



The
Westgate School

#equippedforlife

Create your Future



Key Stage 4 Option Choices 2019

Introduction

Decisions about subject choices for Key Stage 4 are the most important educational decisions you will make so far. This brochure is designed to help in that decision-making process. These choices are not decisions to be made lightly. However, you are not alone because there are lots of people to help and support you. You should consult widely to help you make informed choices – for example with Subject Teachers, Tutors, Directors of Learning and our Connexions Advisor. Parents also have an important role to play in advising students – after all they know you best of all!

Our options have been designed to give you maximum choice and flexibility whilst also ensuring that we equip you with the skills needed for your future careers, #equippedforlife. We recognise that each of you has differing strengths, interests and learning styles. Our curriculum offer reflects this and allows you to choose a subject which suits your individual needs so that you can achieve your personal best.

Over the next few weeks read this booklet carefully and start to consider matching your strengths and interests with the subjects on offer. Consider what you will do at the end of Year 11 and how this may affect the choices you make now. Use your time in school to talk to Subject Teachers and your tutor.

Due to the importance of these choices, we are also organising an evening to share information with you and talk further about the options which are on offer.

Our Options Evening will take place on Tuesday 12 March – 6.00 – 7.30pm.

There will be a presentation by myself and Mrs Embleton in the Main Hall. This event will enable you to talk to Subject Teachers and current students about the different courses on offer. After the presentation you will also have the opportunity for a one:one conversation with a senior member of staff to offer you further support and guidance. You will then need to complete the Options Form on-line by the 1st April 2019.

It is an exciting time and we hope you find this booklet and whole process useful when making these choices about your future. Good luck in your decision making and remember we are all here to support you. We look forward to seeing you at our Options Evening and discussing your future plans with you.

Michelle Cooper – Head Teacher

Melissa Embleton – Director of Learning Y9

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Overview of the Curriculum

In order to enable the school to fulfil the requirements of the curriculum, the teaching day will be divided into five lessons of 60 minutes each, giving a total of 25 lessons per week.

There are certain subjects that are statutory, which every child has to follow, to provide them with the foundations necessary to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed for their future career paths. This is referred to as our Core Curriculum which all students will experience. There are also a range of subjects which students can opt to do depending on their individual preferences, interest and aptitudes. These are referred to as our Option Subjects.

The curriculum structure below shows you the breakdown of the week and the time spent in core and options subjects:

Core Curriculum	Periods each week
English	4
Maths	4
Science	4
PE (Non GCSE)	2
RMS	2
Options Subjects:	
Options A, B, C,	3 per option

Most students will gain at least 9/10 full GCSE or equivalent passes.

From 2017, GCSE results will no longer be awarded with a letter, numbers will be used as follows:-

OLD GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
BTEC AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION (VCert and Tech Awards) EQUIVALENT									
	D*		D		M		P		L1

Types of Qualifications

There are different types of qualifications available to you. Below is an outline of what they are.

GCSE qualifications

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Most GCSE subjects are awarded a grade based upon a combination of written or practical examinations and coursework. As a result of your two years' work, you will be awarded a grade based on a scale of 9 - 1.

BTEC Qualifications

BTECs are practical, work related courses. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. One unit of the BTEC courses is externally set and assessed. This may be an exam or a controlled piece of assessment.

A BTEC First Award is equivalent to 1 GCSE and is graded as either a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*. It introduces you to the employment area you have chosen and provides a good basis to go on to more advanced work-related qualifications.

GCSE Technical Awards/Level 2 Certificate

These are practical vocational qualifications that equip learners with practical, transferable skills and core knowledge needed to progress to college, sixth form or vocational study. They are assessed through coursework and an exam. Tech awards are assessed with a Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass, Level 1. A Pass and above is equivalent to a GCSE.

Core Curriculum Subjects

To fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum the following subjects will be taught to all students as part of our Core Curriculum.

- **English** will be studied by all students for 4 lessons per week

Students will be prepared for the GCSE external examination in English Language and English Literature

- **Mathematics** will be studied by all students for 4 lessons per week

Students will be prepared for GCSE Mathematics.

- **Science** will be studied by all students for 4 lessons per week

It will be possible for students to obtain 2 GCSE certificates (Core and Additional Science). The course covers material in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

- **Physical Education** will be studied by all students for 2 lessons per week

- **Religious & Moral Studies** will be studied by all students for 2 lessons per week

This will lead to a GCSE qualification in Religious & Moral Studies.

These subjects are described in more detail over the next few pages.

English Language & English Literature GCSE



Qualification:	GCSE English Language 8700 GCSE English Literature 8702
Curriculum Leader:	Miss N Jellis
Exam Board:	AQA

Why study English?

English and English Literature are core subjects for all students. These subjects provide students with vital communication and literacy skills required for success in employment and further study. They also provide opportunities for students to develop their analytical abilities and capacity for empathy and understanding of the wider world.

What will I learn?

Students will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts in preparation for unseen exams in English language. They will also develop their abilities as writers, enabling them to communicate viewpoints clearly. Students will also study a range of significant literary texts including “Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde” by R.L Stevenson, poetry power and conflict, “An Inspector Calls” by J.B. Priestley and “Macbeth” by William Shakespeare.

How will the course be structured?

English Language is comprised of three units:

1. Explorations in creative reading and writing – reading and writing fiction (50%)
2. Writers’ viewpoints and perspectives – reading and writing fiction (50%)
3. A non-examined speaking unit in which students are required to speak at length on a chosen topic.

English Literature is comprised of two units:

1. Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40%)
Students need to respond in detail to meaning, ideas and techniques used in these texts which are studied prior to the exam. Students will answer one question on each text where they will write in detail about an extract and then the text as a whole.
2. Modern Texts and Poetry (60%)
Students are required to answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern drama text, the poems they have studied and two further unseen poems.

How will I be assessed?

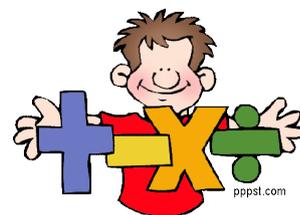
English Literature and English Language are both linear courses: they are each assessed by two exams at the end of Year 11. Students will be awarded one GCSE for English Language and another GCSE for English Literature.

What career opportunities are there?

All career paths and post-16 study will require a 5 or above in English. You are able to study English Literature A Level at The Westgate School, this is a highly academic qualification which facilitates a range of careers and degree level courses.

How can I get further information?

Please see Miss N Jellis, Curriculum Leader



Mathematics GCSE

Qualification:	GCSE Mathematics 1MA1
Curriculum Leader:	Mr D Jury
Exam Board:	Pearson (Edexcel)

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a core subject. It is everywhere around us and we use it every day. Students will need to understand how to calculate accurately as well as be able to apply their mathematical knowledge to a range of real life problems.

What will I learn?

- ❖ Algebra: including collecting like terms, expanding brackets, factorising, solving equations and graphs
- ❖ Number: including factors, multiples, four operations, percentages, fractions and decimals
- ❖ Ratio and proportion: including value for money and unitary method
- ❖ Geometry: including similar shapes, transformations, volume, area, perimeter and angles
- ❖ Statistics and probability: including charts, stem and leaf, histograms and probability
- ❖ How to use calculators and computers to help solve problems
- ❖ How to apply Mathematics to new situations including real-life problems
- ❖ To develop the ability to reason and think logically
- ❖ To use Mathematics across a range of different subjects

How will I be assessed?

In Years 9, 10 and 11, students will build on what they have learnt and understood in Years 7 and 8. During lesson time students will be encouraged to work individually, in groups and participate in class discussions. Major features of the course are solving problems and applying Mathematics to everyday situations.

How will the course be structured?

The new Mathematics GCSE is still tiered with both higher (Grades 4-9) and foundation (Grades 1-5) tiers available. The course remains linear with three externally examined papers sat at the end of Year 11 – one non-calculator and two calculator papers. Each paper is worth exactly one third of the final mark.

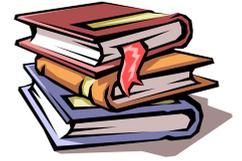
What career opportunities are there?

Most Further Education centres, e.g. Colleges and Sixth Forms, require students to have gained a minimum of a Grade 4 in Maths to start A levels. For students to study Maths or a Maths related course at A level and beyond, many education establishments require a minimum of a Grade 6 or higher at GCSE. Jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering, Accounting and Economics – among others – all require a Maths qualification, but most careers require a basic understanding of Mathematics.

How can I get further information?

Please contact Mr D Jury, Curriculum Leader.

Religious and Moral Studies GCSE



Qualification:	GCSE Religious & Moral Studies 'A' 8062
Curriculum Leader:	Mr N Hart
Exam Board:	AQA

Why study Religious Studies?

Religious and Moral Studies provides not only an understanding of religious groups, but also of people in general. This subject will help students become more aware of others and themselves. It, therefore, provides an excellent framework from which people-related work can be developed. It also provides greater awareness of contemporary culture. It also allows students to develop their written and verbal communication skills.

What will I learn?

This course is delivered over two years and students will receive a full course award.

The course comprises of two components, which give students the opportunity to discuss moral issues from a variety of religious perspectives and consider the humanist or non-religious point of view.

Year 9 and 10

Component 1

Christianity: Examining the main beliefs and practices of Christianity. Looking at what it means to be a Christian both traditionally and in a modern world.

Islam: Examining the main beliefs and practices of Islam. Looking at what it means to be a Muslim as an individual and in a community.

Component 2

Religion and Humanity: Looking at themes of religion and medicine, war and conflict, human rights, and many more.

Commitment Expected

Due to the fact that RMS is a compulsory subject, all students will take the exams in **May and June of Year 10**. There will be no further RMS in Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

There are **two examinations (component 1 and 2)** of **1 hour 45minutes** each.

There are no tiers of entry.

There is no coursework.

What career opportunities are there?

In the world of work, employers look for:

- Someone with an enquiring mind
- An appreciation of different viewpoints on contemporary issues, both local and global
- Someone who is thoughtful, informed and a responsible citizen
- An ability to make a balanced decision

From this course you will achieve all of the above and be able to use these to help you with a wide variety of careers which deal with people. It will also provide a basic knowledge of not just RMS and Citizenship but also Law, Social work, Sociology, Psychology, History and Geography, which can be used as access for Post 16 study.

How can I get further information? Please see Mr R Barber, Deputy Curriculum Leader Humanities

Science GCSE

Qualification:	Combined Science (Double Award) 1SCO
Curriculum Leader:	Mr J Ward
Exam Board:	Pearson



Why study GCSE Science?

Science is a core subject in Years 10 and 11 which means that all students will study the course and achieve a GCSE. Science at GCSE provides knowledge and understanding that is relevant to students' everyday life. It provides insight into and experience of how science works, stimulating students' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with science in their everyday lives and to make informed choices about further study and career choices. All GCSE courses help students to develop their questioning, analytical and evaluative skills alongside core practical skills.

What will I learn?

Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and develop their practical skills over the two years where they will achieve a GCSE in Combined Science (Double Award).

How will the course be structured?

Specifications will include **new content**, in line with subject criteria outlined by the Department for Education. In Year 10 Students will study the core scientific principles in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, followed in Year 11 by Students studying an extension of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

How will I be assessed?

There are two tiers of entry:

Foundation tier will cover grades 1–5

Higher tier will cover grades 4-9.

Questions assessing students' use of **mathematical skills** will make up the assessments, Biology -10%, Chemistry 20% and Physics 30%. There will also be a minimum of 15% of questions which will be based on core practicals and recall and application of 17 equations required in physics.

There are **no controlled assessments** in the new qualifications, instead practical skills will be assessed when students sit examinations at the end of two years.

There are 6 examinations of 1 hour and 10 minutes each and include a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

What career opportunities are there?

Successful students can progress onto BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Science or A Levels. Students can also progress onto a range of courses for Beauty Therapy Science, Sport Science, Pharmacy Services, Dental Technology, Forensic Science and Medical Sciences. The qualifications provide a route to a variety of technician based careers such as Quality Control Analysts, Medical Technician in hospitals, Research Technicians in Pharmaceutical company or to a variety of apprenticeships in the Science related sector.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr J Ward, Curriculum Leader

Optional Subjects

Making Informed Decisions about your Option Subjects

Students and parents are asked to read carefully through the remainder of this booklet and look thoroughly at the resource material for the different subjects available to choose from. It is absolutely vital that students make good, informed decisions about which subjects to opt for. All options subjects will lead to qualifications but remember **all qualifications will need to be EARNED through hard work.**

As you read through the booklet you should think about the following things:

- What are my strengths and weaknesses which I should take into account?
- What do I want to do in future which may affect the options I choose?
- What is the content of the courses I am about to choose?
- What subjects do I currently do which I enjoy and do well in?
- Are there any new subjects that I have not studied before which look interesting?
- What method of assessment is there? Which method would suit me better?
- Will the subject involve any expense for equipment, materials or trips?

Some Do's and Don'ts:

- **DO** think carefully about your next step
- **DO** think carefully about your likes and dislikes
- **DO** choose for yourself - after all you will be taking the course for two years
- **DO** look at the information in school and check out your options carefully
- **DO** find out which subjects you'll need to study for the careers you are interested in
- **DO** ask for help and discuss your options with parents, teachers, and tutors
- **DON'T** choose a subject just because you like the teacher - you may not be taught by them
- **DON'T** choose a subject just to be with your friends - you may well be in different groups
- **DON'T** think about "boys' subjects" and "girls' subjects" – all courses are open to you

You are going to study these options for two years – so make sure you make the right choices for you based on sound information.

**ONCE YOU HAND IN YOUR OPTIONS FORM -
YOUR DECISIONS ARE FINAL**

The 'English Baccalaureate' (EBacc), Progress 8 & Raising Participation Age (RPA)

When making decisions about option subjects it is essential that this guidance is considered

The 'EBacc'

The English Baccalaureate was implemented in the 2010 school performance tables published in January 2011 and continues to be of importance.

The EBacc recognises the success of those young people who attain GCSEs, at grades A*- C across a core of academic subjects:

A student can achieve the EBacc by gaining A*- C in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Geography or History
- Core and Additional Science or Computer Science
- Modern or Ancient Foreign language – eg French or Spanish at The Westgate School.

The government has stated that the introduction of this new performance measure is intended to encourage schools to promote “a properly rounded academic education” and as an incentive for schools to drive up the numbers of students opting to continue with independent science subjects, humanities and foreign languages.

We enable students to make choices in EBacc subjects to enable them to gain this qualification. This is essential to ensure that the challenge and stretch is there for our students.

We strongly recommend that you take this into consideration when making choices.

However, we do recognise that for some students the EBacc subjects will not represent the most suitable programme. It is important that students should choose subjects which will allow them to succeed at a high level and which will enable them to develop as increasingly skilled and motivated learners.

Progress 8

The Progress 8 measure was introduced for all schools in 2016. This encourages schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum at KS4.

The new measure will be based on students' progress measured across eight subjects:

- English;
- Mathematics;
- Three other English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects such as Sciences, Computer Science, Geography, History and Languages;
- Three further subjects, which can be from the range of EBacc subjects, or can be any other approved, high-value Arts, academic, or vocational qualification. This includes other GCSE, BTEC and GCSE Technical qualifications.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

- The government have increased the statutory participation age of young adults
- Young people will need to continue in education or training until at least their eighteenth birthday

What does this mean?

- It does not necessarily mean young people have to stay on at school after Year 11 and they still may be able to find employment full time if they choose
- However, they will have a choice about how they participate post 16, which could be through:
 - Full time education such as Sixth Form or College
 - Work based learning such as an Apprenticeship
 - Part time education or training if employed or volunteering for 20 hours per week or more

Why is this happening?

- To give young people the opportunity to develop the skills they need for adult life and to achieve their full potential
- Participating in learning longer means greater skills and qualifications to open more doors and earn more over your lifetime
- Evidence shows that those who do not participate in education, employment or training at age 16-18 means they are more likely to earn less, have poor health etc

How does this affect my options?

You need to consider the options you take and what you may want to do post 16 until you are 18.

Art GCSE

Qualification: Art and Design 8201 (QAN 601/8088/2)
Curriculum Leader: Mrs E Swift
Exam Board: AQA



Why study Art?

Students will enjoy this course if they wish to enhance their imagination and independence of thought in a creative way. All skills and techniques learnt during the GCSE course will contribute towards a career in the creative world.

What will I learn?

Art and Design is the basis of most creative avenues, Architecture, Theatre design, Product design, Photography, Illustration, Fashion, Animation, Advertisement are just a few.

Art and Design gives you the opportunity to develop the basic drawing skills and encourage the development of ideas, independent thought and expression. You will learn new skills and techniques and become confident in developing your own ideas and imagination.

The Art and Design course is flexible and stimulates creativity, offering a high range of different media, processes and techniques. The art course will give you the opportunity to produce a portfolio of work that you can show to prospective employers or use to help secure a place in higher education.

How will the course be structured?

Students will work on two components:

Component one: Portfolio (coursework).

All students will begin to work on their portfolio from year 10 and will be expected to demonstrate skills in drawing and painting and explore a range of different techniques, such as printing, sculpture, photography, textiles and IT work. Students will be required to write responses to their work and analyse the work of others. The portfolio will include **a sustained project** developed in response to a theme and **a selection of further work** resulting from activities such as experiments; skills-based workshops; responses to gallery, museum or site visits. All the work, including homework completed in year 10 and 11 will go towards the 60% final mark.

Component two: Externally set Exam.

Students will respond to an externally set assignment paper. Students will need to work independently on that theme during the preparation period. This will conclude in a 10 hour exam, where they will produce a final piece of work. This is all practical based and is worth 40% of the GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE assessments are divided into four objectives which the students will focus on through the coursework and exam. The **coursework units** are ultimately marked as a whole; **this is worth 60% of the final grade**. All formal coursework begun in Year 10 contributes to this final grade. **The terminal examination** is 10 hours long and takes place over a designated week in the time period March - May in Year 11 and is worth **40% of the final grade**.

The four assessment objectives are:

A01 - Contextual research and critical understanding – the study of different artists, genres and cultures.

A02 - Exploration of ideas and materials – developing ideas and working in a range of different materials.

A03 - Recording ideas in visual and **written** forms – basic drawing and writing skills.

A04 - Presenting a personal response – creating final pieces which are personal and independent.

What career opportunities are there?

Jobs can include: Freelance Artist, Illustrator, Advertising, Animation, Fashion, Photographer, Interior designer, Jewellery designer, Film/Stage/TV designer, Product designer, Architect, Animation, Marketing designer, Curator.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs E Swift, Curriculum Leader

Business Studies GCSE



Qualification:	Business Studies
Curriculum Leader:	Mr J Higgins
Exam Board:	OCR

Why follow a course in Business Studies?

This course is aimed at equipping you with, and developing, the real skills and tools you need to start up a business with a chance of success, whilst giving students good background knowledge of the factors that can influence success or failure. It will involve analysis, evaluation and some report writing which will support further study in this subject. Very good levels of literacy and numeracy will be expected from candidates and good ICT skills will certainly be an advantage.

What will I learn?

This course is split into two parts. The first half is entitled 'Investigating Small Business' where the student has the opportunity to explore the key concepts, ideas and skills required to start a new business – exploring core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

The second half, entitled 'Building a Business', explores how your business will develop beyond the start-up phase. It emphasises on how the businesses activities starts to specialise into natural business functions such as Marketing, Finance, Production and Human Resources.

This provides an excellent grounding for all the courses we offer in the Westgate Sixth form.

How will the course be structured?

Students will have three lessons a week and Year 10 and 11 will split roughly between the two halves outlined above. The students are encouraged to work in teams of 2 or 3 and develop their own idea through year 10 to make the course as realistic as possible.

How will the course be assessed?

To reflect the structure above, each half has an exam worth 50% of the GCSE. They both consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing questions. Calculators are allowed.

What career opportunities are there?

This GCSE provides good preparation for post-16 vocational studies, but is not a requirement for progression. This course will be of practical use and personal value to candidates of various ages and from diverse backgrounds in terms of general education, lifelong learning.

Students will acquire useful practical skills in a wide range of computer applications in business contexts to prepare them for the world of work, giving them a foundation of business knowledge, understanding and skills, which could form a basis for future employment.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr J Higgins, Curriculum Leader

OCR LEVEL 2 NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING



Qualification: Level 2 Certificate in Enterprise & Marketing J819
Head of Department: Mr J Higgins
Exam Board: OCR

Why study OCR Level 2 Certificate in Enterprise & Marketing?

This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to business, enterprise and marketing that includes a vocational and hands-on element. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire learners about a career in enterprise and marketing. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to either set up their own business, move into employment or progress onto further study.

What will I learn?

All vocational courses now contain a substantial exam proportion and what is positive here is that the core learning totally complements the practical and vocational element. There are three topics:

The first and second topics are all about the preparation and practical side of starting up a business, preparing a business plan. The third topic focuses on developing the marketing aspects of their business idea. This will include it's brand image, promotional plan and selling this to an audience.

How will the course be structured?

Students will have three lessons a week and will complete the three projects over two years. Project 1 is examined externally, whilst 2 and 3 are assignments or projects.

How will the course be assessed?

This is a level 2 qualification equivalent to a GCSE; however, units are graded at Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*, similar grades can be awarded at L1. Unit 1 is an exam worth 50%, 2 & 3 are internally assessed and worth 25% each.

What career opportunities are there?

The skills and knowledge gained in studying this course will aid progression to study further at A Level or BTEC Business, and prepare students for employment into roles within business administration, marketing, finance, human resources, sales and customer service.

How can I get further information?

Please speak to Mr J Higgins, Curriculum Leader

Computer Science GCSE

Qualification: Computer Science 8520
Curriculum Leader: Mr J Higgins
Exam Board: AQA



Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a speciality subject and the role of computer science as a discipline and as an underpinning subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly. Computer Science as a subject essentially frees students from the dependency on other people creating applications for them to use, instead teaching them the skills to make their own applications and games.

What will I learn? There are 3 components:

- **Component 1: Computational Thinking & Problem Solving**
You will develop computational thinking and problem solving skills. You will study code tracing and applied computing whilst developing theoretical knowledge of the following **4 units**: Fundamentals of Algorithms, Programming, Fundamentals of Data Representation and Computer systems.
- **Component 2: Computing Fundamentals**
In this unit you will study Data Representation and Computer systems further in addition to studying Computer Networks and Cyber Security. You will also learn about the Ethical, Legal and Environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society.
- **Component 3: Applying Theory**
In this unit you will apply the theoretical knowledge and practical skills you have learned to develop a solution to a given problem. That is, you will design, create, test and evaluate a computer program.

How will the course be structured?

You will have 3 Computer Science lessons per week. As well as theory lessons you will be taught a range of programming concepts and then apply them to practical programming tasks using Python.

How will I be assessed?

- **Component 1** is externally assessed through a **1 hour 30-minute exam** sat in Year 11. Question types include multiple choice and short answer questions to practically assess your Computational thinking and problem solving skills. This exam contributes **50%** of the total GCSE.
- **Component 2** is also externally assessed through a **1 hour 30-minute exam** sat in Year 11. Question types include multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response. This exam contributes **50%** of the total GCSE.
- **Component 3** is externally assessed through a task set by AQA. This **coursework** will enable student practice problem solving skills and be better prepared for the exam.

What career opportunities are there?

A GCSE qualification is widely recognised by employers and HE institutions. The course will provide an excellent foundation to allow students to either continue onto A Level, vocational, or degree level courses in the areas of computing, engineering and science. Businesses today are increasingly interested in students who are technologically aware and this course is particularly relevant for students who wish to pursue careers in gaming, mobile and web development industries.

How do I get further information?

Please see Ms E Dunn or Ms F Choudhury, Teachers of Computing

Drama GCSE



Qualification: Drama 1DR0
Curriculum Leader: Ms P Slater
Exam Board: Pearson

Why study Drama?

GCSE Drama builds confidence, thought processes and individuality. It is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes, both through students' own creativity and through studying the works of others

What will I learn?

- In **Component 1: Devising Drama** and **Component 2; Text Performance**, we will explore worlds outside our own experience. Through drama you can become anyone, anywhere, at any time. By studying Drama we become intelligent spectators who can distinguish between good and bad drama, as well as 'right' and 'wrong' ideologies. We can start making informed decisions about the drama that we see, using the language of evaluation.
- **Devised work:** Drama gives us the opportunity to hone our improvisation skills. Improvisation is the spontaneous response to new and unexpected situations. Life is improvisation.
- **Scripted work:** Through scripts we learn about other cultures, societies and points of view. Scripts help us to explore issues, and how we can respond to them, in a safe, learning environment.
- **Drama as a co-operative process:** In Drama you participate in group work which will help you to explore relationships on and off stage. It will help you to develop communication skills and to make friends.

How will the course be structured?

You will study a series of modules in Year 10 which will develop your confidence as a performer and lead to filmed practical examinations and performances to an external examiner. You will also study a set text in preparation for a written examination at the end of Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1 and 2 will account for 60% of the final qualification. In component 1 (Devising Drama) students create a devised performance from a given stimulus. Performances will be filmed and practical work (10%) must be supported by a portfolio (30%) which evaluates their practical work. This can be written or in the form of a video. Both will be externally moderated.
- In component 2 (Text Performance) (20%) students will take part in 2 performances from a text. Performances will range from 2 to 15 minutes, depending on the group size and will be examined by a visiting examiner. Students will also be required to produce an accompanying concept document.
- The final written examination (40%) will be sat at the end of Year 11; it is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. Section A will test students' knowledge of a set text, which must contrast with the text they studied for component 2. The questions will focus on the process of creating and developing a performance as well as the performance of a character from the text. Section B asks the students to review a performance they have seen during the course and primarily assesses their ability to analyse and evaluate. Thus, all students must attend at least one live theatre performance.

What career opportunities are there?

Ensuing careers could include such fields as retail, travel and tourism, sales and marketing, law or any career that involves meeting people face to face. Drama develops a strong set of transferable skills. You may wish to take further education courses in performance or performance support areas. Alternatively, you might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Drama, or where you will need to use the skills developed in the course. The Thames Valley is one of the biggest Creative Industry employers in Europe.

How can I get further information?

Please see Ms P Slater, Curriculum Leader

French & Spanish GCSE

Qualification: French 8658 & Spanish GCSE 8698
Curriculum Leader: Mrs L von Fragstein
Exam Board: AQA



Why study French and Spanish?

A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language can give you an advantage when applying to University. It can mean that you earn more money, particularly as business is a global enterprise. Your employer will recognise your skills and your ability to think differently even if you don't use the language in your job. A foreign language can also help you to understand other people's cultures and so develop as a global citizen, with a broader outlook on life.

What will I learn?

Each of the language skills are studied for the exam, i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. There are two levels of examination for each of the skills, foundation (1-5) and higher (6-9). It is worth noting that candidates will be entered at the same tier for all four skill components.

How will the course be structured?

Students will be expected to meet all deadlines. Students should also consider participating in educational visits and extra-curricular lessons, especially before their various assessments.

A Foreign Language Assistant will work with all GCSE candidates and revision guides will be available to purchase at a reduced rate. It is understood that students will make the most of all resources available in school, including listening facilities which are available for private study in the Learning Resource Centre and the Multimedia Language Suite. They can also gain access to various websites to which we subscribe. Some websites are used for homework as well as in class.

How will I be assessed?

There will be a test in each skill at the end of year 11. Each skill is worth 25% of the overall grade.

Listening exam

- 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
- This exam includes various activities based around the understanding different spoken passages. These activities include multiple choice, gap fills, true/false and short answer responses.
- Students will need to respond in English and the target Language

Reading Exam

- 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- This exam includes various activities based around the understanding of different texts. These activities include multiple choice, gap fills, true/false and short answer responses.
- Students will need to respond in English and the target Language

Writing Exam

- 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- This exam includes writing short texts on a range of topics and a translation from English into the target language

Speaking Exam

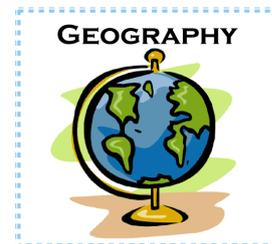
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- This exam includes a spoken role-play, discussion of a stimulus card, and a general conversation.

What career opportunities are there?

Latest research shows that 75% of employers want "Language Skills". MFL is useful for careers in business, translation, interpreting, law, civil service, journalism, public relations, social work, politics, police force, media, education, travel & tourism and many more.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr Moore or Miss Cinque



Geography GCSE

Qualification Geography 8035
Curriculum leader Mr N Hart
Exam Board AQA

Why study Geography

All of our GCSE pupils follow the AQA Geography specification which allows them to explore geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigate the link between them. There is a focus on **'real world' examples** and **case studies** in the United Kingdom, higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs).

What will I learn

<u>Living with the Physical Environment</u>	<u>Challenges in the Human Environment</u>	<u>Geographical Applications</u>
The challenge of natural hazards The living world Physical landscapes in the UK	Urban issues and challenges The changing economic world The challenge of resource management	Issue evaluation Fieldwork Geographical skills

Pupils will:

Develop and extend their knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, and of different scales including global; and of social, political and cultural contexts (know geographical material)
 Gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the inter-relationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts (think like a geographer)
 Develop and extend their competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and GIS and in researching secondary evidence, including digital sources; and Develop their competence in applying sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses (study like a geographer) apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and Creatively to real world contexts.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35% of the GCSE) – end of year 11

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35% of the GCSE) – end of year 11

Paper 3: Issue Evaluation (30% of the GCSE) - practiced throughout during classwork and assessed with a timed booklet.

How will the course be structured?

Topics of study include a balance between physical and human geography, building on ideas and themes that pupils have experienced at Key Stage 3.

A variety of discussion, source analysis, current affairs, exam questions, group work and bookwork will offer pupils of all abilities the opportunity to expand their understanding of a rapidly changing world.

Pupils will be required to take part in 2 days of fieldwork during the course, which will be assessed as part of the examinations in Year 11.

What career opportunities are there?

Geography is even more relevant in our modern connected world. The list of careers that use geography is ever growing.

How can I get any further information?

Please contact Mr Hart – Curriculum Leader of Humanities

Cambridge Nationals Level 2 Certificate in Engineering Design



Qualification: Cambridge Nationals Level 2 Certificate in Engineering Design
Curriculum Leader: Ms J Edwards
Exam Board: OCR

Why study Cambridge Nationals Level 2 Certificate in Engineering Design:

Cambridge Nationals in Engineering is designed to give students an introduction to Engineering and design. There is a vocational hand on element to the course with product design and engineering design being a key element to the course.

What will I learn?

Units	Assessment Method	GLH	J841 Certificate 120 GLH
R105: <i>Design briefs, design specifications and user requirements</i>	Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour-60 marks Learners answer all questions	30	Mandatory
R106: <i>Product analysis and research</i>	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approximately 10-12 hours-60 marks	30	Mandatory
R107: <i>Developing and presenting engineering designs</i>	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Approximately 10-12 hours-60 marks	30	Mandatory
R108: <i>3D Design realisation</i>	Centre assessed task OCR moderated Approximately 10-12 hours-60 marks	30	Mandatory

How will the course be structured?

The four topics of learning will be covered over two years. Unit 1 is an externally examined unit whilst the other three units are done in school but will be moderated by OCR.

How will the course be assessed?

This is a level 2 qualification that is equivalent to a GCSE. Units will be grades as a Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. Each of the learning topics is worth 25% of the overall attainment.

What career opportunities are there?

- Apprenticeship Framework Engineering (Levels 2&3)
- A Level Engineering Product Design (Level 3)
- Vocational Qualifications QCF Engineering (Level 2)
- Cambridge Technicals in Engineering

How can I get further information?

Contact Ms Edwards, Curriculum Leader, Design and Technology

Health and Social Care

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Award Health & Social Care
Lead Teacher: Miss N Bicknell
Exam Board: Pearson



Why study Health & Social Care?

About 3 million people in the UK work in health and social care. In healthcare, this includes jobs such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and administrators, while social care roles include care assistants, social workers, occupational therapists and counsellors. Demand for both health and social care is likely to continue to rise, so it is sure to continue to play a key role in UK society, and the demand for people to fill these vital jobs will increase.

What will I learn?

This course gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major life changing events like marriage or parenthood. You will learn how people adapt to these changes as well as the types of support available to help them. You will also learn about the different health and social care services, and about 'care values' and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need. You will be able to demonstrate these care values practically. You will develop skills in interpreting data about someone's state of health in order to design a plan that will allow them to improve their health and wellbeing. This new qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE, and is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about health and social care. This course will give you the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and techniques, and to review your own performance in demonstrating 'care values'.

How will the course be structured?

There are 3 components that will be covered: Human Lifespan Development, Health and Social Care Services and Values and Health and Wellbeing. These three components that focus on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices. These are all essential to developing a basis for progression and therefore learners need to demonstrate attainment across all components in order to achieve the qualification.

How will I be assessed?

You will carry out tasks during the course. Your teacher will mark these, which will give you an idea of how you are getting on. Towards the end of the course, you will do one larger task, where you use the knowledge, skills and techniques you have learned to design a health improvement plan. All the work you do throughout the course prepares you for this larger task, which is sent away to be marked.

What career opportunities are there?

Further options include studying BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care at The Westgate School, College or work based apprenticeships. These can all lead into a degree course for Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work and other health and social care careers. Alternatively, employment opportunities from school could include Care Assistant, Nursery Assistant and other vocational roles.

How can I get further information?

Please see Miss Bicknell for further information.

History GCSE

Qualification: History 8145
Curriculum Leader: Mr Neil Hart
Exam Board: AQA



Why study History?

Studying GCSE History will help you understand the present and provide you with a basis for your role as a responsible citizen by helping you to develop your skills as an independent learner and a critical thinker. It will also give you the opportunity to deepen your understanding of how the past has been represented, interpreted and given significance for different reasons and purposes. Understanding the connection between past and present is imperative for a good understanding of the condition of being human. That is why History matters. It is not just 'useful', it is essential.

What will I learn?

- America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and Inequality
- Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950–1975
- Britain: Health and the People: c1000 to the Present Day
- Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

How will I be assessed?

This GCSE History course is linear. Students will be formally assessed at the end of Year 11 with two examinations (each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of the overall GCSE History grade).

Which students do well at GCSE History?

... those who like the challenge of analysing historical sources to understand its hidden meanings and then drawing conclusions based on what they have found out.

... those who produce pieces of extended writing which clearly communicates their ideas using a range of historical terms.

... those who enjoy reading.

... those who have the ability to memorise lots of information.

... those who are interested in learning about people, countries, societies and cultures.

Career opportunities?

- Studying History at GCSE will help you with other GCSE and A-level essay subjects like English Literature, Languages, Media Studies, Law, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology, Economics and Sociology. History helps you to develop both your writing and analysis skills, so it can also be useful alongside a science subject or Maths to broaden your knowledge and abilities.
- History will prime you for a huge range of careers in law, politics, public sector, business, marketing, journalism, economics, teaching, academia, insurance, social research, archaeology and curation.

How can I get further information?

Please contact Mr Hart Curriculum Leader for Humanities

Digital Information Technology BTEC



Qualification: BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology
Curriculum Leader: Mr J Higgins
Exam Board: Pearson

Why do we study Digital Information Technology?

This course is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

What will I learn?

The Award gives students the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment, including development of key skills that prove their aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data. Students will learn about effective ways of working, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct. They will also learn how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

How will the course be structured?

Students will study Unit 1 Exploring Interface Design Principles and Project Planning techniques in the first term, this involves researching and writing a report on Design Principles of different User Interfaces, then they will learn to use software such as Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Project for the planning element. Students will then go on to study Unit 3 Effective Digital Working Practise in preparation for the February exam. Students will then study Unit 2 Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data, this involves researching and writing a report on the impact of data in our society and using Microsoft Excel and Access to collate, collate and analyse data.

How will the course be assessed?

The students will study three units, unit 1 Exploring Interface Design Principles and Project Planning techniques and unit 2 Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data are course work units assessed internally. Unit 3 Effective Digital Working Practise is an external exam, which will take place in February and is an hour and a half long.

What career opportunities are there?

Students will have the opportunity to either go on to take A Levels, study IT related courses at level 3 (which prepares students to enter employment or apprenticeships or move onto higher education). Students will also enhance their English skills through the analytical writing and they will apply Mathematical skills in the development of the digital products and solutions.

How can I get further information?

Please see Ms E Dunn – Subject Teacher or Mr J Higgins – Curriculum Leader

Music GCSE



Qualification: Music J536
Curriculum Leader: Miss N Yates
Exam Board: OCR

Why study Music?

Students will enjoy this course if they want to study a subject that involves performing, listening to all kinds of music, composing and arranging music. It also gives students the opportunity to perform music with others and to learn more about Music Technology.

What will I learn?

GCSE Music develops your critical skills, your ability to listen, to appreciate a wide variety of music and to make judgements about musical quality. Through performing you will gain confidence and stage presentation skills. Through composing you will develop your creativity and technical skills, solving problems and learn about self-discipline and teamwork.

How will the course be structured?

Students study the OCR Music GCSE course, which is divided into the following areas of study:

- My music
- The concerto through time
- Rhythms of the world
- Film music
- Conventions of Pop

During each of these, students will compose their own work, perform related pieces and listen to pieces of music in order to identify features that will aid their practical work.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is comprised of three units:

- Listening to and Appraising Music - a listening paper based on four areas of study. 1hr 30min in length - 40%
- Performing Music – solo or group performance, you can perform using music technology rather than playing an instrument - 30%
- Composing Music – to a brief set by OCR or the student - 30%

What career opportunities are there?

GCSE Music develops your critical skills, your ability to listen, to appreciate a wide variety of music and to make judgements about musical quality. Through performing you will gain confidence and stage presentation skills. Through composing you will develop your creativity and technical skills, solving problems and learn about self-discipline and teamwork. These skills will support you in all kinds of career pathways.

What are the requirements to be able to take this course?

It is compulsory that whilst students are studying GCSE Music, that they are undertaking peripatetic music lessons on their chosen instrument. These lessons are available at school provided by the Slough Music Service. Details with regards to costings are available on the Slough Music website.

How can I get further information?

Please see Miss N Yates, Curriculum Leader.

Physical Education GCSE

Qualification: PE 8582
Curriculum Leader: Mr O Root
Exam Board: AQA



Why study GCSE PE?

The course is designed for students who have an interest in sport. Ideally you should have an interest in studying sport or sport related courses at A level and University. If you want to go into the following careers then Sports Science is the right choice for you: Sports Coaching, PE Teacher, Physiotherapy, Sports Massage, and Sports Management.

What will I learn?

A 2 Year GCSE will allow those of you who enjoy sport to learn more about our body and the effects exercise has on it. You will study the following main areas in relation to sport – Health, Fitness, Exercise and Performance, Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Psychological elements of sport and performance, lever systems, training and data handling and one individual, one team and one further activity which is either team or individual. You will also participate in a variety of activities developing your knowledge of rules and tactical play in these sports.

You will take through three activities from the following areas:

- Games - Football, Basketball, Hockey, Netball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Cricket, Handball, Badminton
- Trampolining
- Dance
- Athletics
- Outdoor Education – Rock Climbing

These activities will be delivered and formally assessed within school, as extra-curricular clubs or outside school during student's own time where video footage can be obtained as submitted as evidence of assessment.

How will the course be structured?

The course contains both practical and theoretical components with the practical assessment forming 40% of the final grade and 60% of the grade being covered by the theoretical component. You will have one practical and two theory lessons per week.

How will I be assessed?

Non-exam Assessment - Individual skills used in a closed situation as well as during a game. Practical activities will be assessed and students will carry through their 3 strongest grades. One grade must come from one individual and one team sport. These practical assessment grades constitute 40% of the overall GCSE grade awarded.

Final theoretical Assessment – Human Body & Movement written exam (1 ¼ hours) - 30% of final grade.
Socio-Cultural Influences & Wellbeing in Physical Activity written exam (1 ¼ hours) – 30% of the final grade.

What career opportunities are there?

There are many career pathways in the sporting world, such as Teaching, Journalism, Coaching, Leisure Industry, Referee and Outdoor Education. Studying GCSE PE is a fantastic pathway onto Level 3 study of PE.

How can I get further information?

See Mr Root – Curriculum Leader

BTEC Sport



Qualification: BTEC Sport Award – QAN Code 600/4779/3
Curriculum Leader: Mr O Root
Exam Board: Pearson

Why study BTEC Sport Award?

The course is designed for students who have an interest in the participation, coaching and officiating of sport. Ideally you should have an interest in studying sport or sport related courses at A level and University and or an interest of becoming a coach or official. If you want to go into the following careers then Sports Science is the right choice for you: Sports Coaching, sports officiating, professional sports performer, PE Teacher, Sports Massage, and Sports Management.

What will I learn?

A 2 Year BTEC Sport Award will allow those of you who enjoy sport to learn more about a number of the key topics of modern-day sport including; Fitness testing and training for Sport and Exercise, practical performances in a number of activities and the techniques and tactics that are involved in that effectively participating in those activities and the leadership elements of sport and exercise. The course is made up of 4 units that you will study.

How will the course be structured?

The course has both practical and theoretical components which will be studied throughout the duration. Teaching time will be split between the classroom and in practical areas and theoretical concepts will often be applied within practical lessons. Unit 1 is an externally assessed examination but the other units are coursework based and will be completed during lessons and supported by extended study time at home.

Unit 1 – Fitness for Sport and Exercise (Externally Assessed)

Unit 2 – Practical Sports Performance (Internally Assessed)

Unit 5 – Training for Personal Fitness (Internally Assessed)

Unit 6 – Leading Sports Activities (Internally Assessed)

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 is an externally set and assessed examination. Unit 2, 5 and 6 will be assessed using coursework and completed within school. All work will be externally moderated by the exam board.

What career opportunities are there?

There are many career pathways in the sporting world, such as Teaching, Coaching, Leisure Industry, official and Outdoor Education roles. Studying the BTEC Sport Award is a clear pathway onto Level 3 study of PE.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr O Root, Curriculum Leader

Science (Extended) GCSE



Qualification:	Biology 1BIO, Chemistry 1CHO, Physics 1PH0
Curriculum Leader:	Mr J Ward
Exam Board:	Pearson

Why study GCSE Science?

This course is suited to students who want to take Science 'A Levels' and pursue a career in science. Studying science encourages students to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It provides insight into and experience of how science works, stimulating students' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with science in their everyday lives and to make informed choices about further study and career choices. All GCSE courses help students to develop their questioning, analytical and evaluative skills alongside core practical skills.

What will I learn?

This is a very demanding two year course which students start in Year 10. You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as developing their practical skills and will achieve a GCSE in each subject.

How will the course be structured?

Specifications will include **new content**, in line with subject criteria outlined by the Department for Education.

How will I be assessed?

There are two tiers of entry:

Foundation tier will cover grades 1–5

Higher tier will cover grades 4-9.

Questions assessing students' use of **mathematical skills** will make up the assessments, Biology -10%, Chemistry 20% and Physics 30%. There will also be a minimum of 15% of questions which will be based on core practicals and recall and application of 19 equations required in physics.

There are **no controlled assessments**, instead practical skills will be assessed when students sit examinations at the end of two years.

There are 6 examinations of 1 hour 45 minutes each and include a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

What career opportunities are there?

Successful students can progress onto BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Science or A Levels. Students can also progress onto a range of courses for Beauty Therapy Science, Sport Science, Pharmacy Services, Dental Technology, Forensic Science and Medical Sciences. The qualifications provide a route to a variety of technician based careers such as Quality Control Analysts, Medical Technician in hospitals, Research Technicians in Pharmaceutical Company or to a variety of apprenticeships in the Science related sector.

To qualify for the course students will be required to be working at Key Stage 3 Level of 6-7 and this will be used as a basis for final selection of students for the course. The course is designed for students aiming to study Science at A Level and spaces on the course may be limited.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr J Ward, Curriculum Leader

Photography GCSE

Qualification: GCSE Art and Design Photography 8206
Curriculum Leader: Mrs E Swift
Exam Board: AQA



Why study Photography?

Take one look at our modern day environment: images surround us. A huge amount of communication and understanding is done through pictures. This course encourages the exploration of photography as an artistic medium. It combines well with more traditional subjects, providing an outlet for creativity, and capturing moments. This course will make students a great creative thinker and they will be able to construct their photographic images so that they contain high visual appeal.

What will I learn?

A GCSE in photography will involve producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images. Students will complete a portfolio which can be chosen from a range of topics including location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photo-journalism, film or animation and portraiture. Students will also need to develop their drawing and annotation skills as they are key components of the course. The drawing may include sketches and plans of ideas or story boards for a photoshoot.

Who will this course suit?

The course is designed to appeal to, and cater for, a wide range of interests, personalities and directions. Students will have the opportunity to explore the work of artists and ideas through different projects and areas of study. Students will learn overtime how to use a camera and its many functions to produce and present quality photographs.

Students will need to demonstrate the following skills

- Creativity
- Independence
- Resilience
- Resourcefulness
- Time management skills
- Literacy skills

How will the course be structured?

This course is assessed on two components:

Portfolio

Students will need to produce a portfolio that 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 student's course of study.

All projects must contain 25% written content.

All the work, including homework completed in year 10 and 11 will go towards the 60% final mark.

Externally Set Assignment

Students will need to respond to an externally set assignment which is released by the exam board in the January of Year 11. They will have 10 weeks of preparation time followed by 10 hours of production under examination conditions.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE assessments are divided into four objectives which the students will focus on through the coursework and exam.

The **coursework units** are ultimately marked as a whole; **this is worth 60% of the final grade**. All formal coursework begun in Year 10 contributes to this final grade. **The terminal examination** is 10 hours long and takes place over a designated week in the time period March - May in Year 11 and is worth **40% of the final grade**.

All work is presented in a digital format.

The four assessment objectives are:

A01 - Contextual research and critical understanding – the study of different artists, genres and cultures.

A02 - Exploration of ideas and materials – developing ideas and working in a range of different materials.

A03 - Recording ideas in visual and **written** forms – basic drawing and writing skills.

A04 - Presenting a personal response – creating final pieces which are personal and independent.

What will this qualification lead to?

A GCSE in Photography can lead to many other A Levels including Fine Art, Photography, or a BTEC level 3. Many of our A level students move onto Art Degree Courses including Fashion, Textiles, Animation, Graphic Design, and Illustration, Games Design, Architecture, Film and Documentary Photography.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs E Swift, Curriculum Leader