



William Perkin
C of E
High School

OPTIONS EVENING

THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome to Options Evening.

This evening you have an opportunity to hear about some of the options subjects available to students.

This booklet contains outline information on all options subjects.

If you have any questions about individual subjects please email the subject leaders. If you have any questions about the Options process please email Mrs Lewis (elewis@williamperkin.org.uk)

Key Dates for your diary:

Thursday 6th February

W/b 10th March:

Thursday 27th March:

Thursday 24th April:

Friday 2nd May:

May:

June:

End of Year 9:

Year 9 Options Info Evening

Q3 assessments

Parents' evening

Meet the tutor – receive reports and GCSE options forms

Deadline for Options forms

Students informed of GCSE offers

Q4 exam week

Q4 grade sheets and confirmation of GCSE courses

Art, Craft & Design

Course requirements:

Students do not need to have studied Art in Year 9, however, if they wish to take Art, Craft & Design at GCSE, they must produce a sketchbook of work before the end of the Summer Term. If they are studying Art in Year 9, they should aim for a Grade 4 or above. Students who do not achieve a Grade 4, will have to make a personal application to the Head of Art.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students who wish to build creative skills through learning and doing, by developing imaginative and intuitive ways of working. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts.

Art can take time and therefore students need to be willing to put in the time and effort. This subject requires a minimum of 1.5 hours a week of homework.

What will I learn?

GCSE Art, Craft & Design provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental. Art is about expression and communication.

Art helps students become versatile thinkers – creative yet analytical, organised yet able to take imaginative leaps. As well as learning about the application of media, students will also be taught Art History as written analysis plays a significant role at GCSE level.

How will I be assessed?

You will produce 2 coursework projects and 1 exam project over the 2 years. Each project is assessed on 4 objectives; Analysis, Experimentation, Drawing and Final Outcomes, each with equal weighting. The coursework projects make up 60% of the GCSE and the exam unit makes up 40% of the GCSE.

How does this prepare me for the future?

By working on projects that synthesise a number of varied steps students learn to be thorough and to think and plan effectively. Students have to synthesise a wide range of stimuli and considerations developing succinct, precise and self-aware thinking skills. Successful students will also learn patience and perseverance. Multi-stage projects, deadlines which cover several weeks of work at a time, and open ended outcomes all encourage students to act independently and take responsibility for their own progress – functional skills that are critical to a successful adult life. Many employers want to recruit people who are lateral thinkers and creative problem-solvers - natural qualities of artists and designers.

Life Skills

Course requirements:

This course is open to students who benefit from additional support with Post-16 Options choices and a range of support to prepare them for a successful life after school.

How will this course be run?

Students will be taught in a small group instead of studying History or Geography.

What will I learn?

- How to write applications and succeed in interviews
- Money management, Esafety, people skills
- Cooking & healthy living
- How to maintain personal fitness
- Study skills and revision techniques
- Post-16 pathway preparation

How will I be assessed?

There are no formal assessments but there will be time set aside to prepare for the quarterly assessments and the final GCSE examinations.

Study Support

How will this course be run?

Students will benefit from extra time during the school day to complete extra study for their GCSEs. This will happen for students who are part of the ARC.

Who should I speak to?

Ms Purcell—cpurcell@williamperkin.org.uk

Computer Science

Course requirements:

- Currently studying **Computer Science** (not ICT) in Year 9
- Achieve at least a grade 4+ in the **Q3 programming assessment**
- Achieve at least a grade 6+ in the Q4 maths assessment
- Achieve at least a grade 5 in the Q4 assessment
- Have a genuine passion for computing, programming, coding and problem solving outside the classroom
- Be independent and committed to the challenges of the course

Who is this course suitable for?

The Computer Science GCSE enables students to work with real-world, practical programming techniques that give them a good understanding of what makes technology work. You should have a real passion for programming outside the classroom and the thought of independently researching, trialling and testing programming code should excite you! If you enjoy computing, mathematics and like solving logic problems, then this could be something you may enjoy.

What will I learn?

1. Fundamentals of algorithms
2. Programming (in Python as well as programming theory)
3. Fundamentals of data representation
4. Computer systems
5. Fundamentals of computer networks
6. Fundamentals of cyber security
7. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy
8. Aspects of software development
9. Databases

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving	50% of GCSE
Paper 2: Theoretical Knowledge	50% of GCSE

Who should I speak to?

If you have any questions or are unsure, please speak to Mr Bissix, Head of Computing - ibissix@williamperkin.org.uk

Digital Functional Skills

This course is not open as an option but is offered as an alternative to students who are **currently studying ICT**.

Students who are currently studying ICT will be selected either for the ICT or Digital Functional Skills course depending on their focus, effort and attainment in Year 9 including exams and progress on the in-class coursework.

The Digital Functional Skills Course

The course is designed to be accessible to all students and is aimed at providing a way for students to demonstrate their digital skills to other educational establishments and to employers.

What will the course do for me?

- It will provide reliable evidence of a learner's achievements against content that is relevant to the workplace and real life.
- It will also provide assessment of a learner's knowledge and skills as well as their ability to apply these in different contexts.

Together this will provide a foundation for progression into employment or further education and importantly develop skills for everyday life.

How will I be assessed?

There will be a computer-based exam at the end of Year 10 - successful students will continue the course in Year 11 to take a further assessment at the end of Year 11.

Who should I speak to?

If you have any questions or are unsure, please speak to Mr Bissix, Head of Computing - ibissix@williamperkin.org.uk

Music

Course requirements:

Students must have studied Music in year 9. In addition, students need to have played an instrument or sung for a minimum of three years or to have achieved ABRSM Grade 1 on their chosen instrument/voice. Students who are not on track to receive a Grade 5 by Q4 may find this course more difficult.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students who wish to explore their creativity and love of the subject through performing, composing, and by developing listening skills. Students will learn about music from a range of genres and from different historical contexts. Students will need to commit to daily practise of their instrument/singing as well as getting involved in the school ensembles. Getting involved in the wider learning opportunities that the music department offers is compulsory.

What will I learn?

The GCSE Music course requires students to become well-rounded musicians. This course offers students the opportunity to be self-expressive and communicative, to develop their confidence and to develop problem-solving and analytical skills. In addition, students will broaden their understanding of the world by learning about music from different historical, geographical and cultural contexts.

How will I be assessed?

There are three strands in which you will be assessed: performance, composing and listening. For performance, you will have to complete a solo and ensemble performance of a minimum of 4 minutes in total. For composition, you will compose one work to a brief and one free composition, both of which will be a minimum of 3 minutes in total. The listening paper will be assessed in one 90-minute exam at the end of the course.

How does this prepare me for the future?

Creative industries provide 1.7m jobs each year in the UK, contributing over £6.7 billion dollars to the economy. Further education in music can open many doors into the industry, including careers in sound production, song-writing, composing music for film and TV, teaching, music therapy, and performance (musicals, orchestras, bands etc.).

Successful students will practice discipline, perseverance, independent-thinking, problem-solving, team work and creativity and be highly organised in order to meet the demands of the course. These are attributes that are sought by many employers and will stand students in good stead for their adult lives after school.

MFL - French/Spanish

Course requirements:

Must be studying the language in Year 9 and on-track.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course builds upon the skills and knowledge already gained in Key Stage 3 and Year 9, and is suitable for all students currently studying French/Spanish in Year 9. If you are currently studying more than one modern language you can choose between the languages or you can choose to study both languages.

What will I learn?

Year 10 Modern Languages will continue studying the 3-year GCSE Curriculum in preparation for final exams in Year 11. Topics in Year 10 and 11 will include: Travel & Tourism; Future Plans; Social and Global Issues; Daily Life.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. All exams will take place in Year 11. There will be no coursework or controlled assessments.

How does this prepare me for the future?

The GCSE course will prepare students for A-Level study, university and a variety of jobs which use the skills that learning languages develops, such as good communication, understanding and appreciation of other cultures, logic, memorisation, dedication and application of knowledge in a variety of situations.

Who should I speak to?

Mrs K Dunster, Head of Languages — kdunster@williamperkin.org.uk

Drama

Course requirements: Studying Drama in Year 9 is preferable, but not essential. GCSE places will be given to students who have shown a strong ability to work in a group and remain focussed in rehearsal and performance. Self regulation, self motivation, and an interest in the subject are vital.

Who is this course suitable for?

Drama is best suited to students who: work well both independently and in teams; feel comfortable performing in front of audiences; enjoy working creatively; enjoy the creative side of English; are interested in working with people in the future.

What will I learn?

The Drama GCSE is divided into 3 components:

- **Component 1: Devising**
Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus. Alongside this, they create a portfolio which evaluates and analyses their creative process.
- **Component 2: Performance from Text**
Students will perform in two key extracts from a performance text.
- **Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice**
Students explore one complete performance text through written analysis and practical exploration of all performance and design elements. This section also includes evaluation of a live theatre production.

How will I be assessed?

- **C1: Devising (40%)**
A portfolio covering the creating and developing process (45 marks)
A devised performance (15 marks)
- **C2: Performance from Text (20%)**
Assessed performance of two extracts (48 marks)
- **C3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)**
Written examination in two parts:
Section A: Bringing Texts to Life—performance, directing and design questions based on an unseen extract from the performance text (45 marks)
Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation—analysis and evaluation of a live theatre production students have seen (15 marks)

How does this prepare me for the future?

Drama students go on to pursue careers in Performing Arts, the Entertainment Industry, Media, Politics, Teaching, Events Management etc. while Universities view Drama A-level in conjunction with other appropriate subjects as acceptable for study in Medicine and Law. Drama develops essential leadership, teamwork and communication skills.

Who should I speak to?

Ms Davidson, Subject Lead for Drama – ldavidson@williamperkin.org.uk

Enterprise

Course requirements:

Students write an expression of interest to apply for this subject

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is ideal for students interested in how businesses work and grow. It suits learners who enjoy creative problem-solving, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, and practical, real-world project work. If you like thinking innovatively and applying ideas to real business situations, this course is a great choice.

What will I learn about?

Exploring Enterprises – the aims, types, target markets, and success factors of small businesses.

Planning and Pitching – creating a business idea, producing a business plan, and delivering a pitch.

Promotion and Finance – understanding marketing methods and key financial concepts such as budgeting, costs, revenue, and profit.

How will I be assessed in BTEC Enterprise?

A combination of coursework (60%) and a written exam (40%):

- **Component 1:** Exploring Enterprises (Coursework)
- **Component 2:** Planning and Pitching an Enterprise Activity (Coursework)
- **Component 3:** Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (Exam)

How does this prepare me for the future?

BTEC Enterprise builds skills including problem-solving, communication, creativity, and financial awareness.

It supports progression into business-related courses or careers.

How will BTEC Enterprise benefit me?

You will gain practical experience of running a business, develop confidence in pitching and presenting, strengthen teamwork and leadership skills, and learn essential planning and financial skills. This course provides a strong foundation for future study or employment in the business world.

Who should I speak to?

Mr A Hassan, Head of Business (ahassan@williamperkin.org.uk)

PE

Course requirements:

- Minimum of 5 in Science
- Minimum of 4 in Sports Science
- Evidence of high-level performance in two sports outside of lessons

Who is this course suitable for?

Students who have a passion for the science of sport and have a keen interest in what makes an elite performer. Students must also have a passion for performance in sport and physical activity.

What will I learn about?

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Movement Analysis
- Physical Training
- Sports Psychology
- Socio-Cultural Issues
- Health and Fitness

How will I be assessed for GCSE PE?

- 60% written exam
- 40% Practical assessment (across 3 different sports + 1 piece of coursework)

How does this prepare me for the future?

There are a number of courses which GCSE PE link to: physiotherapy/strength & conditioning/sports psychology/sports coaching/journalism/sports nutrition/sports analysis/health & fitness

Who should I speak to?

Mr M Barclay – Head of PE – mbarclay@williamperkin.org.uk

Information Communication Technology

This course is not open as an option, it is for students who **currently study ICT**. Students currently studying ICT will be selected either for the ICT or Digital Functional Skills course based on their focus, effort and attainment in Year 9 including exams and progress on the in-class coursework.

Who is this course suitable for?

Students who want to develop practical skills and knowledge relating to a broad employment area that will be useful in a variety of jobs.

What will I learn?

This course will develop students' knowledge and understanding of the ICT sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills. It covers ICT in Society; allowing learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software, and ICT in context; introducing learners to a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images

How will I be assessed?

This qualification is assessed through a mixture of set coursework as well as one formal computer based examination which is 1 hour and 20 minutes long.

The coursework is split into 4 units that will introduce them to a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images and it will enable learners to apply their knowledge to solve problems in vocational settings

The exam will allow learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society. They will investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use of information technology.

How does this prepare me for the future?

Global tech companies have announced significant investments in the UK since the referendum to leave the EU. However, the reported digital skills shortage in the UK highlights the importance of qualifications in developing the digital skills of young people. ICT skills are vital for success in employment and higher education as is the ability to produce effective data management skills in spreadsheets and are among the key transferable skills required by employers in a variety of industries. Taking this qualification will prepare you for a career in a IT driven future as well as essential skills for many of the industries now and in the future.

Who should I speak to?

If you have any questions, please speak to Mr Bissix, Head of Computing - ibis-six@williamperkin.org.uk

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Course requirements:

Students write an expression of interest to apply for this subject

Who is this course suitable for?

Students who enjoy cooking, experimenting with ingredients, and learning how food affects health. Ideal for those who like practical work and understanding the science behind food.

What will I learn about?

- Nutrition and healthy eating
- Food science and ingredient functions
- Food safety and hygiene
- Cultural and environmental food choices
- Practical cooking and preparation skills

How will I be assessed in Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE?

A combination of coursework (50%) and an external exam (50%):

- **NEA 1:** Food investigation (coursework)
- **NEA 2:** Food preparation and menu planning (coursework)
- **Written exam:** Nutrition, food science, safety, and choices

How does this prepare me for the future?

Builds skills in nutrition, organisation, problem-solving, and food science. Supports progression into catering, nutrition, hospitality, dietetics, and food industry careers.

Who should I speak to?

Mrs E Lewis (Deputy Headteacher) elewis@williamperkin.org.uk

Geography

Course requirements:

This is a minimum requirement of a grade 3+ in your Q4 exam to study Geography.

Who is this course suitable for?

- Students who are curious about how the world works (the climate, ecosystems, landforms).
- Students who enjoy learning about other countries and cultures and the way of life there.
- Students who are good at interpreting information, e.g. maps or graphs, and using this information to make predictions or decisions.
- Students who are interested in the environment and how we can care for it.
- Students with an interest in politics and current affairs e.g. migration, climate change, energy security.
- Students who enjoy investigations, enquiries and project work.

What will I learn?

Geography is a very wide ranging subject. In the field of physical geography you will learn about climate, extreme weather hazards, ecosystems and biodiversity, coastal landforms and processes and river landforms and processes. You will also develop an understanding of how physical processes have shaped the UK. In the field of human geography you will learn about global development, resource management (with a focus on sustainable energy) and changing urban environments both in the UK and in the wider world. You will also learn about how to carry out human and physical geography fieldwork, and about challenges facing the UK in the C21st.

How will I be assessed?

There will be 3 exams, which are 1 hour 30 minutes each. There is no coursework, however you will complete two field trips in which you will plan and carry out a fieldwork investigation into river processes and urban change.

How does this prepare me for the future?

Geography is a facilitating subject for almost all A Level subjects and a wide range of college courses, and is also well respected by universities. Students interested in Sociology, Politics, Biology, Urban Planning, Civil Engineering, International Development, Geology, Environmental Science or Earth Science would particularly benefit from studying Geography. GCSE and A Level Geography students progress into every possible future career, working in wide-ranging fields such as law, finance, consultancy, analysis, the civil service or journalism and the media.

Who should I speak to?

Ms Neilson (Head of Geography) or your Geography teacher.
lneilson@williamperkin.org.uk

History

Course requirements:

This is a minimum requirement of a grade 3+ in your Q4 exam to study History.

Who is this course suitable for?

History is best suited to students who:

- Are intrigued by the past and want to discover how the world evolved
- Ask questions, look beyond headlines and express informed opinions.
- Enjoy researching and locating and sifting through evidence to find out what is useful and reliable.
- Are literary minded and enjoy reading around their subject
- Able to present your ideas to the class and in debates and discussions.

What will I learn?

History is broken down into 4 units (you will study the first of these units in year 9):

- Conflict & tension between East and West, 1945-1972.
- Britain: Health & the People.
- America: 1920—1973 Opportunity and Inequality
- Elizabethan England 1568-1603

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exams at the end of year 11, two units are assessed in each paper.

How does this prepare me for the future?

If you enjoy history, it can lead you to a great future down whichever path you choose. History students are not just limited to "becoming another history teacher" (unless they want to of course!) Nor are they destined to gather dust in a museum or library (again unless they want to!) There are so many careers out there that require the skills that a study of history can bring; law, medicine, business, finance, accountancy, tourism, town planning, politics, journalism, research to name but a few History teaches you skills of analysis and evaluation which are key to many careers.

Who should I speak to?

Miss Kennedy (Head of History) or your History teacher.
rkennedy@williamperkin.org.uk