



# Year 9 Options Choices: 2026

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## At Woodhey High School our vision is:

To be a centre of excellence, where students, staff and the community are proud to work together to broaden our horizons, exceed our aspirations and where everyone achieves their full potential.

### **#TeamWoodhey**

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*At Woodhey High School, we have two key values that drive our actions, our choices, and our decisions.*

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These are:

#### **Respect**

We treat everyone as we wish to be treated ourselves; we are all part of the same team

#### **Excellence**

We strive to be the best we can be at all times; nothing but the best is good enough for us

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*Underpinning our values are two clear expectations.*

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These are:

Respect every member of staff and student in our community, following all instructions without answering back

Being excellent by being prepared for, and completing all work to the best of our ability without distracting others

We are a team made up of our staff, our students, our parents and carers, and our wider community. Our vision, values and expectations apply to all of our community.

Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results (Ifeyani Enoch Onuoha)

### **#TeamWoodhey**



# Year 9 Options Choices: 2026

## Introduction

Choosing your options, and the subjects that you will study at Key Stage 4 (KS4) can be daunting. To help you choose successfully, there is a range of support available to help you make informed choices about your future.

Firstly, however, it is important to know the dates and timelines for the options process. These can be found on our website by clicking here: [Year 9 Options | Woodhey High School](#)

You can find support available in the following ways:

- Reading this booklet – it tells you everything you need to know about the subjects that you can study!
- Watching videos that we have prepared about each subject by clicking here: [Year 9 Options | Woodhey High School](#)
- Making sure that you are in your Options Assemblies, which will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, and every day during the week commencing the 2<sup>nd</sup> March!
- Think about the experiences you have had already in school to support you with your choices, for example, the Post-16 Fair in September, with colleges, apprenticeships and universities, the Careers Fair in January with a range of employers, and the work in form time you have completed on careers
- Attend both Parents' and Carers' Evening (12th February: virtual 4.30-7.30pm) to discuss your studies on a 1:1 basis with your teacher, and your Options Evening (5<sup>th</sup> March) to speak to teachers who lead each subject and gather more information.

## Learning in Years 10 and 11

In both Year 10 and Year 11, you will all study the following compulsory subjects which are examined, GCSE subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (at least Science Trilogy – previously known as Combined Science)

You will also all study the following compulsory subjects, that are non-examined subjects, but are statutory requirements up to the end of Key Stage 4 to ensure you receive a rounded education that fully prepares you for life outside of Woodhey:

- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education (PSHCE)

On top of this, you will each select three options to study.



## What options can I study?

You can study the subjects listed below. You will choose three subjects from the list and input these on a form that will be sent to you on the 6<sup>th</sup> March. There are some restrictions on the choices that you can make, which are detailed in the next section.

The subjects that you opt for, are:

- 3D Design (previously known as Design Technology)
- Art
- Business Studies
- Child Development
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- iMedia
- Music
- Religious Education
- Separate Sciences (previously known as Triple Science)
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sport (GCSE PE and Cambridge National Sports Science)
- Statistics

## How do I choose my options?

You will be sent an online form to complete on the 6<sup>th</sup> March. On here, you will input your preferred three choices.

**All students** must study **at least one** of the following subjects:

- Computer Science
- Geography
- History
- Separate Sciences
- Spanish

Students will then select **two** further options from the longer list detailed earlier in this booklet. It is important to note that students **cannot** study both Art and 3D Design.

## What are the benefits to studying a language?

When considering their options, we would **strongly recommend** that **all students** consider studying a language. At Woodhey, our language offer is Spanish.

Studying a language has many benefits from students, both from future study, wider career and travel perspectives. Spanish is the second most spoken language globally, spoken in over twenty countries and used by over 500 million people. If students are considering travelling across the world in the future, having a base understanding in Spanish can truly unlock the world for them. From Spain to South America, and Mexico to the Caribbean, learning Spanish can support students in travelling with confidence, not Google Translate! Studying Spanish is more than just learning a language, students will learn about the culture and traditions from festivals to sport, films to music, and food to traditions.



Additionally, studying a language is proven to improve memory, concentration and retention. This is great news not only for the language being studied, but for other subjects too. If you have a stronger ability to retain key information, you are far more likely to achieve well in your other options subjects and in any future studies that may be undertaken a sixth form, college, university or beyond!

Having a language on your CV can unlock careers that you might not have considered. At our Careers Fair this year, the National Crime Agency stated that a language was one of the most important things they look for in their recruits. If you can speak a language, national and international careers in sport, media, business, recruitment, travel, global real estate, consulting, civil service and politics and the armed forces instantly come onto your horizon.

So, you should **definitely** consider studying Spanish. **Spanish is useful. Spanish is global. Spanish is for your future.** Choose the subject that takes you further than your classroom.

### Who can I ask if I have any questions?

If you have any questions, please speak to the Year 9 Progress Team in the first instance. They are:

Mr McMahon: [francis.mcmahon@woodhey.set.org](mailto:francis.mcmahon@woodhey.set.org)

Mrs Sharp: [caroline.sharp@wodohey.set.org](mailto:caroline.sharp@wodohey.set.org)

Or you can contact Mr Ward or Mr Holden, who are the members of the Senior Leadership Team leading options:

[mel.ward@woodhey.set.org](mailto:mel.ward@woodhey.set.org)

[gary.holden@woodhey.set.org](mailto:gary.holden@woodhey.set.org)

### What support is available for students with SEND?

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan will have their options choices supported and discussed through the annual review process. For all other students with SEND, Mrs Fleming [carla.fleming@woodhey.set.org](mailto:carla.fleming@woodhey.set.org), our SENDCo will coordinate the SEND team in providing bespoke support where required to ensure that students select courses that are appropriate for them and will lead to great post-16 destinations.

### Am I guaranteed to get my options choices?

We work very hard to try to make sure that everyone's options choices fit into the timetable. However, on a small number of occasions, options choices do not fit into the timetable, and we will need to ask you to pick a different choice. If this happens, we will speak to you and your parents and carers to support you in choosing an appropriate alternative.

Additionally, for subjects to go ahead, there will sometimes be a minimum number of students required. If a subject does not get the minimum number of students required, then the subject may not run. Again, if this happens, we will speak to you and your parents and carers to support you in choosing an appropriate alternative.



## Compulsory Subjects



## English (Literature and Language)

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	<p>English Language consists of two written papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing, 80 marks and worth 50% of the English Language GCSE. The exam is 1 hour 45 minutes.</li><li>• Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives, 80 marks and worth 50% of the English Language GCSE. The exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes.</li></ul> <p>English Literature consists of two written papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, 64 marks and worth 40% of the English Literature GCSE. The exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes.</li><li>• Paper 2 Modern texts and Poetry, 96 marks and worth 60% of the English Literature GCSE. The exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes.</li></ul> <p>Spoken Language Endorsement for English Language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will choose a topic of their choice and deliver a short presentation on this. It will be recorded as per the exam board guidelines. The endorsement is reported as a separate grade of: Pass, Merit or Distinction.</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

Studying English Language and English Literature is designed to develop and enhance personal skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and to encourage students to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. Students will study a range of texts from a variety of writers from diverse backgrounds, analysing the methods they use and being able to identify their intentions and ideas, which then enables them to make informed decisions and respond critically. These are vital skills in building character and in shaping the way students think. Students will have opportunities to write in different genres and to effectively craft their written work for effect.

GCSE English is an important foundation for many of the course's students may take in employment or further education, and a requirement for many university courses. It is a core subject, which helps students to develop their powers of self-expression. It is a qualification that is essential for their future school and university studies and employment opportunities.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Communication | Woodhey High School](#) to find the English Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Qualifications in English are required in almost all jobs, and studying English will provide students with the essential qualifications for students to progress onto the next level of study or employment. The skills and knowledge that students will learn through the qualification will ensure that they are prepared for life, and that they can confidently access the modern world. Obtaining qualifications in English can lead to a wide range of career options such as: teaching, journalism, proof reading and editing, careers in law, Public Relations, HR, marketing, and numerous roles within the media, in the UK and around the world.



## Mathematics

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	OCR
How you are assessed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Split into Higher and Foundation Tiers</li><li>• Possible Foundation grades are between 0 and 5</li><li>• Possible Higher grades are between 3 and 9</li><li>• Both tiers have three papers which consist of 100 marks each.</li><li>• Two papers allow calculators and 1 paper does not.</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

Students should study mathematics for many reasons. Mathematics develops essential skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and logical reasoning, crucial both in academics and real-world challenges. It's a prerequisite for many higher education courses and career paths, providing access to various opportunities. Maths enhances cognitive abilities, including mental agility, memory, and analytical skills, and promotes mathematical literacy, crucial for interpreting data and making informed decisions in a data-driven world. Its practical applications extend to everyday activities, aiding in financial management and various tasks. As a universal language, maths facilitates global communication and collaboration. In summary, mathematics equips students with versatile skills, opens diverse opportunities, fosters cognitive growth, and helps navigate the data-rich environment future job markets will require.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Calculation | Woodhey High School](#) to find the Maths Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Studying mathematics equips students with skills that open doors to numerous opportunities in the future. These include higher education in fields like engineering, computer science, and economics; diverse career paths in sectors such as technology, finance, and scientific research; specialised areas like cryptography and operations research; and teaching or academic roles. The problem-solving and logical reasoning skills developed through mathematics are invaluable across various professions, including management and consulting. Additionally, mathematical knowledge is beneficial for personal finance management and understanding everyday data. This strong foundation not only prepares students for specific careers but also fosters a mindset of lifelong learning and adaptability in a rapidly evolving world.



## Combined Science Trilogy (previously known as Combined Science)

Type of qualification:	GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	2 x Biology Exams 2 x Chemistry Exams 2 x Physics Exams  All exam scores are added together to give an overall grade.  Students are awarded 2 GCSEs

### Why should you study this subject?

GCSE Combined Science gives all students the fundamental scientific knowledge they need to be successful adults. The course focusses on ensuring students have a solid understanding of how the world works and encompasses 'real life' scenarios and examples to bring learning to life. Students are taught the importance of not believing everything they see online, and how to use their scientific knowledge to interpret what is real and what is false news. The course prepares students for a range of further and higher education courses and leads to the achievement of two GCSEs.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Innovation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Science Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

There are a huge range of scientific related careers that this course prepares students for, regardless of students' next steps. The course supports students who are looking to enter more traditional scientific routes through A levels and degree courses into healthcare, veterinary and engineering type courses. But the course is also designed for those who are looking to enter more vocational routes such as beauty therapy, electrical engineering, motor technician training and sports science courses.



## Core Physical Education

Type of qualification:	N/A
Exam board studied:	N/A
How you are assessed:	There is no formal assessment for this subject as it is a non-examined course.

### Why should you study this subject?

Core PE will give you the perfect opportunity to focus on your physical, social and emotional well-being without the pressure of GCSE assessment. You will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, including some of the sports you were introduced to in Year 9, and a new leadership topic, where you can develop your leadership skills and work alongside local primary schools. Core PE has a strong focus on engagement and enjoyment, aiming to promote a life-long involvement in regular physical activity.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Performance | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Core PE Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Core PE can lead to new opportunities in physical activity and sport as you will gain a deeper understanding of a range of activities, learn how to work effectively with others and understand the importance of exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. Sporting experiences at school can lead to involvement in local clubs, which can in turn lead to a life-long involvement in sport.



## Core Religious Education

Type of qualification:	N/A
Exam board studied:	N/A
How you are assessed:	There is no formal assessment for this subject as it is a non-examined course.

### Why should you study this subject?

Core RE is an opportunity to further explore ethical, philosophical and religious issues that impact on our lives now or in the future and reflect critically on personal beliefs. Some of life's big questions will be considered and you will be equipped with knowledge, deeper understanding and skills that can be applied to different situations you experience in today's diverse society. Core RE is compulsory and contributes strongly to your academic and personal development.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Global Learning | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Core Religious Education Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

As different career sectors will have employees from different backgrounds and faiths, Religious Education will be invaluable in building strong relationships with your colleagues.

Furthermore, RE can lead to a wide range of career sectors, such as those involving communication, evaluation, analysis or management. Examples include public relations, journalism, law, medicine, teaching, youth work, management, customer services, human resources, civil service or government.



Subjects: Students must select at least one subject from these subjects



## Geography

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	<p>You will sit three exams at the end of Year 11:</p> <p>Paper 1- Living with the Physical Environment (35%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The challenge of Natural Hazards</li><li>• The Living World</li><li>• Physical Landscapes in the UK (Rivers and Coasts)</li></ul> <p>Paper 2- Challenges in the human environment (35%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Urban issues and challenges</li><li>• The changing economic world</li><li>• Resource management</li></ul> <p>Paper 3- Geographical applications (30%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issue evaluation.</li><li>• Fieldwork</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

Studying geography can enhance your understanding of the world around us. It allows you to explore diverse cultures, landscapes, and environments, fostering a global perspective and encouraging respect for our planet. Additionally, GCSE Geography equips you with essential skills, such as data analysis, map reading, and problem-solving. These skills are transferable and valuable in various academic and professional contexts. Moreover, GCSE Geography provides opportunities for fieldwork and practical investigations, promoting hands-on learning experiences that enhance your critical thinking abilities. By studying GCSE Geography, you will develop a well-rounded skillset, gain a deeper appreciation for our planet, and lay the foundation for further geographical studies.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Global Learning | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Geography Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Geography is an incredibly valuable subject to study at the GCSE level, as it not only provides students with a deep understanding of the world around them, but also opens doors to a wide range of future career opportunities. By studying geography, students develop a range of transferable skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, data analysis, and communication, which are highly sought after by employers in various industries.

Studying geography can lead to careers in international relations, diplomacy, and humanitarian work. Understanding how different cultures, societies, and economies interact is crucial in this globalised world, and geography provides the foundation for comprehending these complex dynamics.



## History

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	Edexcel
How you are assessed:	<p>You will sit 3 exams at the end of Year 11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Paper 1 (30%)</u> Medicine in Britain, 1250-Present Day and the British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-18</li><li>• <u>Paper 2 (40%)</u> Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588, Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91</li><li>• <u>Paper 3 (30%)</u> Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

We all live in a volatile, dynamic and interconnected world. Knowledge of the past is essential in understanding and trying to make sense of what's happening now. GCSE History helps us to do both, through studying key events and individuals from the past and the ways in which they have shaped our present. Learning about past events and the people who've influenced history will allow you to understand how the world will continue to develop in the future, whilst helping you to become an informed citizen of the present.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Global Learning | Woodhey High School](#) to see the History Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Employers are always looking for young people who are able to think critically and analytically, both key attributes of the historian. Studying GCSE History can help you take the first steps on a variety of career paths, including law, journalism, marketing, human resources, management, politics, business, and teaching.

GCSE History also serves as a platform for further study at A level and undergraduate level, either in history itself or in a wide range of alternative disciplines.



## Separate Science (previously known as Triple Science)

Type of qualification:	GCSE Separate Science
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	2 x Biology Exams 2 x Chemistry Exams 2 x Physics Exams  Each separate science will give its own GCSE. Students are awarded 3 GCSEs, one in Biology, one in Chemistry and one in Physics.

### Why should you study this subject?

GCSE Separate Science gives all students the fundamental scientific knowledge they need to be successful adults. This includes developing skills in assessing and evaluating evidence, which they can apply in real life to spot “fake news” and assess advertising claims and marketing techniques. They will also gain practical skills during Required Practical activities, which they can apply in future careers. The course covers a range of topics and will give a deeper and wider understanding, which is especially useful if students wish to study these subject areas in further education.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Students will be taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately and gain a GCSE in each.

<u>Biology</u>	<u>Chemistry</u>	<u>Physics</u>
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	Energy. Electricity. Particle model of matter. Atomic structure. Forces. Waves. Magnetism and electromagnetism. Space physics

Click here: [Innovation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Science Learning Journey (note that this is deliberately similar to the Combined Science Trilogy Learning Journey, as students who are studying Separate Science must learn all of the Combined Science Trilogy learning too).

### What can this subject lead to?

There are a huge range of scientific related careers that this course prepares students for, regardless of students’ next steps. The course supports students who are looking to enter more traditional scientific routes through A levels and degree courses into healthcare, veterinary and engineering type courses. The course is also very suitable for students who aren’t necessarily interested in a scientific career but who enjoy the study of science.



## Spanish

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	Assessed in 4 skills: <b>Reading</b> - Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation) 1 hour (Higher) <b>Listening</b> - Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation), 45 minutes (Higher) <b>Speaking</b> - Role-play, Reading aloud task, Photo card discussion, unprepared conversation of approximately 4 minutes <b>Writing</b> Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier)

### Why should you study this subject?

If you love learning about new cultures and communicating with others whilst increasing your future career chances, then this is the course for you. You will have the opportunity to build your vocabulary and learn to speak Spanish more confidently. Spanish GCSE will compliment any course you choose to take, opening doors at college and university to learn other languages, work or study abroad, or travel with confidence! You will develop your memory, decoding and problem-solving skills, improve your knowledge of your own language and gain a better understanding of the world around you.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Communication | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Spanish Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Throughout the course you will develop important communication skills which will help you as you progress to higher education and beyond. A language GCSE will enable you to take up a different language from scratch at university or as part of your job and may even allow you the opportunity to study or work abroad in a Spanish speaking country. The ability to speak a foreign language will also look impressive on your CV! A language will always be useful, no matter what you do; speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity, improves your memory and using a language at work could raise your salary by up to 20%! A language is not just for someone who wants to be a translator or a teacher – languages are sought after in a wide range of industries including IT, manufacture and import/export, international marketing, sports, tourism – the list is endless!



## Computer Science

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	OCR
How you are assessed:	<p>Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE 80 marks. This is a non-calculator paper. All questions are mandatory. This paper consists of multiple-choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.</p> <p>Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE 80 marks. This is a non-calculator paper. This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections. All questions are mandatory. In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with.</p>

### Why should you study this subject?

Computer Science gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It provides excellent preparation for higher study and jobs in the field of computer science, and develops critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Calculation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Computer Science Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

The number of jobs in Computer Science occupations is growing much faster than average, making Computer Science one of the most viable degree options. It opens the door to highly paid careers: Computer Science graduates earn some of the highest starting salaries of any degree.



## Remaining Subjects



## Art

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Component 1: Portfolio / 60% A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the students' course of study.</li><li>• Component 2: Externally Set Assignment / 40% Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.</li></ul>

***(Note - cannot be studied alongside 3D Design)***

### **Why should you study this subject?**

GCSE Art, Craft and Design provides a fantastic opportunity for you to visually express yourself. You will also be encouraged to think critically and respond innovatively to a range of starting points, opening up an unknown world full of possibility. The art studios are spacious and bright, with an inspirational vibe providing an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Also, choosing to study Art, Craft and Design could be your first step towards one of the 3 million plus jobs in Creative Industries, which contribute over 80 billion pounds towards the UK economy. The Creative Industries are the fastest growing sector in the UK, and they constantly need people with new ideas and fresh thinking.

### **What will I learn in this subject?**

Click here: [Performance | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Art Learning Journey.

### **What can this subject lead to?**

Post 16 study: this GCSE qualification will enable you to progress onto any creative 'A' Level or a full-time vocational course.

Careers: there are many exciting and fulfilling opportunities and careers within the creative industries, for example, Fashion, Graphics, Textiles Design, Product Design, Theatre, Ceramics, Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, Illustration, Animation and Games Design, Advertising and Publishing, Photography, Teaching, Art Gallery/Museum work, Sculpture and 3-D Design, Jewellery and Silversmithing and many more.



## Dance

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	<p><b>Component 1 (Practical): Performance and Choreography (60%)</b></p> <p>Performance (30%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set phrases through a solo performance.</li><li>• Duet/ Trio performance.</li></ul> <p>Choreography (30%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solo or group choreography based on a stimulus.</li></ul> <p><b>Component 2 (Written Paper): Dance Appreciation (40%)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.</li><li>• Critical appreciation of your own work.</li><li>• Critical appreciation of professional works.</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity. You will study a range of dance styles and style fusions, focusing on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the symbolic use of movement to express and communicate ideas through the processes of performance, choreography and appreciation. The qualification is designed for students who are interested in dance and have some dance experience. GCSE Dance helps students to develop physical, technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation. Students develop their understanding of a variety of genres, furthering their appreciation of dance and understanding the significance of factors such as costume, lighting, accompaniment, setting and choreography. The practical component of the course enables students to study dance by 'doing' and the anthology of professional works will provide a springboard for the development of creative and engaging practical tasks. The study of the anthology will facilitate the development of students' skills in performance and choreography as well as broadening their knowledge and understanding of dance and ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Performance | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Dance Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Studying GCSE Dance will prepare students for entry to higher education in a range of subjects. Students who wish to pursue dance as a career have been accepted at prestigious musical theatre/dance colleges. It will benefit students who want to study a vocational qualification at Level 2 or Level 3 in Dance or Performing Arts. It will also help prepare students for the demands of AS and A-Level.



## Drama

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	Edexcel
How you are assessed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessed in practical devised group performance as a performer/designer 10%.</li><li>• 1x piece of Non-Examined Assessment of the devised performance/design (coursework) worth 30%</li><li>• 2x scripted performances/designs from an existing play text 20%)</li><li>• Exam 1: Theatre Makers in Practice: Study of An Inspector Calls as a performer, director and designer and Live Theatre Review 40%</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

GCSE Drama is a multi-faceted, exciting and invigorating course giving you the possibility to perform, direct and/or design live performances. It is a real opportunity to imagine, create and demonstrate your own work in a group setting, utilise and select diverse performance styles and consider the work of others both inside and outside of the classroom. We visit the theatre, watch live digital performances and regularly welcome industry professionals to assist and influence our creative minds.

GCSE Drama will also complement English Language and Literature assisting to embed your knowledge of how to analyse and evaluate texts and how we bring them to life for an audience. This will be considered practically and through production design elements. Students will continue their understanding of Drama practitioners, creating new and original performances and design considering differing styles and genres, complimenting and embedding knowledge from KS3.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Performance | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Drama Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Studying GCSE Drama will increase your confidence and will assist with all aspects of your life, whether you progress to further study A/AS Level Drama and Theatre Studies, BTEC Level 3 Acting, and a range of careers. Live reviews will assist with critical analysis and devising will assist with co-planning and working towards a common goal. These may include professional performance or backstage production. Further study and employment may include journalism, film studies, media, teaching, law, publishing, politics, translation, science, occupational therapy, journalism.



## Music

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	3 components are assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding Music – 40% - assessed by a listening exam</li><li>• Performing Music – 30% - one solo performance and one ensemble performance (Non-Examined Assessment)</li><li>• Composing Music – 30% - one free composition and one composition to meet a brief set by the exam board (Non-Examined Assessment)</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

GCSE Music will give you the opportunity to develop as a musician, both as a performer and a composer. You will also develop your knowledge of many different styles of music and learn the theory behind why music sounds the way it does. You will then be able to put this knowledge into practise by creating your own music. GCSE Music is a fantastic option that allows you to be truly creative and express yourself through composing and performing. Studying music is also proven to support performance in other subjects due to the many transferable skills you will develop, such as communication skills, perseverance and dedication, resilience, confidence and teamworking skills. The skills you develop in GCSE Music will help you in the future, in all areas of your life. And finally, one of the most important reasons to study Music - it's great fun!

GCSE Music is divided into 3 components:

Component 1 – Understanding Music. In this component you will learn about music from each of the four areas of study: Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910, Popular Music, Traditional Music, Western Classical Tradition from 1910.

Component 2 – Performing Music. In this component you will develop your technical and expressive skills on an instrument of your choice, this can be any instrument including your voice if you are a singer.

Component 3 – Composing Music. In this component you will compose your own music, this can be in any style and written for any instrument/s. One composition is a completely free choice and the other will meet a brief set by the exam board. For example, you may be asked to compose a piece of music that is suitable for the opening credits of a Sci-Fi film.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Performance | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Music Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Could you be the next Ed Sheeran or Taylor Swift? Possibly! But GCSE Music doesn't just lead to a career as a performer, there are so many opportunities that GCSE Music can lead to and a vast array of careers in the music industry from sound engineers to computer game composers to music producers and many more! GCSE Music give you the opportunity to pursue many different pathways including college, university, apprenticeships, and careers. It will also help you to hone your unique talents and give you a life-long love of music that will stay with you throughout your life.



# Sport

## Physical Education (GCSE)

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	OCR
How you are assessed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessed in 3x practical sports (one team sport, one individual sport, and one free choice), with each sport being worth 10%.</li><li>• 1x piece of Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) worth 10%</li><li>• 2x 1hr exams (Exam 1: Physical Factors Affecting Performance, and Exam 2: Socio-Cultural Issues and Sports Psychology), with each exam worth 30%</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

GCSE PE will give you a real opportunity to think like a sporting expert, whether this be a physiotherapist, sports nutritionist, psychologist, future Premier League football manager or a top-level sporting star. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your sporting talent and analyse your own performance to help you to become even better. GCSE PE will also compliment your science studies to really embed your understanding of the anatomy of the body and how it responds to sport and exercise.

Studying GCSE Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in a wide range of practical activities through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a deeper understanding of the how and why of Physical activity and sport.

The combination of the physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the academic study learn how to improve your performance through application of the theory you have learned.

In GCSE PE you will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people outperform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and also gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Performance | Woodhey High School](#) to see the GCSE PE Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Studying GCSE PE will help to provide you with the foundational knowledge required to progress to further study in PE, and a range of sporting careers. Your learning will give you the base knowledge to consider a range of careers, such as: sports nutritionist, sports psychologist, Personal Trainer, sports coach, sports scientist, sports analyst and many more. The anatomical units of study will provide a solid understanding of the major body systems and their response to sport, which can help to lead to further study and employment in medical fields such as doctor, nurse and physiotherapist.



## Sports Science (Cambridge National)

Type of qualification:	Cambridge National (GCSE equivalent)
Exam board studied:	OCR
How you are assessed:	Assessed in 3 units – <b>2 mandatory units:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions (1hr15 exam paper) - 40% of grade</li><li>• Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance (written coursework) - 40% of grade.</li></ul> <b>1 optional unit from:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this (written coursework) - 20% of grade)</li><li>• Nutrition and sports performance (written coursework) - 20% of grade</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

Sport Science is a course which allows students to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Sport Science. Students will develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations. They will think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically, applying their understanding to a range of coursework-based assignments and 1 exam paper. The style of assessment means students can take time to apply their learning to real world contexts. They can develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sectors and more widely.

### What will I learn in this subject?

This course will:

- prepare participants for physical activity in ways which keeps them safe as well as learning how to react should injuries happen and how to recognise common medical conditions.
- teach students how to conduct fitness tests, including interpreting and feeding back on the data you get from these as well as how to design, implement and evaluate fitness training programmes.
- develop knowledge of either how the body responds to exercise and understand how technology helps inform us of these changes, or a delve into the world of sports nutrition to understand how what we eat can impact our performance in sport.

### What can this subject lead to?

Studying Sport Science will help to provide you with the knowledge required to progress to further study in Sport and PE, and a range of sporting careers. Your learning will give you the base knowledge to consider a range of careers, such as: sports nutritionist, sports psychologist, Personal Trainer, sports coach, sports scientist, sports analyst and many more.



## Business Studies

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	Edexcel
How you are assessed:	<p><b>Paper 1 - Theme 1: Investigating small business:</b> Written exam: 105 minutes, 90 marks 50% of the total GCSE Multiple choice, calculation, short-answer and extended-writing questions There are three sections in the paper. Each section is ramped, starting with multiple choice questions, moving to short answer questions and ending with extended writing. Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.</p> <p><b>Paper 2 - Theme 2: Building a business:</b> Written exam: 105 minutes, 90 marks 50% of the total GCSE Multiple choice, calculation, short-answer and extended-writing questions There are three sections in the paper. Each section is ramped, starting with multiple choice questions, moving to short answer questions and ending with extended writing. Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.</p>

### Why should you study this subject?

The GCSE in Business introduces you to the world of business, where you will look at what makes someone a successful businessperson and find out how to develop an idea or spot an opportunity and turn that into a successful business. If you enjoy communicating and explaining your ideas, working with numbers to solve business problems, thinking creatively and making decisions then the GCSE in Business is the right subject for you!

You'll start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? You'll learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved. Then you'll move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? You'll learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions you need to make when growing a business and working in a global business. You'll learn about meeting customer needs, making marketing, operational, financial and human resourcing decisions and you'll explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Calculation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Business Studies Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

After this qualification you'll understand the world of business and have developed skills in:

- Making decisions and developing persuasive arguments
- Creative and practical problem solving
- Understanding data, finance and communication.

It's also a great step preparing you for further and higher education such as A levels and BTEC courses. A GCSE Business course could help prepare you for an entrepreneurial role and help you to gain an understanding of what is involved in a business-related profession, like accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.



## Child Development

Type of qualification:	Cambridge National
Exam board studied:	OCR
How you are assessed:	2 x piece of Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) worth 30 % each 1 x 1hr 15 min exam worth 40%

### Why should you study this subject?

Child Development will give you a real opportunity to think like a childcare expert, whether this be a teacher, children's nutritionist, psychologist, children's nurse or parent. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your cooking skills to make a meal or feed for the child and plan a play activity for the child you are observing. Child Development will also compliment your science studies to really embed your understanding of the reproduction process.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Innovation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Child Development Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

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 Health and Social Care, an apprenticeship or university.

Child Development could be the first step of a career as a Nursery Nurse, an Early Years Teacher, Family Support Worker, Nursery Manager, Children's Nurse, Social Worker paediatrician's, chefs, and diet professionals and more. It is also relevant to any students planning to be parents.



## Design (3D Design) (Previously Design Technology)

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	<b>Component 1- Coursework – 60%</b> Students will produce a portfolio of work that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. The portfolio will consist of smaller skill-based projects and more sustained projects that will cover a journey of work that covers research, design, development, make and evaluation. <b>Component 2- Externally set task – 40%.</b> Students will respond to their chosen starting point evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. This will run in the same style as the coursework projects, starting in January of year 11. Student will produce a final response under 10 hours of exam conditions (NEA)

***(Note - cannot be studied alongside Art)***

### Why should you study this subject?

From research through to initial designs and onto final pieces, 3D Design students will progress through the design process and are expected to show creativity and innovation at every stage. While some written, critical and analytical skills are required, the emphasis of the course is on design and practical work. Throughout the course students will work independently producing drawings, photographs, models and experimenting with a range of media & materials, researching relevant designers & design movements, developing ideas to final pieces avoiding clichéd or stereotypical responses.

### What will I learn in this subject?

3D Design is a broad-based course of study that covers the design process – Research, Design, Make, Evaluate. Student will produce personal and imaginative products, using a range of different and new media and techniques, for example, CAD/CAM (laser cutting, 3D printing), sublimation, casting, vacuum forming, joining techniques, and many more! This builds upon the range of skills learnt in KS3.

Click here: [Innovation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Design and Technology Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

There are a wide range of A-Levels in Design and Technology, Product Design and Engineering. Along with various apprenticeships offered by various companies for the right candidates. T-levels are also available in Engineering, Construction and Digital design.

Jobs: **STEM based jobs create career opportunities for life.** Design and Technology GCSE provides students with the necessary skills to solve problems of the future in a wide range of job sectors such as: Engineering, Architecture, Product Design, Construction industries, Interior design, the motoring industry and many more.



## Food Preparation and Nutrition

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1hr 45minutes 100mark exam, June of Year 11 (50% overall grade)</li><li>• 2 pieces of coursework</li><li>• Non-exam assessment 1: 30marks - Food Investigation (15% overall grade)</li><li>• Non-exam assessment 2: 70marks - Plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes based on briefs provided from AQA (35% overall grade)</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

Studying Food Preparation and Nutrition gives students a wider knowledge of food preparation skills, nutritional needs, food choices and diet related conditions. Food is a vital part of our lives. During the course, students will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to prepare and cook safely, whilst using a range of cooking techniques and equipment. Students will apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating so that they are able to feed themselves and others a healthy and varied diet. Students will gain skills that will help them throughout life and this course can open many opportunities within the food and nutrition sector.

Students will cover a wide range of information including the Eatwell guide, dietary guidelines and campaigns, food choice and sustainability, special diets, recipe planning and nutritional analysis.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Innovation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Food Preparation and Nutrition Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Food producers in the UK currently generate £115.2bn value on the products they sell; this figure is rising and is creating more and more jobs. Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to many careers within this sector working at various stages of the supply chain. This could be in manufacturing, hospitality and catering, including being a chef or event management and even developing new products with major brands. There are many opportunities as a nutritionist within the NHS, for private clients or across sports teams worldwide.

You can also go onto further study in this area, for example:

Hospitality & Catering Level 2 - Bury College

Catering, Hospitality & Event Management » Bolton College

Food science - BSc (Hons) Nutritional Sciences · Manchester Metropolitan University

Sport and Exercise Nutrition - BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Nutrition · MMU



## Religious Education (GCSE)

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You will sit two exams at the end of Year 11</li><li><u>Paper 1 50%</u> Christianity Beliefs, Christianity Practices, Islam Beliefs, Islam Practices</li><li><u>Paper 2 (50%)</u> Religion and Life, Religion Peace and Conflict, Crime and Punishment, Human Rights and Social Justice</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

This stimulating and contemporary GCSE course provides an opportunity for students to engage with a range of relevant and intriguing questions around belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth.

Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt. Students of all abilities will be challenged and inspired, whilst developing valuable skills that will prepare them for further study and life beyond school.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Global Learning | Woodhey High School](#) to see the GCSE RE Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

As different career sectors will have employees from different backgrounds and faiths, Religious Studies will be invaluable in building strong relationships with your colleagues.

Furthermore, Religious Studies can lead to a wide range of career sectors, such as those involving communication, evaluation, analysis or management. Examples include public relations, journalism, law, medicine, teaching, youth work, management, customer services, human resources, civil service or government.



## Sociology

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	AQA
How you are assessed:	2x Exams. Paper 1 (1h 45mins, worth 50%): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Research Methods</li></ul> Paper 2 (1h 45mins, worth 50%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime and Deviance</li><li>• Social Stratification</li><li>• Research Methods</li></ul>

### Why should you study this subject?

Sociology is the study of human behaviour and social interactions where students are exposed to the inner workings of our diverse and complex society. Students observe and reflect on the world around them, even questioning their own position within it, as they develop an understanding of how someone's social class, gender or ethnicity can positively or negatively affect their life chances. This awareness enables students to be informed citizens who are ready to make a positive impact towards a more equal society.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Global Learning | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Sociology Learning Journey.

### What can this subject lead to?

Sociology equips students with critical thinking skills, persuasive communication and data analysis, teaching students to interpret information through different lenses. These skills are transferable to a variety of career opportunities, such as the police, health and social work, law, journalism, market research, public relations, human resources, marketing, and teaching.

With Woodhey being one of the few schools in Bury to offer GCSE Sociology, it puts students in an advantageous position if they wish to study Sociology, Psychology or Criminology at A-level as they will already have the foundation knowledge.



## Statistics

Type of qualification:	GCSE
Exam board studied:	Edexcel
How you are assessed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are two assessment papers both 80 marks each.</li><li>• Each assessment will last 1hr and 30 mins.</li><li>• Higher and Foundation tiers available.</li><li>• Foundation grades 1-5</li><li>• Higher grades 4-9</li></ul>

**Why should you study this subject?** Are you curious about how data shapes the world around us? and relevant course that shows you how to make sense of numbers, patterns, and information in real-life contexts. From analysing sports performance to understanding trends on social media, you'll develop skills that are increasingly valuable in today's data-driven world. This course is studied in **Year 10**, providing an excellent foundation for students who enjoy Mathematics and are aiming for **grades 7–9 at GCSE**. In **Year 11**, students who complete GCSE Statistics will go on to study **AQA Further Mathematics**, giving them a strong advantage as they prepare for post-16 study in maths, science, or related subjects. GCSE Statistics is ideal for students who enjoy problem-solving, logical thinking, and working with data. It helps build confidence and fluency in mathematical thinking while developing analytical skills that are highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers.

### What will I learn in this subject?

Click here: [Calculation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the Statistics and Further Maths Learning Journey.

**What can this subject lead to?** GCSE Statistics opens the door to a wide range of future pathways and careers. It is particularly valuable for students considering A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Sciences, Economics, Psychology, or Geography. Statistics plays a vital role in careers such as business and finance, data analysis, engineering, medicine, scientific research, sports performance analysis, and technology. It is also increasingly important in areas such as artificial intelligence, public health, and media, where data is used to inform decisions and shape understanding. By choosing GCSE Statistics, you will develop strong analytical and problem-solving skills that employers value highly giving you an excellent foundation for further study and future success.



## iMedia

Type of qualification:	Cambridge National Level 2 (Equivalent to one GCSE)
Exam board studied:	OCR (Cambridge Nationals)
How you are assessed:	<p>Creative iMedia is assessed through a combination of an exam and Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Unit R093 – Creative iMedia in the Media Industry</b> <i>1 hour 30-minute written exam (40% of the qualification)</i></li><li>• <b>Unit R094 – Visual Identity and Digital Graphics</b> <i>Non-Examined Assessment – NEA</i></li><li>• <b>Unit R097 – Interactive Digital Media</b> <i>Non-Examined Assessment – NEA</i></li></ul> <p>The NEA units are completed through practical assignments set by OCR and marked in school, then moderated externally.</p>

**Why should you study this subject?** Do you enjoy being creative, working with digital tools, and designing things that look professional? Creative iMedia is a hands-on course that lets you explore the world of digital media while developing real-world creative skills. You'll learn how media products are designed, planned and created for real clients and audiences.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy practical work, creative thinking and using computers to design, edit and build digital products. You'll gain confidence, independence and problem-solving skills that are highly valued in creative industries and beyond.

**What will I learn in this subject?** Creative iMedia combines theory with practical design work. You will learn about how the media industry works and then apply that knowledge to create your own digital products.

- In **R093**, you will learn about the media industry, job roles, how media products are planned, legal and ethical issues, and how media codes are used to create impact and engage audiences.
- In **R094**, you will develop visual identities for clients, including logos and graphics, and learn how to design professional digital graphics for different purposes and audiences.
- In **R097**, you will plan, create and review interactive digital media products, focusing on user interaction, navigation and design.

Click here: [Calculation | Woodhey High School](#) to see the iMedia Learning Journey.

**What can this subject lead to?** Creative iMedia is an excellent foundation for students interested in creative, digital and media-based careers. It supports progression to further study such as A-level Media Studies, Creative iMedia Level 3, Digital Media, IT, or apprenticeships in creative and digital industries.

Career pathways include graphic design, web design, digital marketing, animation, game design, media production, content creation and many other creative roles. The skills you develop—creativity, communication, planning and digital literacy—are also valuable in a wide range of careers and subjects.

