successful.

- 50% of the course

1BSO/ 02— Exam: 1 hour 45 mins

- Building a business: Growing a business through the marketing, operational, financial and human resource management decisions.

- 50% of the course

Assessment of Course:

The Business exam paper is not tiered. This means that you have as much chance of getting a 9 as anyone else in your class.

There are two examined papers with a variety of questions styles allowing students to display a range of skills. All topics will be taught along with exam skills over the two year course.

Paper 1 has a focus on small businesses and entrepreneurs and paper 2 has a focus on large and international businesses.

Course Content:

Ever wondered what makes some businesses so successful? Have you thought about which are the best companies to work for? Or do you fancy running your own business?

As a customer, student, and member of the community you are a stakeholder in many businesses. Now find out more behind what you see and experience to discover what makes a business really work.

Throughout the course we will look at how entrepreneurs find gaps in the market to target, how they launch a product to customer, the logistics behind the production of products and how they fund starting up a business.

Business develops your skills of research, problem solving, communication and team work, all of which are essential in the job market.

There are a range of career paths that can be taken with the study of Business including marketing, banking, accountancy, sales, as well as how to manage other people. GCSE Business will allow students to carry on to A Level or University, but it is not an essential requirement.

Where can Business take me?

Careers including:

R6 and post-16

Solicitor, Journalist

Business, History

Retail, Buyer

Economics

Marketing, Advertising

Politics, Law, Maths



Computer Science

Subject Leader - Mr C Adams

Email - adamsc@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE Computer Science
 Board - OCR
 Code - J277

Assessment of Course:

Assessment is based on two written exams.



Course Content:

This exciting course gives you an excellent opportunity to solve problems, investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills.

This course is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. Assessment is based on two written exams.

Component 01: Computer systems

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming

Students undertake a programming task which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations

Where can Computer Science take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Cyber Security	Computer Science
Software Designer	Maths, Further Maths
Project Management	Physics



Drama

Faculty Leader - Mrs R Jankinson

Email - jankinsonr@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Drama
Board - OCR
Code - J316

Assessment of Course:

GCSE Drama is made up of three units, all of which are explored practically.

Component 1 is **Devising Drama** where you will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create your own piece of devised Drama. You are also marked on a portfolio that you will create, detailing your decision making process and outlining the journey you have made. 30% of the total GCSE.

Component 2 is **Presenting & Performing Texts** this is where you will present two extracts from a play to a visiting examiner. 30% of the total GCSE.

Component 3 is **Performance & Response** you will practically explore a play and learn to evaluate Live Theatre performances. You will then demonstrate that knowledge and understanding in a final written exam. 40% of the total GCSE.

Course Content:

GCSE Drama is a highly appealing course due to the diverse range of activities, combining both practical and theoretical approaches to learning. This combination of academic and creative challenge with a practical focus makes for a dynamic and engaging course.

- Creative approaches : Actor, Deviser & Designer options
- Themed projects where you can create and perform
- Script Work where you will bring text to life and perform extracts to a visiting examiner
- Devised performance inspired by a given stimulus and performed to an audience
- Portfolio where you will reflect on the process and evaluate Drama

Drama GCSE can offer so much more than just an opportunity to perform. You will develop generic study skills that feed into all courses: speaking and listening, research and investigation, analysis and evaluation, public speaking and literacy.

You will also be developing skills that all employers value in a **workplace**. You will be acquiring skills like working with others, problem solving and communication. You will find that Drama will help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations and people.

The course is largely practical and almost all your time will be spent in the Drama studios exploring the play texts, developing your own performance ideas, working in groups and most importantly creating exciting, live theatre.

“The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create.”

Barack Obama

Where can Drama take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Actor, Teacher	Drama, Music
Sound Engineer	Performing Arts
Screenwriter, Media	English



Design and Technology

Subject Leader - Mrs M Nuevo
Email - nuevom@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board: AQA

Unit 1: Technical Principles, Design and Making
 2 hour exam
 50% of the total grade

Non-Examined Coursework:

50% of the total grade

Assessment of Course:

Unit 1 examination:

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Course Content:

Coursework structure:

Assessment criteria:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Where can Design & Technology take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Engineer, Designer	Product Design, Maths
Sound engineer	Graphics, Physics
Robotics, Architect	Art, Textiles



Economics

Subject Leader - Miss H Lamport

Email - lamport@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - AQA

Units & Codes:

8136/01— Exam : 1 hour 45 mins

How markets work: Economic foundations; resource allocation; how prices are determined; production, costs, revenue and profit; competitive and concentrated markets; market failure.

50% of the total grade

8136/02 – Exam: 1 hour 45 mins

How the economy works: introduction to the national economy; government objectives; international trade and the global economy; the role of money and financial markets.

50% of the total grade

Assessment of Course:

The Economics exam paper is not tiered. This means that you have as much chance of getting a 9 as anyone else in your class.

There are two examined papers, one focusing on microeconomics and the other on macroeconomics and globalisation. A variety of questions are asked including multiple choice questions and longer 15 mark questions. All topics will be taught along with exam skills over the two year course.

Course Content:

Economics looks at how decisions are taken by different economic agents; consumers, firms and countries. The underpinning question of economics is how to allocate resources effectively. How should government allocate tax revenue? What price should be charged for products to ensure that the demand meets supply? Should doctors be paid more than nurses?

Economics develops the skills of research, analysis, data interpretation and problem solving; skills which complement a number of careers in varying subjects.

GCSE Economics is a useful introduction for further study of Economics at 'A Level' and University and can be combined effectively with a range of other subjects such as Mathematics, Geography, History, Business Studies and Languages.

The study of Economics can lead to careers in Banking, Accountancy, Retailing, Advertising, Law and Finance and Business Management. Employers view the skills gained in this subject extremely highly as seen with Economics graduates being amongst the highest paid in the country.

Where can Economics take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Economist, Advisor	Economics, Business
Mortgage Advisor	Maths
Stockbroker, Statistician	Politics, Law



Food and Nutrition

Subject Leader - Mrs K Stamp
Email - stampk@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Food Preparation & Nutrition
 Board - AQA
 Code -

Assessment of Course:

Paper 1: Food Preparation and Nutrition

What's assessed?

- Theory knowledge of food preparation & nutrition.

How is this assessed?

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE
- Multiple choice questions (20 marks)
- Five questions each with a number of sub-questions (80 marks)

Non-exam Assessment (NEA)

Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks)

- students understanding of the characteristics, functionality and chemical properties of ingredients including practical investigations.

How is this assessed?

- Written report including photographic evidence of the practical investigation

Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks)

- Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes.

How is this assessed?

- Written portfolio including photographic evidence.

This is a linear course, meaning that students will sit their exam and submit their NEA's at the end of the course.

Course Content:

Students who study this GCSE, will gain knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

This course focuses on five main areas of study in both theory and practical knowledge:

- **Food nutrition and health**
- **Food science**
- **Food safety**
- **Food choice**
- **Food provenance**

Students will develop high level preparation, cooking and presentation skills throughout the course. Therefore, you will be expected to bring in the correct ingredients every week.

Where can Food Preparation & Nutrition take me?

Students who succeed in GCSE can progress onto a professional apprenticeship, study at higher education or degree level.

Anyone considering a career in food or nutrition will benefit from learning about diet related health, nutrition, food safety, food provenance and high level skills in food preparation.



Course Content:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35% of GCSE) – Exam 1 hour 30 mins.

- Section A: The challenge of natural hazards
 - Tectonic hazards
 - Weather hazards
 - Climate change
- Section B: The living world
 - Ecosystems
 - Tropical rainforests
 - Cold environments
- Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK
 - Coastal landscapes in the UK
 - River landscapes in the UK

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35% of GCSE) – Exam 1 hour 30 mins.

- Section A: Urban issues and challenges
 - Urban growth
 - Urban sustainability
- Section B: The changing economic world
 - Development
 - Changing economy of Nigeria
 - Major changes in the UK economy
- Section C: The challenge of resource management
 - Water

Paper 3: Geographical applications (30% of GCSE) Exam 1 hour 15 mins.

- Section A: Issue evaluation
 - Critical thinking and problem solving using a pre-released resource booklet
- Section B: Fieldwork
 - Students will be examined on two geographical enquiries, each of which will require them to collect and interpret primary data from a fieldtrip.

Why we study Geography?

Successful geography students are among the most employable people as they develop the skills necessary for any job in the future. This is because the subject combines a knowledge of science and an understanding of the arts.

A good grade in Geography is evidence to employers and universities that you have an advanced understanding of the world.

During the course you will use a wide range of mathematical and graphical skills related to geographical concepts and issues. Studying Geography allows you to develop your decision making abilities, something that will be useful for whatever you choose to do in the future.

Geography

Subject Leader - Miss A Curtis-Slater
Email - slatera@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:
 Name - GCSE Geography
 Board - AQA
 Code - 8035

Assessment of Course:

The world is constantly changing. To be a successful person in today's society, knowing how and why it changes is important. That is why Geography is a great subject to study. This is an exciting course teaching you about the world today!

Where can Geography take me?	
Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Biologist, Travel writer	Geography
Quantity Surveyor,	Biology
Scientist, Geologist	Travel & Tourism



Graphic Design

Subject Leader - Mrs M Nuevo

Email - nuevom@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board: AQA

Unit 1: Portfolio work

60% of the GCSE grade

A sustained project developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief. Also, a selection of further work from activities such as trials and experiments; skills-based workshops; mini projects; responses to gallery, museum or site visits and independent study.

Unit 2: 10 hour exam

40% of the GCSE

The externally set assignment provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding in response to their selected starting point.

Assessment of Course:

Graphic communication is the process of designing primarily visual material to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given or self-defined brief. Students will work in one or more of the following areas: communication graphics, design for print, advertising and branding, illustration, package design typography, interactive design (including web, app and game), multi-media, motion graphics Signage, exhibition graphics.

Course Content:

Students must demonstrate the ability to:

- Use graphic communication techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:
 - Typography
 - Illustration
 - digital and/or non-digital photography
 - hand rendered working methods
 - digital working methods

- Use media and materials, as appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:
 - pencil, pen and ink, pen and wash, crayon, and other graphic media
 - watercolour, gouache and acrylic paint
 - layout materials
 - digital media
 - Printmaking
 - mixed media

Where can Graphics take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Designer, Illustrator	Graphics, Photography
Printer, Advertising	Art, Textiles
Publishing, Textiles	Product Design



Health & Social Care

Subject Leader - Mr M Halsall
Email - halsallm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - BTEC Tech Awards: Health & Social Care
 Board - Pearson
 Code - 603/7047/6

Assessment of Course:

Component 1

Human Lifespan Development

Non exam internal assessment These assignments are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.

Component 2

Health and Social Care Services and Values

Non exam internal assessment These assignments are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.

Component 3

Health and Wellbeing

Exam - 2 hours, 60 marks total

The qualification is graded over seven grades from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction.

Course Content:

BTEC Tech Awards are designed to give learners the opportunity to study vocational areas academically.

The Health and Social sector is one of the fastest growing in the UK. It is estimated that by 2035 2.17 million health and social care job vacancies will need to be filled. This course provides an opportunity for practical application as well as the study of theories and concepts. It opens doors for post 16 progression in this important sector.

Students will study three components covering lifespan development, values and well being. Components one and two will be assessed via internal assessment. These are set by the exam board and completed in class under supervised conditions. Component 3 is assessed by an external examination designed to bring together learning and identify concepts in an integrated way.

Where can Health and Social Care take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Health Care, Social worker	Health & Social Care
Nursing, Early years teacher	Sociology
Childcare, Nursery manager	Applied Science



History

Subject Leader - Mr J Bister
Email - bisterj@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:
 Board - Edexcel
 Units & Codes:

1HI0/11 - Exam : 1 hour 15 mins

- Medicine in Britain, c.1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914:1918: Injuries, treatment and the trenches, - 30%

1HI0/ B1/P4 - Exam: 1 hour 45 mins

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91, - 20%
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-88, - 20%

1HI0/31 - Exam: 1 hour 20 mins

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39, - 30%

Assessment of Course:

The History exam paper is not tiered. This means that you have as much chance of getting a level 9 as anyone else in your class.

There are three examined papers with different sections that are worth different weightings. All topics will be taught along with exam skills over the two year course.

Course Content:

History GCSE is focused on the development of Medicine in Britain, the impact of war on surgical development, superpower relations during The Cold War, the Norman conquest of England and Nazi Germany.

The course will enable you to develop a variety of skills, which will help you in your general academic studies and transfer to your future career.

History GCSE enables you to develop your ability to analyse key features and events, evaluate a range of sources of information including interpretations of events, people and issues, and develop your ability to structure arguments.

These skills are useful in every aspect of life, even if you do not study History after GCSE.

The History department currently visits Berlin in Year 10 to learn more about the key events in Germany's history whilst under Nazi rule.

We will ensure further extra curricular History opportunities are available to support the learning of our students. The skills which you develop on the course means that it is highly valued by universities and employers. It is a favoured subject by many top universities. It is useful for a huge range of careers including law, journalism, media, the police, the armed forces, teaching, medicine and business.

Where can History take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
RAF, Army, Navy, Teacher	History
Journalist, Heritage	Law, Politics
Publishing, Law, Tourism	English, Sociology



Music

Subject Leader - Mrs R Jankinson

Email - jankinsonr@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE Music
Board - AQA
Code - 8271

Assessment of Course:

Understanding Music - 40%

External Exam

Section A - Listening (68 marks)

Section B - Contextual Understanding (28 marks)

Performing Music - 30%

Internal Assessment – Practical Coursework

1. Solo performance (36 marks)

2. Ensemble Performance (36 marks)

Composing Music - 30%

Internal Assessment – Practical Coursework

1 Composition to a set brief (36 marks)

2 Free composition (36 marks)



Course Content:

“Music is an essential part of everything we do. It has an abstract quality which speaks to a Worldwide audience in a way that nourishes the soul. If you can speak in the language of music, you can communicate with anybody.”

Jim Henson

Why should I study Music?

- You enjoy playing or making music
- You are interested in how music is made
- You like making up your own music
- You want to study music at a higher level
- You play an instrument or enjoy singing

Music is a creative and valuable subject. It is accessible to all students who enjoy creating music and who play an instrument or enjoy singing. It is a well-regarded GCSE which will enable you to go on to study either Music or Music Technology at a higher level. The skills developed will benefit you in many areas, such as building your confidence, working in a team and exploring your creativity. Music is the universal language – come and learn how to speak it effectively.

Where can Music take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Therapist, Broadcaster	Music, Performing Arts
Journalist, Events	BTEC Music, English
Performer, Technician	Drama, Maths



BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

Subject Leader - Mrs R Jankinson

Email - jankinsonr@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

Board - Edexcel

Assessment of Course:

You are continually assessed throughout the course through assignment based project work. Although the course is primarily vocational and practical in nature you will need to develop and use research, presentation and written skills.

Students who successfully complete the course will be awarded a BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Level 1/2)

This is a fully recognised national qualification equivalent to one GCSE grade 1-9.

Course Content:

The BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts offers an introduction to the Performing Arts Business and to the disciplines and commitment required to work in the Performing Arts industry. It is centred on the development of vocational skills in a professional environment. It also provides an excellent basis for further education and development. The classes are assignment and workshop based and will provide students with opportunities to develop a range of skills which are equally valuable in areas of

employment other than the Performing Arts Industries.

You will complete three components:

- Exploring the Performing Arts
- Developing Skills and Techniques in Performing Arts
- Responding to a Brief

With BTEC, you'll be assessed throughout the course, on a range of assignments, rather than in one final exam. BTECs let you present your work in a way that suits your style and makes the best of what you produce. For example through audio and video, through journals and log books and through live performances.

If you are interested in building your confidence in drama, dance or music, if you would like to discover if Performing Arts is a career option for you in the future, if you like working in a professional environment creating productions and performances or if you like the sense of working in a team, communicating ideas and feelings, expressing emotions and attitudes then the BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts may be the course for you.

Where can Performing Arts take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Performer, Dancer	Performing Arts
Therapist, Teacher	Drama, English
Theatre Assistant	Music, Music BTEC



Physical Education GCSE

Subject Leader - Mr M McMeeking

Email - mcmeekingm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Physical Education

Board - AQA

Code - 8582

Assessment of Course:

The course is 40% practical and 60% theory. Candidates are assessed in a range of practical activities and the best combination of marks are submitted. There are two 1¼ hour exam taken at the end of the course.

- Human Body and Movement 30% of GCSE. 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Social Cultural Influences and Well-being 30% of GCSE. 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Practical Performance. 40% of GCSE.

Where can PE take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Sport coach, Trainer	PE, Psychology
Physiotherapist, Nurse	Biology
Chiropractor, Doctor	BTEC Sport

Course Content:

You must be fit, we regret that students with long term injuries are not eligible for this course.

You must have shown a commitment to physical education in Year 7-Year 9 and willingness to take part in extra curricular sport either in or outside of school.

Students must be prepared to perform in individual and team sports to comply with the new practical assessment.

Students practical performance in Year 7-Year 9 will determine their suitability on the course as 3 strong practical grades (at least three x 6+ grades) are required to fulfil the significant practical element of the course worth 40%.

Theory includes

Health fitness and well being applied anatomy and physiology.

Movement analysis physical training.

Use of data.

Sports psychology.

Social cultural influences.

Factors that effect performance.

Practical includes

A range of practical activities are studied from activities such as football, netball, athletics, swimming and trampolining. You can also be assessed in activities that you participate in outside school, for example, horse riding or skiing. Three activities count towards your final mark.

Into the future:

- You can go on to do AS/A Level Physical Education
- You can go on to Level 2 and Level 3 vocational courses in Physical Education, Sport or Leisure
- Work in the leisure industry
- Armed forces and the police

This subject can be taken at A Level without having studied it at GCSE.



Religious Studies

Subject Leader - Mrs H Clapton

Email - claptonh@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Religious Studies A (8062)
 Board - AQA
 Code - 8062MA (exam code)

Assessment of Course:

Two Units; Christianity and Islam / Thematic

- Two written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each
 Each paper has 102 marks
- Each 50% of GCSE

Course Content:

In this GCSE course we focus on Christianity and Islam.

We discuss and debate a range of ethical issues that are all relevant to society today as well as the key beliefs and teachings and practices of each religion. Students should not choose Religious Studies just to cover the ethical topics as this is only 50% of the course. There is an in depth study of the religious motivations and practises of both Muslim and Christian believers.

All study concentrates on developing skills of analysis and academic enquiry and requires students to be able to write in an extended manner.

Paper 1 - Depth Study into the religions of Christianity and Islam

Islam.

Key Beliefs and Practices

Christianity

Key beliefs and Practices

Paper 2 - Thematic Studies

Relationships and families

Topics include: Contraception/ Sexual relationships before marriage/ Homosexual relationships/ Family planning/ Gender discrimination

Religion and life

Topics include: Abortion/ Euthanasia/ Animal experimentation/ Origins of the universe/ Value of human life

Religion, peace and conflict

Violence/ Weapons of mass destruction/ Pacifism/ Terrorism/ Forgiveness/ Holy War

Religion, crime and punishment

Corporal punishment/ Death penalty/ Forgiveness/ Causes and aims of crime and Punishment

Where can Religious Studies take me?

Careers including:

R6 and post-16

Therapist, PR, Politics

Philosophy

Journalism, Social work

Law, Politics

Publishing, Law

Sociology, History



Separate Sciences

Subject Leader - Miss M Tuck

Email - tuckm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Triple Science; GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Board - AQA

Code -

Assessment of Course:

Biology: Paper 1 & Paper 2

Chemistry: Paper 1 & Paper 2

Physics: Paper 1 & Paper 2

Each paper is worth 50% of the individual grade and lasts 1hr 45 mins

Course Content:

Please Note:

Only students who are invited by the Science Department may apply to study separate sciences.

The Science team are dedicated in teaching:

Ridgeway scientists who are knowledgeable, confident, curious, can link ideas and are resilient problem solvers who enjoy science.

Excellent outcomes which enable students to take the next steps in their education.

This will be achieved via...

The Science curriculum is based on a study of the 4 key models that underpin scientific understanding; Cells, Particles, Forces and Energy. Alongside this students will be taught the skills they need to work scientifically. They will learn to use equipment with accuracy and precision, to work as a team, to plan their time and resources effectively and about the wide variety of ways in which results can be presented.

Triple Science:

Students who are invited by the Science department can apply to study triple Science. Triple Science will study all three science disciplines throughout year 10 and 11 and will see students achieve 3 GCSEs in science, one in each discipline.

The triple science course is designed to widen students knowledge into the application of science to prepare them for future careers. This includes studying in more detail topics such as monoclonal antibodies, treatment of disease, space, Earthquakes and producing nanoparticles.

Required Practical element

The new science GCSE contain no coursework and are assessed only through exams sat at the end of Year 11. There are a number of required practical tasks (21 for Combined Science and 28 for Single Sciences) which students will complete during the two years. There will be questions in the final exams based on these practical tasks.

Where can Science take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Vet, Doctor, Nurse	Biology, Psychology
Midwife, Engineer	Chemistry, Physics
Zoologist, Astronomer	Applied Science



Textiles

Subject Leader - Mrs M Nuevo

Email - nuevom@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - AQA

There are two components:

Component 1 Portfolio:

A Coursework portfolio which includes a sustained project developed in response to a theme, task or brief and a selection of further work completed during the two year course.

Component 2 Externally set assignment:

A portfolio and final piece with the starting point chosen from a selection set by the exam board. It includes a 10 hour practical exam.

Assessment of Course:

Component 1: Portfolio

Assessed across 4 Objectives with total marks of 96. Worth 60% of the final GCSE grade. Set and marked by the school and moderated by AQA during a visit.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Assessed across 4 Objectives with total marks of 96 and includes 10 hours of supervised exam time. Worth 40% of the final GCSE grade. Set by AQA, marked by the school and moderated by AQA during a visit.

Course Content:

This qualification is intended for students interested in using textiles in a practical way. Students will make a range of products, and samples using traditional skills and modern technologies. They will gain an understanding of commercial practice and potential career opportunities in the fashion and textiles industries.

Textile Design will give students the opportunity to design products from woven, knitted, stitched, printed and decorated textiles.

Areas of study include:

- Fashion design and illustration
- Costume design
- Constructed textiles
- Printed, dyed and decorated textiles
- Digital textiles

The skills and knowledge gained will allow students to progress to lots of exciting careers. Here are some of them: Fashion Design, Interior Design, Fashion and Colour Consultancy, Fashion Journalism, Textile Buying, Textile Research, Theatre Design, Retail Management.

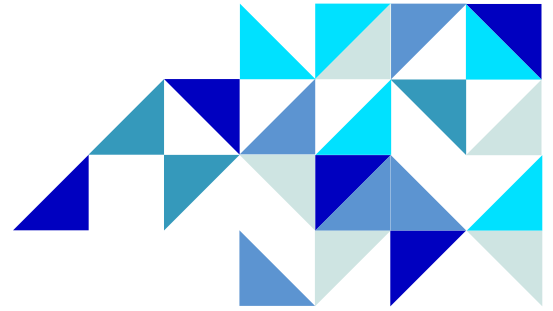
It develops transferable skills in problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, teamwork and communication that will be of value no matter what career is chosen.

Where can Textiles take me?

Careers including:	R6 and post-16
Fashion designer	Textiles, Photography
Journalist, Artist	Art, Product Design
Technologist, Marketing	Graphics, Drama



Some advice from Sixth Form...



This is a really exciting time for you to start to explore your next steps and focus on subjects you are good at, are interested in taking or subjects you need for your future plans.

Hopefully you have talked to your teachers about the subjects you are doing now, but also remember there are lots of exciting new subjects to consider.

5 tips from Sixth Form:

1. You do not need to know your future career plans to choose your options. Choose subjects you are interested in and think you will make good progress in.
2. Studying a language is preferred by many universities and employers.
3. If you have talent and skill then don't be afraid to choose those subjects. If you are a talented linguist, writer, artist, designer, performer or sports person then choose subjects that suit you.
4. Your core subjects and your pathway will keep your qualifications broad enough to be successful after Year 11.
5. Don't be persuaded by other people. It is you who is going to have to do the work and be in the lessons. Take the chance to be you!

If you have any questions, you can speak to different people including Sixth Formers who may have done subjects you are thinking about. Email Mrs Smith, Head of R6, at smithz@ridgewayschool.com if you think this would help.

Also remember that in school your Mentor, Head of Year, Teachers, Peer Mentors and Prefects can help too. Most importantly good luck! This is the start of an exciting new opportunity for you all.



What if...?

You change your mind in Year 9? Please tell us as soon as you have changed your mind, if it will fit into the timetable, we will make it work. Email Miss Buttery: butteryh@ridgewayschool.com

You don't know what to pick? Take your time, think about your progress, what you will enjoy and think about a balance of subjects, consider the type of exams and how much coursework. How do you work best?

You want more information about a subject? All the Heads of Subject are listed on each subject page, with their emails. You can email them or find a teacher in school.

What next?

Once you have all the information you need to make your choices, take time to read it through, ask questions and talk to your teachers, mentor and family. Think about what you enjoy and will make progress in.

Make your choices using the [Microsoft Forms link that will be sent to your school email on Friday 23rd February](#). This is the only way to select your subjects. You can only make this choice once.

The deadline for sending your choices is March 22nd.

Will I get my choices?

There is no guarantee a Pathway course will run or that your choices will fit into the timetable. This will depend on student numbers, staff availability and the whole school timetable.

We will write to you to confirm your choices in Term 6. We will work with you to make other choices if your original choices cannot work.

We will ask for you to select a reserve subject, this may be added if one of your original choices does not work. Please consider your reserve carefully.



“We are committed to creating a culture of opportunity, support, challenge and ambition, where potential is realised and nobody is left behind.”

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Adrian Cush, Principal

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