

2025-2027

Year 9 Options

Quick Comparison of Option Subjects



**Walton-le-Dale
High School**

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students who study Computer Science:

1. Want to go on and have a career in the computing industry.
2. Have good problem solving and mathematical abilities.
3. Have a passion/interest in learning a programming language.
4. Are interested in how computers operate.
5. Are willing to practice their programming skills outside of lesson time.

What will I learn?

- 3.1 The fundamentals of algorithms
- 3.2 Programming (Python)
- 3.3 Data Representation
- 3.4 Computer Systems
- 3.5 Computer Networks
- 3.6 Cyber Security
- 3.7 Databases and SQL
- 3.8 Ethical, legal and Environmental Impacts of Tech

How will I be assessed?

2 x Written Exams (50% each)

Paper 1 (Examined on Units 3.1 and 3.2)

Paper 2 (Examined on Units 3.3 – 3.8)

GCSE FRENCH AND GERMAN

Students who study GCSE French or German:

1. **LOVE** learning how to communicate in a foreign language and **LOVE** finding out about new cultures and environments.
2. **ASPIRE** to have a well-paid job eg in travel and tourism, working abroad or working in law, finance or journalism where communication skills are required. You could work in the travel industry or in journalism, as a teacher or support assistant in primary and secondary schools. There are also lots of local companies such as British Aerospace who welcome applicants with a language qualification. This will make you more employable.
3. **ENJOY** the prospect of travelling abroad and being able to immerse themselves in the culture and language. Speaking the language of the country you are visiting, or speaking to people from those countries, is really rewarding.

What will I learn?

I will learn how to communicate about themes which are relevant to my own life.

The three themes are:

- *People and lifestyle*
- *Popular Culture*
- *Communication and the World around us*
- *I will be given the opportunity to express myself and my opinions and to work with others, to develop my mastery of the four language skills, which are listening, speaking, reading and writing.*

How will I be assessed?

4 exams: listening, speaking, reading and writing at the end of the 2-year course.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Students who study Geography GCSE.

Geography gives a balanced viewpoint which is good preparation for the world of work. Employers want people with the following attributes:

- Good communication skills
- Ability to manage themselves
- Ability to work as a team
- Numeracy and literacy
- Ability to solve problems
- Computer literacy
- Spatial awareness
- Environmental and social awareness

What will I learn?

Paper 1: Physical Geography

Natural Hazards (tectonic and weather); the living world; coastal and river landscapes.

Paper 2: Human Geography

Urban issues and challenges; the changing economic world; resource management and energy.

Paper 3: Geographical applications and skills

Application of skills learnt from two field visits and from an information booklet.

How will I be assessed?

Three written exam papers at the end of Year 11.

GCSE HISTORY

Students who study GCSE History:

1. Studying GCSE History will help you to answer important questions, such as: Why do wars happen? Why do we have a welfare state? How does a country become a dictatorship?
2. Develops your thinking skills, analytical skills and your communication skills.
3. History helps with careers such as: Law, journalism, police, army, games designer, costume designer, librarian, civil service, business, advertising, media and many more.

What will I learn?

Paper 1:

Germany: Democracy & Dictatorship

Conflict & Tension the Interwar Years

Paper 2:

Health & the People

Elizabethan England

How will I be assessed?

Two written exam papers at the end of Year 11.

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE

Students who study Triple Award Science:

1. **Achieved well at KS3:** have a solid understanding of key concepts.
2. **Ability in maths:** involves many mathematical calculations.
3. **Career Aspirations:** medicine ,veterinary science, research, technology.
4. **A-Level Science:** stronger foundation.
5. **Willingness to work hard:** more content, additional workload.
6. **Good time management:** pace is demanding.
7. **Passion for the subject:** enjoys science.

What will I learn?

Students studying Triple Science at GCSE will take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics as three separate GCSEs with 3 separate teachers, covering all Combined Science content plus additional topics and practicals.

Key topics include genetics, ecosystems, and homeostasis (Biology), organic chemistry, rates of reaction, and analysis techniques (Chemistry), and forces, energy, waves, and space physics (Physics).

How will I be assessed?

6 x 1 hr 45 min Exam Papers

2 x Biology, 2 x Chemistry, 2 x Physics

GCSE FINE ART

Students who study GCSE Fine Art:

1. Have a passion for art & design and enjoy creating artwork but can also fulfil a given brief
2. Are willing to experiment with new materials, techniques and ways of working and are not afraid to make mistakes
3. Can work independently and WANT to work on their projects outside of lesson time

What will I learn?

- Various drawing techniques
- Painting (watercolours, acrylic, oils)
- Colour theory
- Mono printing, lino printing, image transfers
- Scaling up, gridding, stretching paper
- Artist analysis, annotation, evaluation
- Advice on how to be a professional artist, exhibit with galleries, promote your work etc.

How will I be assessed?

100% practical coursework (Component 1 = 60%, Component 2 = 40%)

GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Students who study Business Studies:

1. **Want to run their parents/carers business or set up their own**
2. **Aspire to have a career in sales, manufacturing, finance, marketing & advertising, management, business and Enterprise**
3. **Want to know more about the world around them**

What will I learn?

About advertising and finding customers

Managing money and making a profit

About businesses such as Facebook or Apple

About how entrepreneurs such as Bezos, Branson, Zuckerberg etc.. made their riches

Managing people & production

How will I be assessed?

2 exams - 1 hour 45 each.

GCSE DRAMA

Students who study Drama:

1. I think drama is very helpful at GCSE level. It gets you to manage tasks and work to deadlines. It's a good subject for all students to take part in - expressing how you feel, telling stories. It also helps with public speaking and builds your confidence, especially if you're shy.
2. Drama's fun but remember that you need to put the work in every lesson. The coursework is a huge proportion of the grade so don't leave it until the last minute to really put effort in.

What will I learn?

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

1. Understanding drama
2. Devising drama
3. Texts in practice

Guidance is also provided on the theatrical skills students will need to work on.

In the practical components students may specialise in performing, lighting, sound, set, costume and/or puppets.

How will I be assessed?

Performance of Extract 1 and Extract 2

Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Devising log

Devised performance

NCFE ENGINEERING

Students who study Engineering:

1. Are **ENTHUSIASTIC** about Design & Technology, mainly Product Design and Technical Drawing.
2. **Aspire** to have a career in the evolving and modern industry of Engineering- aerospace, civil, transportation, environment to enhance our future.
3. **Enjoy** the challenge of asking questions such as, how does it work? Can it be made better? Will it improve daily living?

What will I learn?

You will build upon prior knowledge from Yrs7-9 with a focus upon the engineering world. You will be encouraged to explore workshop practices and CAD/CAM

You will develop workshop skills to a higher level focusing more on quality control, working to set tolerances and how to interpret working drawings

2 lessons will be practical based. 1 lesson will be theory per week. You **MUST** be organised and work to deadlines. A contribution to project work will be required.

How will I be assessed? This is a **VOCATIONAL** subject not GCSE (Level 1/2 Pass, Merit or Distinction)

60% NEA (Non Exam Assessment) September-April

40% Exam Paper 1hr 30mins (May/June)

GCSE FOOD & NUTRITION

Students who study Food & Nutrition:

1. **Are ENTHUSIASTIC about Food and who enjoys to cook.**
2. **Aspire to have a future career within the food industry**
3. **Have a passion to explore and broaden your knowledge and palate based upon different cultural dishes catering to all dietary requirements.**

What will I learn?

You will build upon prior knowledge from Yrs7-9 developing higher order skills when cooking and understanding of where certain foods come from.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

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

How will I be assessed?

50% NEA (Non Exam Assessment) September-April

50% Exam Paper 2hrs

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Students who study Health and Social Care:

1. Are caring, empathetic and compassionate people who want to make a difference in the lives of others.
2. Aspire to have a career caring for others in professions such as, nursing, mental health, social work, physiotherapy, psychology and childcare
3. Are curious about the world around them and want to further their knowledge and understanding of the health and social care sector

How will I be assessed?

Two pieces of coursework and an exam.

What will I learn?

Principles of care in health and social care settings (Mandatory (Exam 1hr 15mins 70 marks)

- Values, rights of the individual, safeguarding, hygiene, communication

Supporting Individuals through life events (Mandatory, 2 practical tasks & 2 written tasks 60 marks)

- Life stages and factors, expected & unexpected life events and their impact, research service providers and how they can support individuals

Creative and therapeutic activities (Practical assignment, 4 practical tasks 60 marks)

- Range of creative activities and therapies, benefits of these, plan & deliver a creative activity

MUSIC TECHNICAL AWARD

Students who study Music:

1. **LOVE Music and want to do music three times a week.**
2. **Want to do music as a career or for people just to want to continue to do music alongside another job.**
3. **Want to learn more about music, want to continue to learn to music.**

What will I learn?

- **To play a piece of music 3 minutes long.**
- **More advance skills on an instrument.**
- **Learn about the performing arts industry.**
- **Learn creative design e.g. writing songs, make up application or stage design.**
- **How to analyse music.**

How will I be assessed? SECURE ASSESSMENTS

Unit 1 – Performing

Unit 2- Creating

Unit 3- Performing arts in practice

GCSE PE

Students who study GCSE PE :

1. **Enthusiastic, committed and determined**
2. **Love sport and competing**
3. **Want to have a career that is linked with physical activity**

What will I learn?

- **Applied anatomy and physiology**
- **Physical training**
- **Socio-cultural influences**
- **Sports psychology**
- **Health, fitness and well-being**
- **Practical activity assessment (3 sports)**
- **Evaluating and Analysing Performance (AEP)**

How will I be assessed?

2 exams 1 hour each, 1 written piece of coursework, 1 team sport, 1 individual sport and 1 other sport

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Students who study GCSE Religious Studies:

1. Studying GCSE RS will help you to answer important questions, such as: Is it ever right to go to war? Can God exist if there is evil and suffering in the world? What happens when we die? Is there evidence of reincarnation? Should the law on abortion be change?
2. The course will develop your thinking skills, analytical skills and your debating skills.
3. RS helps with careers such as: education, law, journalism, police, army, social services , immigration, medical careers , civil service media and many more.

What will I learn?

**Paper 1:
Christian and Muslim
Beliefs and practices**

**Paper 2: Philosophical
and ethical thematic
studies**

- Relationships and families
- Religion peace and conflict
- Religion and life
- Crime and Punishment

How will I be assessed?

Two written exam papers at the end of Year 11.

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL SPORT STUDIES

Students who study Cambridge National Sports Studies:

1. Are committed, enthusiastic
2. Enjoy sport
3. Want to have a career that is linked with physical activity

What will I learn?

- R184 -- Contemporary issues in sport (mandatory) - EXAM 1h = 70 marks
- R185 -- Performance and leadership in sports activities (mandatory) - Assignment and practical
- R186 -- Sport and the media (option selected by WLD) – Assignment

How will I be assessed?

1 exam & 2 written assignments