



THE WESTLEIGH SCHOOL

Aspiring & Achieving Together

Stay safe

Aspire to achieve

Make a positive contribution

KS4 Guided Choices Booklet 2026

Achieve economic well-being in the future

Remain healthy

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Choosing my subjects

All students at The Westleigh School study a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes:

- Maths (1 GCSE)
- English Language (1 GCSE)
- English Literature (1 GCSE)
- Science (2 or 3 GCSEs)
- PE (non-examination)
- Personal Development (non-examination)
- 3 Options subjects (one of these MUST be either History, Geography or French and then a range of GCSEs and vocational courses)

Which qualifications will my courses lead to?

Grades for GCSE subjects are on a numerical 9-1 classification. In the new system 9 is the top grade and 1 is the lowest grade. Below there is a chart which illustrates how the numbers equate to the old letters. A score of 4 is considered a 'Standard Pass'. A score of 5 is considered a 'Strong Pass'. It is important to remember that anyone who does not achieve a Grade 4 in Maths or English will need to re-sit this at college –this is a government requirement.

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

Some of our courses are vocational and are graded as follows:

9-1 Grade	9	8	7	6	5	4	
BTEC	D*		D	M		P	

It is important to remember that both types of qualification are equally valid and worth the same number of "points" when applying to further and higher education. Vocational courses are more practical in their focus and offer students a different learning experience with a coursework component.

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

The Government encourages learners to study a combination of subjects that will gain them extra recognition as having obtained the English Baccalaureate, which is not a qualification but a certificate, confirming that you have achieved the required grades in a range of subjects. The English Baccalaureate consists of English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, Geography or History and one Modern Foreign Language (MFL). As most learners' study English Language and English Literature, Maths and at least Combined Science then they would have to choose either Geography or History and complete a Spanish GCSE to have the full allocation of subjects for the complete English Baccalaureate. Learners will have to obtain a grade 4–9 in each subject to achieve the English Baccalaureate.

Summary of Key Information

Choosing the right options to study in years 10 and 11 is very important, and we strongly advise that parents and students attend **the Year 9 Parents Evening** to receive information about the choices available and speak to your child's teachers.

The Options Booklet and form will be available online, the links to these will be emailed to all parents and students and will be available on The Westleigh School website. We will also provide students and parents with paper copies.

Options forms should be completed online by Friday 27th February.

We aim to give all students their first choice option subjects, however, this is not always possible.

Some subjects will not run and others will be oversubscribed, so please ensure all reserve choices are carefully considered.

NOTES TO CONSIDER

- You must choose at least one of History, Geography or French.
- We expect high demand for GCSE Design & Technology and also Hospitality & Catering, places in these classes are limited and so reserve choices are very important.
- Remember you cannot choose DRAMA and DANCE as they are the same qualification.
- When reading through the information for each subject be clear on whether the course is a GCSE course or another qualification.
- Please be aware that if numbers are low some subjects will not be continued to be offered.

Dos and Don'ts

- Do talk to your parents, subject teachers, form tutors – they are all here to help.
- Do read the subject information in this booklet carefully.
- Do opt for a balance of subjects, subjects you think you will enjoy and succeed in.
- Do be realistic about your choices and your talents and abilities.

- Don't choose a subject just because your friend has said they are going to choose it. Remember, you are making decisions about your future.
- Don't choose a subject just because you like a particular teacher (or avoid a subject because you dislike a teacher) as you may well have different teachers next year.

Curriculum Overview

At The Westleigh School we have designed our options choices to give our students a broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to ensure our students have a wide range of knowledge and skills that will prepare them for their next steps in life.

All students study the Core Curriculum and then have an additional 3 subject choices as outlined below:

1 = GCSE qualification

2 = Vocational qualification

3 = Non-examined

<p>Core Curriculum (All students study these subjects)</p>	<p>English language¹ English Literature¹ Mathematics¹ Science (Combined)¹ Core PE³ Personal Development³</p>	
<p>Choice 1 (Choose one only)</p>	<p>History Geography French</p>	
<p>Choice 2 (Choose two)</p>	<p>Art Design & Technology French Geography History Philosophy, Ethics & Religion Sports Studies Hospitality & Catering</p>	<p>Business Studies Child Development Music Photography Creative Imedia Performing Arts (Dance or Drama) Health & Social Care Triple Science</p>

Qualifications Overview

Subject	Qualification	Exam board
English	GCSE English Language (1 GCSE)	AQA/Pearson
	GCSE English Literature (1 GCSE)	AQA
Maths	GCSE Mathematics (1 GCSE)	OCR
Science	GCSE Trilogy Science (2 GCSEs)	AQA
Core PE	Non- examination	N/A
History	GCSE History	Edexcel
Geography	GCSE Geography	AQA
French	GCSE French	AQA
Personal Development	Non-examination	N/A
The following subjects are on offer, but will only run based on sufficient student numbers.		
Art	GCSE Art, Craft & Design	AQA
Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies	OCR
Child Development	Cambridge National Level 1/2: Child Development	OCR
Dance	BTEC Level 2: Performing Arts: Dance	Pearson
Design and Technology	GCSE Design Technology	Eduqas
Drama	BTEC Level 2: Performing Arts: Drama	Pearson
Health and Social Care	Cambridge National Level 1/2: Health and Social Care	OCR
Hospitality and Catering	Level 1/2 Technical Award in Hospitality and Catering	Eduqas
IMedia (ICT)	Cambridge National Level 1/2: Creative Imedia	OCR
Music	BTEC Level 2 Music Practice	Pearson
PE	GCSE Physical Education	OCR
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics	GCSE Religious Studies	AQA
Photography	GCSE Photography	AQA
Triple Science	GCSE Biology	AQA
	GCSE Chemistry	
	GCSE Physics	
Sports Studies	Cambridge National Level 1/2: Sports Studies	OCR

Subject Information

The following pages give more details of the examination subjects on offer at The Westleigh School for 2025- 2026.

Art, Craft & Design



What will I learn?

Students will begin their ART GCSE Journey through a Natural Forms project, exploring a range of materials and the work of artists, Marcia Baldwin and Ian Murphy. Students will be exposed to a wide range of materials and experimentation that they wouldn't otherwise have experienced at KS3, and will continue to develop their existing skills through mastery and further experimentation. Students will develop their ability to annotate and evaluate their work thoroughly and be encouraged to work independently, in preparation for their 10 hour practical exam in Year 11.

How will I study?

Students will begin by conducting research on the theme through visual mind mapping and introduce techniques through workshop style activities, exploring various aspects of the natural world. Students will develop their printing techniques, drawings skills, painting, presentation, annotation and more, alongside creating creative responses and test materials in response to their chosen artists. Students will independently continue to develop their portfolio through different themes with sustained final pieces and gain more understanding of how to take a technique and add purpose and intention, along with developing their annotation of their own, and the artist's work, in depth. Students will conclude their portfolio with the exam conducted in Year 11, in which they will decide their theme, find and explore their chosen artist, experiment with materials and complete a sustained final piece during a 10 hour practical exam.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed using the AQA Art, Craft & Design Assessment Objectives and tracked throughout, according to their completion of each element.

Component 1 – Portfolio (60%): The portfolio is made up of all sketchbook work and final pieces created prior to the exam. The course is made up of 2 in-depth practical projects spanning Year 10 and the autumn term of Year 11.

Component 2 – Controlled Assessment (40%): The 'Externally Set Assignment' begins in January of Year 11. Pupils are expected to select and respond to a starting point provided by the examining body. There is a period of preparation time to research and explore the chosen theme before exploring final ideas. This preparatory period is then followed by a 10 hour supervised practical exam.

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

A person wanting to commit to GCSE Art needs to be dedicated to putting in extra work at home or after school in order to keep up with the course. Skills covered include, drawing/sketching, watercolour, acrylic painting, print making, photography, digital manipulation (using Photoshop), ceramics (3D work using clay), presentation, research and annotation.

How will this subject help me in my future?

Everything that has been designed will have started with someone studying an Art related subject at a young age, just some of the 1000's of creative careers available are being an artist, graphic designer, illustrator, concept artist (games), fashion designer, architect, art therapist, teacher, animator, printmaker, interior designer, hairdresser, photographer etc! Taking Art at GCSE doesn't mean that you need to continue studying it further down the line at college or University, it can be used to confidently get you to that next step!

"I wanted to study medicine and become a doctor. I picked Art because I knew I enjoyed it, and I would work hard and the points I would get would help me get into college. I am now studying biology, maths and further maths at college!"

Photography



What will I learn?

Students will begin their PHOTOGRAPHY GCSE Journey through a Natural Forms project, exploring a range of techniques and the work of a range of artists and photographers. Students will be exposed to a wide range of materials and experimentation that they wouldn't otherwise have experienced at KS3, and will continue to develop their existing skills. Students will develop their ability to annotate and evaluate their work thoroughly and be encouraged to work independently, in preparation for their 10 hour practical exam in Year 11.

How will I study?

Students will begin by conducting research on the theme through visual mind mapping and introduce techniques through workshop style activities, exploring various aspects of the natural world. Students will develop their skills alongside creating creative responses and test materials and ways of working in response to their chosen artists/photographers. Students will independently continue to develop their portfolio through different themes with a range of photoshoots and gain more understanding of how to take a technique and add purpose and intention, along with developing their annotation of their own, and the artist's work, in depth. Students will conclude their portfolio with the exam conducted in Year 11, in which they will decide their theme, find and explore their chosen photographer, experiment with materials and complete a sustained final piece during a 10 hour practical exam.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed using the AQA Photography Assessment Objectives and tracked throughout, according to their completion of each element.

Component 1 – Portfolio (60%): The portfolio is made up of all sketchbook/digital work and final pieces created prior to the exam. The course is made up of 2 in-depth practical projects spanning Year 10 and the autumn term of Year 11.

Component 2 – Controlled Assessment (40%): The 'Externally Set Assignment' begins in January of Year 11. Pupils are expected to select and respond to a starting point provided by the examining body. There is a period of preparation time to research and explore the chosen theme before exploring final ideas. This preparatory period is then followed by a 10-hour supervised practical exam.

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

A person wanting to commit to GCSE Photography needs to be dedicated to putting in extra work at home or after school to keep up with the course. Skills covered include photography, digital manipulation (using Photoshop), demonstrating creative techniques, presentation, research and annotation.

How will this subject help me in my future?

Taking Photography at GCSE could be that first step of your chosen career pathway, but if you don't know what you'd like to do at college, but know you'd enjoy it, it doesn't mean that you need to continue studying it further down the line, it can just be used to confidently get you to that next step!

"I wanted to study maths and become an accountant after leaving high school, but I picked Photography because I knew I enjoyed it, and I would work hard and the points I would get would help me get into college. I am now studying maths, accountancy and further maths at college!"

Business Studies



What will I learn?

GCSE Business is an up-to-date and engaging qualification that is relevant to the world of business today. The course allows pupils to explore business concepts, business terminology, business objectives and the impact of businesses on individuals and the wider society.

Unit 1 Business 01: Business activity, marketing and people

1. You will be introduced to business concepts and issues concerning the activities of a business. You will explore the purpose and role of a business from spotting an opportunity through to the growth of an established business. You will also look at the role of marketing and human resources.

Unit 2 Business 02: Operations, finance and influences on business

1. In this unit you will take a closer look at the role of operations and finance in business activity. Operations include production processes, quality of goods and services, customer service, and working with suppliers. Finance covers its role, its sources, costs, profit and loss, cash and cash flow.

You will also explore how business responds to external influences, such as ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate and globalisation, and the interdependent nature of business.

How will I study?

Be prepared to read and respond to case-studies.

Be good at analysing and evaluating.

Be prepared for some Maths equations.

How will I be assessed?

Examinations: 100% – Examination based

Business 1

50% – Business Activity, Marketing & People) containing multiple choice and extended written answers – 1hr 30 min

Business 2

50% – Operations, Finance, Influence on business and the interdependent nature of business – 1hr 30 min

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

Reading and analysing case studies, Problem solving, Research skills & Note taking

How will this subject help me in my future?

This course will appeal to you if:

1. Have ambition to be a 'problem solver' in life.
2. Have ambitions of being your own boss.
3. Want to potentially follow a career into the business world.

Child Development



What will I learn?

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

- preparing a feed or meal for a child
- choosing suitable equipment to use in a childcare setting
- planning suitable play activities and helping to prevent accidents in a childcare setting

How will I study?

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of the child development sector through thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. You will also develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the childcare sector and more widely.

The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations

How will I be assessed?

R057 Health and Wellbeing for Child Development.

In this unit you will learn about the importance of pre-conception health and reproduction, antenatal care and preparation for birth. You'll also learn about postnatal care and the conditions in which a child can thrive.

R058 Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years.

This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to create a safe environment for children from birth to five years in childcare settings. You'll research and choose equipment that is suitable and safe for use and will learn about children's nutrition and dietary needs.

R059 Understand the development of a child from one to five years.

This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn the physical, intellectual and social developmental norms for children from one to five years. You'll understand the importance of creating plans and providing different play activities to support children in their development. Topics include: * Physical, intellectual and social developmental norms from one to five years of Stages and types of play and how play benefits development * Observe the development of a child aged one to five years * Plan and evaluate play activities for a child aged one to five years for a chosen area of development

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

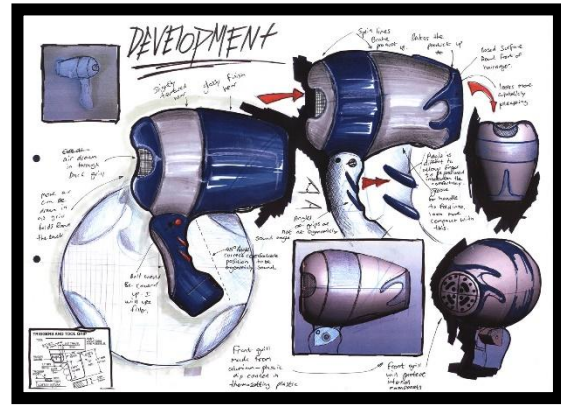
The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- Research skills – for example, within the NEA set assignment students will need to complete research for equipment to help make decisions on which to choose and explain why
- Communication skills – for example, within the NEA set assignment students will need to make recommendations to the nursery on how accidents can be prevented.
- Independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the Childcare sector such as learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as research skills.

How will this subject help me in my future?

The knowledge and skills you develop will help you to progress onto further study in the care sector. This may be other vocational qualifications, such as the Level 2 or Level 3 qualifications in Health and Social Care; the T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Childcare or the Early Years Educator Apprenticeship. The qualification also helps to develop other transferable skills, such as research and communication skills that will be valuable in other life and work situations.

Design & Technology



What will I learn?

Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering others' needs, wants and values. Pupils will gain knowledge of plastics, metals, woods, modern materials, textiles, SMART and technical materials, mechanical systems, electronics, CAD/CAM, manufacturing and analysis.

How will I study?

Lessons will be a mix of theory, design skills, CAD skills and practical skills.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century -Written examination 100 marks (externally assessed) - Students will develop knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials techniques and processes and how technology is having an impact on the design. Students will also investigate client needs, how designers have influenced design, sustainability and environmental issues linked to the design world.

Component 2: Design and Make task - 100 marks (Non-Exam Assessment)—Students will demonstrate their design and make skills, carrying out a design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board. The NEA assesses the students ability to: identify, investigate and outline design possibilities, write a detailed design brief and specification, design and test ideas, make prototypes, show a detailed manufacturing plan and analyse and evaluate design decisions

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

- Problem solving.
- Curiosity of problems and existing products that can be improved.
- An eye for detail.
- Computer and drawing skills.
- Independence and resilience.

How will this subject help me in my future?

Leads to careers in construction, engineering, architecture, graphic design, product design. Transferable skills- problem solving, independence, practical skills.

English Language



What will I learn?

In English language, students will explore creative reading and writing, writer's viewpoints and perspectives and spoken language. Students will learn how to respond to a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and to plan and write their own creative and persuasive texts in a variety of forms for a variety of purposes and audiences.

How will I study?

Over the course of KS4, students will be exposed to a breadth of different texts and practice responding to them using analytical and creative structures to support this. During the course, we also revise literary and persuasive devices used by writers to continue to develop an understanding of how writers create effects for readers.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 1h45 – 80 marks – 50%

Section A - One Literature fiction text

1 short form question – 4 marks

2 longer form questions – 2x8 marks

1 extended question – 20 marks

Section B – Creative writing – 40 marks

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 1h45 – 80 marks – 50%

Section A – Two non-fiction texts

1 short form – 4 marks

2 longer form questions – 1x8 mark 1x12 mark

1 extended comparison – 16 marks

Section B – Writing for purpose and audience (argue, persuade, explain)

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

To be able to read, interpret, analyse and evaluate unseen 20th Century fiction texts.

To summarise, analyse and compare 19th and 21st Century unseen non-fiction texts.

To write original creative and non-fiction texts to include correct vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling.

How will this subject help me in my future?

The study of English Language will equip student with the functional skills that all employers and further and higher education institutions require. Subject specific careers include: copywriting, journalism, publishing, teaching.

English Literature



What will I learn?

In English Literature, students will read, interpret and analyse a range of texts both studied and unseen. This will include a Shakespeare play, a Victorian novel, a modern play and poetry from romanticism to the present day.

How will I study?

Over the course of KS4, students will be exposed to a breadth of different texts and practice responding to them using analytical structures to support this. During the course, we also revise literary, structural and dramatic devices used by writers to continue to develop an understanding of how writers create effects for readers. We will continue to develop our prior knowledge of the social and historical context of the Elizabethan, Victorian, Edwardian eras.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel - 1h 45mins

A: Shakespeare—1 extract, 1 essay question (20%)

B: 19th Century—1 extract, 1 essay question (20%)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry - 2h 15mins

A: Modern texts—choose 1 of 2 essay questions (20%)

B: Poetry anthology— 1 comparison question (20%)

C: Unseen poetry—2 questions (20%)

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

To be able to read, interpret and analyse a range of texts both studied and unseen. To appreciate and evaluate the impact of a writer's context and therefore their intention for writing. To comment on the relationships between texts and the contexts they're written in.

How will this subject help me in my future?

The study of English Literature will enrich students' understanding of our rich literary heritage and give them opportunities to further study Literature. Typical careers of English Literature students include: law, academic research, broadcasting, advertising.

French



What will I learn?

Over two years you will learn about three themes building upon prior knowledge of topics studied in KS3:

Theme 1- People and Lifestyle

Theme 2- Popular Culture

Theme 3-Communication and the world around us

How will I study?

Students will extend their knowledge of the language creatively with a focus on gaining a sound grammatical base. Students will develop their skills further in Years 10 and 11 in a variety of contexts, extending their ability to understand and respond to spoken and written French. They will practise speaking, writing, listening & reading the French language.

How will I be assessed?

There will be 4 **short** exams:

Listening Exam (25%) Listening and Dictation

Reading Exam (25%) - including translation from French to English.

Speaking Assessment (25%) - Role Play, Read-aloud task, Photo Card and General Conversation.

Writing Assessment (25%) - open-ended & structured writing task and translation from English to French.

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

A solid vocabulary foundation is key!

Understanding grammar rules is crucial

Listen to French music, podcasts, news, or watch French films and TV shows.

Practice speaking French regularly, even if it's just for short periods.

Practice reading a variety of texts (articles, stories, advertisements, etc.).

Pay attention to spelling and punctuation, as accuracy is important.

Be aware of French traditions and holidays

How will this subject help me in my future?

Learning French can open up a wide range of opportunities and advantages for your future, both personally and professionally. Here are some ways in which mastering French can benefit you:

French is spoken across many continents (Europe, Africa, North America, and parts of Asia), meaning you'll have access to job opportunities in French-speaking countries like Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, and various countries in Africa

Business and Trade: France is a major global economy, and many large multinational companies (like L'Oréal, Airbus, Renault, and Total) operate in French-speaking countries. Fluency in French can be an asset in fields such as marketing, tourism, law, and finance, especially if you're dealing with international clients or partners.

Better Communication: Being bilingual enhances your communication and confidence skills, not just in French but in your native language as well. It trains you to think more critically, adapt your message to your audience, and express yourself more clearly.

Knowing a second language means you're in the top 32% of young people who can speak another language!

Geography



What will I learn?

You will study a wide range of both human and physical topics:

Natural Hazards, Ecosystems, Coasts, Rivers, Urban Issues and Challenges, the Changing Economic World and Resource Management. In addition, you will tackle an issue evaluation topic and complete fieldwork.

How will I study?

There will be a range of lessons learning new knowledge through teacher instruction and independent research. You will also complete a fieldtrip to carry out data collection to complete a practical study.

How will I be assessed?

There are three exams at the end of the course:

Paper 1: Physical Geography (1hour30)

Paper 2: Human Geography (1hour30)

Paper 3: Geographical Applications (1hour 30)

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

You need to have an interest in the world, how it works and how people live their lives. You need to be able to work independently and as part of a group. You will need good literacy skills and be confident using statistical maths skills.

How will this subject help me in my future?

Geography is a well respected GCSE that colleges value. It opens opportunities in to a wide range of careers including environmental work and public services. GCSE Geography lays the foundation for students to further their education in the study of Geography or related subjects such as leisure and tourism, health and social sciences and environmental conservation.

Health & Social Care



What will I learn?

Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. In 2019/20, the adult social care sector contributed approximately £41.2 billion a year to the UK economy. Social care employees, such as care assistants and social workers work with individuals to support them to be as independent as possible in their own homes, in care homes or nursing homes. Healthcare employees, such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and physiotherapists, work with individuals to enhance their quality of life by improving their health. Approximately 3 million people are currently employed in the sector.

The OCR Cambridge National level 1/2 in Health and Social Care is for students who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge through vocational contexts by studying Supporting individuals through the life stages, principles of care in health and social care settings, and health promotion campaigns as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

How will I be assessed?

The OCR Cambridge National in Health and Social Care is made up of three components. Two are mandatory and one is an optional component.

Component 1: R032; Principles of care in health and social care settings

- Focuses on the values of care (e.g. person-centred care, dignity and safeguarding)
- Looks at the rights of individuals, equality, and how care is delivered.
- Assessment: Written exam (externally assessed).

Component 2: Mandatory

R033: Supporting individuals through life events

- Explores life events such as birth, illness, injury, ageing and death
- Examines how these events affect individuals and how Health and social care services support them.
- Assessment: Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 3: R035 Health promotion campaigns

- Focuses on researching, planning and reviewing a health promotion campaign aimed at improving public health.
- Internally assessed work.

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

You will explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users and you will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care. This will include using analytical and problem-solving skills throughout the course to ensure that you are meeting the requirements of the PSA assignments. You will also develop research skills to support your component assessments.

How will this subject help me in my future?

Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study. There are also strong opportunities for post-16 progression in this important sector. This includes studying level 3 Health and Social Care, AAQ Health and Social Care, T Level Health or an apprenticeship route.

History



What will I learn?

There are 4 topics that we will study over the 2 year course. They are:

- Medicine through time and Medicine on the Western Front (World War 1)
- Early Elizabethan England
- The Cold War
- Weimar and Nazi Germany

How will I study?

You will study in a range of different ways. From knowledge recall to source analysis. You will study both historical skills but wider transferable skills.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by 3 exams at the end of Year 11.

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

To succeed on this course you need to enjoy History and studying about the past. You need to be able to look at and question sources. You are required to recall facts and write at length.

How will this subject help me in my future?

History is a subject that is highly valued by both colleges and employers and people who study this subject are held in high regards as history is seen as a 'facilitating' subject. Studying GCSE History opens up a vast variety of new subjects at A Level such as Sociology, Psychology, Criminology and Law. A qualification in History helps in careers such as law, politics, business, creative media, journalism, broadcasting and tourism management. Studying History equips you with key transferable skills that colleges and employers look for, such as:

- Thinking objectively
- Developing communication skills
- Developing your cultural awareness
- Develops your debate and arguing skills
- Improves your critical thinking
- Gives you a wider perspective
- Develop your time management skills & makes you more decisive.

Hospitality & Catering



What will I learn?

Understand how hospitality and catering providers operate
 Understand how hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements
 Know how food can cause ill health
 Be able to propose a hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements
 Understand the importance of nutrition in planning menus
 Understand menu planning
 Be able to prepare and cook high quality food products.

How will I study?

Lessons will be a mix of theory, planning and practical cooking skills

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (40%) 120 marks- The Hospitality and Catering Industry (externally assessed)
 Students will acquire knowledge of all aspects of the industry. Students will be able to use their learning of different types of establishment and job roles in relation to front of house and kitchen operations to complete a written exam.
 Unit 2 (60%) 180 marks- Hospitality and Catering in Action (internally assessed)
 In this unit students will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for them to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. Students will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes

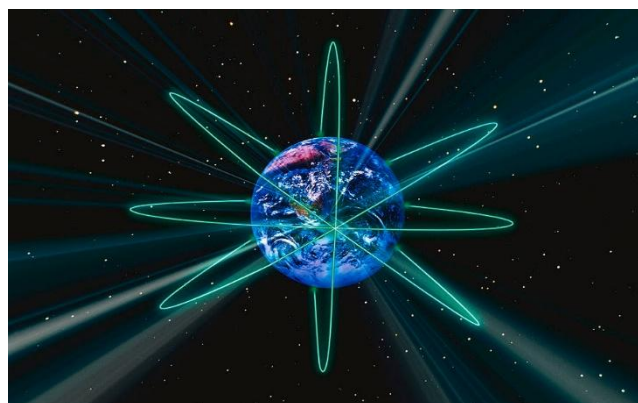
What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

Have a keen interest in the food industry and enjoy working in a practical environment in order to produce high quality practical outcomes.
 Organisation, an eye for detail, resilience.

How will this subject help me in my future?

This award would allow students to pursue further study at local colleges and seek a range of employment options which range from catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing.

Creative Imedia



What will I learn?

Are you creative, tech-savvy, and love bringing ideas to life? If so, OCR Creative iMedia is the perfect option for you! In this course, you'll dive into the exciting world of media production, learning practical skills like graphic design, video editing, and website creation. You'll get hands-on experience with industry-standard software, creating everything from interactive KIOSKS / Websites to stunning videos. Plus, you'll have the chance to work on real-life projects, develop your creative flair, and build a portfolio of work that can impress future employers or college applications. Whether you're dreaming of a career in media, design, or tech, Creative iMedia will give you the tools to turn your ideas into reality!

How will I study?

- Complete two coursework units during lesson time that will be FULLY practical (done on the Computers)
- Be able to work independently on projects using industry standard software.
- Work on coursework during lesson time that contributes towards your final grade.

How will I be assessed?

- The course is assessed at the end of the qualification and is equivalent to GCSE grading.
- All colleges and universities accept this qualification and grading.
- Grades are based on assessment across all three units.
- Students will be awarded a grade from Pass at Level 1 through to Distinction* at level 2.

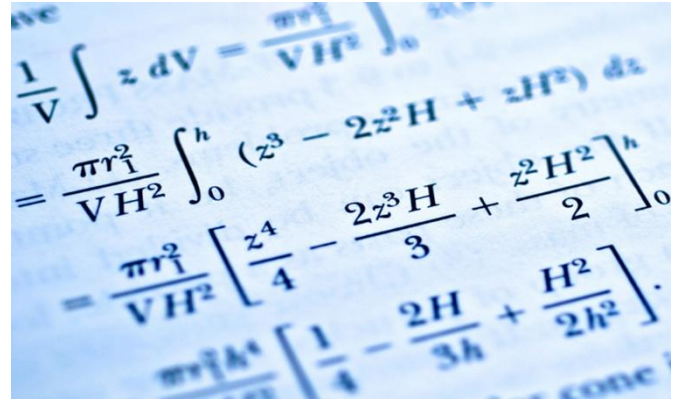
What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

- Basic ICT skills developed from Key Stage 3
- Interest in using the schools software such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator

How will this subject help me in my future?

- Huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce
- Digital media products used in almost every business
- A key part of many areas of our everyday lives
- Vital to the UK economy that the workforce is equipped with creative people

Mathematics



What will I learn?

The GCSE Maths course covers a range of topics designed to develop students' knowledge, problem-solving skills and application of mathematical concepts in real-world contexts. It follows the national curriculum and contains six key subject areas including:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

How will I study?

Students will study at a level that is appropriate for their ability. There are two tiers available - Higher and Foundation. The Foundation tier covers topics that are grades 1-5 and the Higher tier covers topics that are grades 5-9.

All students have 9 lessons per fortnight and are also offered intervention and revision lessons.

How will I be assessed?

All students are assessed at the end of Year 11 using three final examinations; one non-calculator and two calculator papers, each equally weighted and 1 hour 30 minutes long with 100 marks available on each paper.

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

Success in the GCSE Maths course requires a combination of regular practice, rational thinking, an understanding of core concepts and a positive mindset.

How will this subject help me in my future?

Mathematics GCSE is essential for further study and employment. Different aspects of the course will be relevant for different career pathways. For some, the numerical aspects will be most important, for others the shape and measurement or the ability to handle and interpret data.

Music



What will I learn?

A music Btec expands and gives you the skills to develop and become a budding musician in the music industry. You will learn how to develop skills in both music tech and music performance whilst also developing your understanding of the continually developing music industry. You will explore through this the history of music and the wide range of genres of music from all across the world. You will also have the chance to arrange and compose your own music alongside your developing music knowledge.

How will I study?

The music Btec runs over 3 components and is a full time running exam. This means that there is no final exam and all work completed throughout lessons will contribute to your final mark. You will study both through practical practice and through continual research.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed over 3 components which combine to make 5 musical products either performance or music tech based.

You will also carry out research into performance skills and tech skills across a multitude of different genres.

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

Most of all you need to have a passion and a drive to succeed in music. It is desired to have an instrument that you can already play. If this is not the case, then you need to consider the time that it takes to develop a musical skill and consider if you are willing to give your free time away outside of lesson times to develop this.

How will this subject help me in my future?

There are many different jobs within the music industry that a lot of students do not consider these are some of the many directions in which music can take you to... Music teacher, Session musician, Song writer, Music producer, Composer for video games, DJ Events organiser, Music manager, Foley artist, Touring musician, Studio engineer.

Music can take you to many places and it is important to consider this when taking this option, here are some of the colleges close by that offer further education within music. Wigan and Leigh college - Music practice extended diploma level 3 - audio and music production extended diploma level 3 - music industry skills diploma level 2

Performing Arts - Dance



What will I learn?

Dance covers a variety of areas, including: Performance, Choreography & Appreciation/Dance Analysis. Dance actively engages students to develop skills, understanding and independence. Dance promotes team work, creativity and confidence. Practical Skills – Physical, Technical and Expressive skills and techniques for performance.

BTEC Dance is a vocational qualification focused on developing practical and theoretical skills in dance, preparing students for careers in the performing arts or further study. Here's what you can typically expect to learn:

Performance Skills

- Techniques to enhance stage presence, expression, and interpretation.
- Developing confidence and professionalism in live performances.
Working in ensemble settings and collaborating with peers.

How will I study?

There are 3 components of study –

Component 1 – 'Exploring the Performing Arts' (30%)

Component 2 – 'Developing Skills & Techniques in the Performing Arts' (30%)

Component 3 – 'Responding to a Brief' (40%)

This exciting course will be made up of both practical and theory and will consist of a variety of dance styles, mainly Contemporary. The Components will be assessed throughout the two years and there will be written coursework to support the practical performances.

How will I be assessed?

There is no written exam at the end of the course, instead each component has coursework (both practically & written) which takes place over the two years.

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

Attendance is Key! As the assessment takes place throughout the course, it is important that you attend every lesson.

- **Writing Skills:** You'll need to complete reflective logs and evaluations, so being able to write clearly and thoughtfully is important.
- **Research Skills:** The ability to study dance history, influential choreographers, and the theoretical aspects of performance.
- **Discipline and Commitment:** Regular practice and a strong work ethic are essential for mastering techniques and preparing for performances.
- **Resilience:** The ability to handle challenges.
- **Time Management:** Balancing rehearsals, coursework, and personal responsibilities effectively.
- **Confidence:** A willingness to perform in front of others and take creative risks.

How will this subject help me in the future?

The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. Performing Arts (Dance) will enable students to further progress into higher and further education as well as pursue many different careers with a range of transferrable skills. This course provides students with a solid foundation to go on to achieve great things!

Performing arts - Drama



What will I learn?

Component 1 (30%) - In this component you will develop a practical understanding of how the performing arts work is created. You will look at elements such as the different theatre roles and their responsibilities as well as the application of relevant skills and techniques needed for a successful performance. You will have the chance to explore practically the work of different professionals such as BRECHT and STANISLAVSKI to develop an appreciation of the methods they use to explore a theme and communicate to audiences through their work. You will broaden your knowledge through observing existing repertoire and by learning about professionals' approaches in depth and how they create and influence performance material. (Internally assessed) Component 2 (30%) - In this component, you will develop performance skills and techniques. You will take part in workshops and practical sessions where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. You will work from existing performing arts repertoire, applying relevant skills and techniques to reproduce a professional performance. (Internally assessed) Component 3 (40%) - In this component, you will have the opportunity to respond to a brief. You will be given a brief that outlines your performance requirements. You will be asked to consider your target audience and to start the creative process by using the stimulus included in the brief. Working as part of a group, you will develop your ideas for a workshop performance and apply your skills and techniques to communicate your creative intentions to your audience. (Externally assessed)

How will I study?

Each component will be assessed separately throughout KS4. You will participate within coursework and practical lesson throughout the course. Every lesson will be assessed as the course is about the process as well as the final outcome. All your work will be expected to be completed done within school.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Coursework and practical workshops

Component 2 – Performance of a professional play extract and coursework

Component 3 – A devised performance and written responses to the work produced

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

- A passion for performing
- Creativity
- Working as a team as well as independently
- Enjoy reading scripts
- Commitment
- Listening skills
- Empathy
- Communication skills
- Focus
- Leadership skills

How will this subject help me in my future?

- Communication & Public Speaking
- Creativity & Problem-Solving
- Confidence & Self-Expression
- Teamwork & Collaboration

Personal Development



What will I learn?

Students will explore a range of themes such as –

- Relationships and Sex Education
- Careers and future choices
- Citizenship and politics
- Global Issues
- Drug and alcohol education
- Health and Wellbeing including mental health

How will I study?

You will study for Personal Development in a variety of different ways including

- Debating
- Evaluative writing
- Guest Speakers including Locala provision
- Use of digital technology
- Mock interview day
- Work experience

What skills do I need to succeed in this course?

knowledge and understanding of world issues

- inquisitiveness
- critical thinking
- interpreting and evaluating
- making safe and informed choices

How will this subject help me in my future?

Personal development gives you a chance to develop the skills and knowledge needed to thrive now and in the future.

This includes helping you to deal with critical issues that you face every day such as friendships, emotional wellbeing and change. And giving you a solid foundation for whatever challenging opportunities lie ahead, so that you can face a world full of uncertainty with hope. Personal Development aims to prepare all learners for the opportunities, challenges, life decisions and responsibilities they'll face. This in turn achieves a 'virtuous circle', whereby pupils with better health and wellbeing can achieve better academically, and enjoy greater success.

Physical Education



What will I learn?

In line with government requirements, all students will take part in at least one hour of physical activity a week. A wide variety of activities are offered which will give students a range of experiences that will not only develop their practical abilities but also promote an understanding of the benefits of regular physical activity and how it contributes to a healthy, active lifestyle.

How will I study?

You will have a 1 hour practical lesson per week.

How will I be assessed?

Students will take part in a variety of activities that include...Netball, Football, Badminton, Athletics, Rounders, Rugby and Health Related Fitness

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

You will need to be organised, bringing PE kit to every lesson and be prepared to work hard physically to promote health and fitness

How will this subject help me in my future?

Core PE will provide students with the knowledge and confidence to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle beyond the school environment. It will also provide a good grounding for students interested in sports coaching and sports development.

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics



What will I learn?

Students will follow the AQA GCSE Religious Studies specification and study a range of religious philosophical ideas and contemporary themes of ethics.

- Christian beliefs and practices
- Islamic beliefs and practices
- Theme A—Relationships and families
- Theme B—Religion and Life
- Theme D—Peace and Conflict
- Theme E—Crime and Punishment

How will I study?

You will study for GCSE Religious Education in a variety of different ways including

- Debating
- Evaluative writing
- Trips and Visits to places of worship
- Guest Speakers
- Use of digital technology

How will I be assessed?

Examination: 100% - 2 separate examination papers.

Paper 1— Study of Religions (Philosophy)— Written exam: 1hr 45mins (50% of the exam)

Paper 2 – Exploring ethical issues—Written exam: 1hr 45mins (50% of the exam)

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

knowledge and understanding of religious teachings

- inquisitiveness
- critical thinking
- interpreting and evaluating

Also remember these top tips:

- know and understand religious teachings about, and responses to the issues being studied
- keep an open mind – be aware how and why others think differently to them
- read the papers and watch the news – faith issues come up all the time
- contribute to discussions and debates – be willing to share viewpoints and learn from others
- be ready to challenge ideas – including your own – but respect and value the views of all

How will this subject help me in my future?

Religious Studies allows you to develop a range of skills that are wanted by employers! Through the study of this GCSE students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to interpret information, formulate questions and solve problems. We will develop writing skills, and the ability to construct a reasoned argument which allows students to show empathy and the ability to understand people and take on board others' views. This is a vital skill in all careers including; teaching, counselling, police officer, youth worker, public services and legal studies.

Sports Studies



What will I learn?

R184: Contemporary issues in sport

By completing this unit you will understand a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including learning about participation levels and barriers to completing sporting activities. You will also learn how participation is impacted by the promotion of values and ethical behaviour, about the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used in within sport.

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills. You will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with team mates as well as being in front of an audience when you perform. You will perform under pressure, both as a participant and as a leader, and will use your initiative to solve problems and make decisions. Finally, you will deal with rapidly changing conditions and situations.

R187: Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

In this unit you will understand how to find out information about what opportunities there are in your local area as well as nationally in the UK for all different types of outdoor/adventurous activities. You will learn how to enjoy the activities safely by finding out what equipment, clothing, facilities and technology you need, as well as completing planning to help keep you safe.

How will I study?

You will have 3 sports studies lessons a week of which, at least 2 will be in a classroom completing either coursework or exam work. Practical lessons will require full PE kit and you will need to show commitment regardless of the sport/activity you are doing. Out of the 200 total marks, only 28 of them are for you playing sport, 14 of them are for you teaching a session. This leaves 158 that come from written work.

How will I be assessed?

R184 – Exam – 70 marks 40% of final grade

R185 – Centre assessed tasks – 80 marks 40% of final grade

R187 – Centre assessed tasks – 40 marks 20% of final grade

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

To be successful in Sports Studies you need to be hard working and self-disciplined to complete coursework to a high standard. You must be organised and demonstrate high levels of engagement

How will this subject help me in my future?

By developing applied knowledge and practical skills, this course will help give you the opportunity to progress on to A Levels, a Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity, an apprenticeship or university.

Sport Studies careers could take a student anywhere – from coaching small groups to leading campaigns to get more people interested in sport.

Science (Combined)



What will I learn?

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cell biology Organisation Infection and response Bioenergetics Homeostasis and response Inheritance, variation and evolution Ecology	Atomic structure and the periodic table Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter Quantitative chemistry Chemical changes Energy changes The rate and extent of chemical change Organic chemistry Chemical analysis Chemistry of the atmosphere Using resources	Energy Electricity Particle model of matter Atomic structure Forces Waves Magnetism and electromagnetism

How will I study?

You will have x5 science lessons per week.
 You will be taught using topic booklets
 You will have one science teacher for all your science lessons
 There are Higher and Foundation tiers available

How will I be assessed?

You will gain two GCSE's in Combined Science.
 There is no coursework element to Combined science.
 You will have 6 exams in May/June in Y11:
 -Biology Paper 1: 1hr 15mins
 -Biology Paper 2: 1hr 15mins
 -Chemistry Paper 1: 1hr 15mins
 -Chemistry Paper 2: 1hr 15mins
 -Physics Paper 1: 1hr 15mins
 -Physics Paper 2: 1hr 15mins

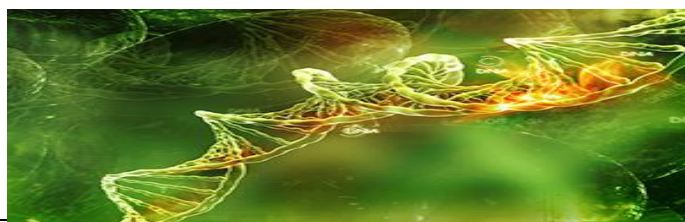
What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

- Problem solving
- Practical skills
- Scientific writing
- Mathematical skills
- Curiosity about the world around you

How will this subject help me in my future?

Science helps us to understand the world around us, solve problems, develop new technologies, protect our environment, understand human behaviour, and explore the unknown. All of these things contribute to a better quality of life for everyone.

Science (Triple)



What will I learn?

GCSE BIOLOGY:

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

GCSE CHEMISTRY:

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

GCSE PHYSICS:

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics

How will I study?

You will have 8 science lessons per week divided between the three sciences.

You will have 3 science teachers – a biology teacher, a chemistry teacher and a physics teacher.

Your lessons will be a combination of theory lessons and practical lessons.

There is a Higher and Foundation tier available.

How will I be assessed?

There is no coursework element to triple science.

You will have 6 exams in May/June in Y11:

Biology Paper 1: 1hr 45mins

Biology Paper 2: 1hr 45mins

Chemistry Paper 1: 1hr 45mins

Chemistry Paper 2: 1hr 45mins

Physics Paper 1: 1hr 45mins

Physics Paper 2: 1hr 45mins

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

- Problem solving
- Practical skills
- Scientific writing
- Mathematical skills
- Curiosity about the world around you
- A love of Science!

How will this subject help me in my future?

Triple Science is preferred if you intend to study A-level sciences, or would like to go to university to do a science degree and have a career in STEM such as: medicine, biomedical sciences, physiotherapy, sports science, ecologist, botanist, pharmacist, pathologist, veterinary care or research.