

# Key Stage 4 Courses

2026-2028



Mildenhall College  
ACADEMY



**T**

**Teamworkers**  
Together Everyone  
Achieves More



**R**

**Resilient**  
We make mistakes and face  
challenges but we never give up



**A**

**Ambitious**  
We have a strong desire and  
determination to achieve



**I**

**Inquisitive**  
We are curious and interested in  
the world around us



**T**

**Together**  
We show tolerance and respect for  
each other and our environment.  
'We Belong Here'



**S**

**Successful**  
We will be successful



**A**chieve academic excellence  
**B**e the best you can be  
**C**ontribute positively to your community



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# Introduction

As you know, you are about to make some important decisions about the next steps in your education - the selection of subjects you will study at GCSE level. This is an exciting opportunity to think about your future and aspire to be the best you can be and to achieve academic success. There are some things you should remember:

- a) Your working life will go far beyond the present economic climate – so think long term!
- b) Be realistic and ambitious - do not settle for being less than you are capable of.
- c) The more qualifications you pass at a Grade 4 or above, the more you are likely to earn over your lifetime and the more opportunities you will have to pursue a wide range of career options.
- d) Mildenhall College Academy has always aimed to offer a wide range of subjects to students. Please choose carefully. Once you have started these courses, it is very difficult to make changes.

Students with special educational needs will have the same core curriculum and subject choices as other students and will continue to be supported with in-class intervention, as well as additional support offered to our students with SEND. Where we feel that the workload of a full range of GCSEs would not be appropriate for a student, we may suggest a more bespoke pathway to optimise success. We will provide further guidance and advice for individual students during the options process.

With such a wide degree of opportunity, a great deal of careful and informed thought is needed before making final choices and we are here to give you as much help, information and support as we can. It is also important to note that Triple Science is available to students by invitation only..

If you have a question related to a particular subject, please ask your teachers. A list of Subject and Faculty Leaders is given below. If the question is regarding the range of choices available to you please see Mrs Powling.

English & English Literature	Mrs Smithson
Mathematics	Ms Barry
Science (Triple / Combined)	Mrs Briggs-Hunter
Geography / History	Mrs Billson
Modern Foreign Languages (French)	Miss Szuszman
DT and Art	Mr West
Business Studies / Health & Social Care	Mrs Wilmshurst
Computer Science	Mr West
Drama	Mrs Harper
Music	Mrs Sayer
PE / Sports Studies	Mr Burt
Psychology	Ms Coxall

# What You Need to Think About

We aim to offer the most appropriate KS4 pathway for all students with the widest degree of choice to meet the needs and interests of every individual. However, some of this choice will be restricted as all students will follow a core curriculum of English, English Literature, Maths, Science and one of the Humanities subjects. The KS4 curriculum is designed to meet the following requirements:

1. The need to satisfy the legal requirements of the National Curriculum.
2. The importance of all students keeping their future options open by following a broad and balanced curriculum.
3. The practicalities of ensuring all courses can be adequately staffed and equipped.

## EBACC - The English Baccalaureate

This is aimed at students who are likely to achieve grade '4' or above in GCSE English, Mathematics, Science, a Humanity subject (Geography or History) and a Modern Foreign Language (French). The government expects most children to follow the EBacc and it is considered the 'standard' academic pathway. Those who achieve the EBacc may find it easier to apply for Sixth Form if you aspire to study A-levels, and secure a University place in the future.

The following guidance applies to all KS4 pathways and your choice of subjects:

1. Our expectations of you are very high - we expect all students to work hard from the very beginning of the course and throughout the duration of your studies in Year 10 and 11.
2. Home learning will be an important and normal requirement at KS4 - you cannot cover all the necessary work without it, and you need to get into good habits of studying and revising independently.
3. Your personal organisation must be of the highest standard - attendance and punctuality, completing work fully and on time, and ensuring all necessary equipment is with you when needed, will all influence your final results.
4. Each KS4 subject will be deeper, more specialised and more demanding than in Years 7, 8 and 9. You have an opportunity now to select subjects in which you are strongest and which you enjoy the most.



## Tiered Subjects

Some GCSE subjects are tiered – this information is included on the subject pages; this applies to Mathematics, Science and French. Students are entered for the tier that is most appropriate for their ability – the foundation tier allows students to achieve up to a grade '5' and is more accessible for all learners. The higher tier allows students to achieve from a grade '3' to a grade '9', but the content on these exams is more challenging and designed for students who are performing at a high academic level.

The decision about what tier your child will sit is not fixed until the Spring term of Year 11 and is based on performance in assessments and mock exams throughout Year 10 and 11.

Most GCSE exams are not tiered – all students sit the same paper, and the questions are designed in such a way that students can achieve the full range of grades from a grade '1' to a grade '9' by sitting the same paper.

## Equality of Opportunity

It is important you select your courses carefully. Avoid thinking that any particular subject is for girls or for boys - that idea is now thoroughly out-dated and the academy is committed to enabling all students, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural heritage, to achieve the highest levels of attainment and excellence of which they are capable. Keep all your future options as open as much as possible. Be mindful that the country is desperately short of scientists, mathematicians, linguists and engineers, regardless of gender.

## Subject Information

### All students in KS4 must study:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined or Triple)
- Humanities (either Geography or History)
- Just under a half of our students will also study French

### All of the above are at GCSE level.

In addition, all students are required to follow non-examination courses in:

- Physical Education
- Skills for Life
- RE

## How do I choose my options?

Parents / Carers will be sent an email from the academy with a link to an online form. The form will be dependent on the KS4 pathway that has been chosen for your child – it will make clear what choices need to be made and the option subjects that are available for your child to choose from. This form needs to be completed by 17/04/2026.

If you have any issues in completing the online form, please contact Mrs Powling who will assist you.

We require students to select 'reserve options' in case a course is over-subscribed. In such an event, we will notify your child before allocating them to a reserve subject. Priority will be given to students who are consistently motivated in their KS3 subjects and have a suitable academic and behaviour record.

Where there are any concerns about subject suitability, Mrs Powling will make contact with the student and parent / carer to discuss the issue.

## KS4 Guided Pathways

### Pathway 1 (approx. 60 students):

- English Language and Literature
- Maths and Statistics
- Triple Science (invite only) + French
- Geography or History
- x1 Option (B only)

### Pathway 2 (approx. 160 students) :

- English Language and Literature
- Maths and Statistics
- Combined Science (equivalent to x2 GCSEs)
- Geography or History
- x2 Options (A & B)

### Pathway 3 (approx. 35 students):

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science (equivalent to x2 GCSEs)
- Geography or History
- x2 Options (A & B)
- An additional SKL lesson to support with the development of study skills – this is instead of studying Statistics

## KS4 Guided Pathways –

*Raising aspirations, encouraging our students to be the best they can be and supporting them to achieve academic excellence.*



**Pathway 1** (approx. 60 students):

- English Language and Literature
- Maths and Statistics
- Triple Science (invite only)
- French
- Geography or History
- x1 Option (B only)

**Pathway 2** (approx. 160 students):

- English Language and Literature
- Maths and Statistics
- Combined Science (x2)
- Geography or History
- x2 Options (A & B)

**Pathway 3** (approx. 35 students):

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science (x2)
- Geography or History
- x2 Options (A & B)
- Additional Study Skills Support

**Each bespoke KS4 Pathway is designed to optimise success for ALL students**

**Most students study x9 GCSEs and Triple Scientists study x10**

Achieve academic excellence
Be the best you can be
Contribute positively to your community

## Option Blocks 2026-2028

- *Triple Science is in Option Block A with French.*
- *French in Option Block B is for Combined Scientists wishing to study a language.*
- *Geography in Option Block B would require History to be chosen in the Hums Block.*
- *Psychology requires strong progress in Maths, Science and English.*



Option Block A

- **Pathway 1** - Triple Science and French
- Art
- Business Studies
- Citizenship
- Drama
- DT Food
- Health and Social Care
- Music
- Sports Studies



Option Block B

- Art
- Business Studies
- Citizenship
- Computer Science
- DT Food
- DT Product Design
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- Music
- PE (GCSE)
- Psychology
- Sports Studies

Achieve academic excellence
Be the best you can be
Contribute positively to your community

# English Language

## What is English Language?

All students in Year 11 will study English Language. English Language teaches important skills and key knowledge to enable students to communicate effectively, think critically and to leave the academy confident to take their place in the world, whether to further or higher education courses or apprenticeships. There is a widespread demand for strong communication skills in every industry.

## How is the course structured?

English Language is a two year course with two written examinations in the summer term of Year 11. Students also will complete an oral examination for a Spoken Language Endorsement.

## What will I learn?

The AQA English Language specification will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write and communicate clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

## Knowledge Areas

For GCSE English Language students will:

- read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism
- read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- summarise and synthesise information and ideas from texts
- use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform their own writing
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.



# English Literature

## What is English Literature?

All students in Year 11 will study English Literature. English Literature teaches important skills and key knowledge to enable students to empathise, challenge and experience the beauty of language. Extended essay writing skills provide an excellent foundation for further study of English Literature, law, media, advertising and publishing, academia, and is excellent preparation for research assistant roles in a wide variety of disciplines.

## How is the course structured?

English Literature is a 2 year course with 2 written examinations in the summer term of Year 11.

## What will I learn?

The AQA English Literature specification takes a skills-based approach to the study of English literature that is consistent across the genres. It offers excellent preparation for AS and A-level English Literature, as well as giving students a grounding in a wide variety of literature that will stay with them for life.

### Knowledge Areas

#### **Reading comprehension and reading critically:**

- Literal and inferential comprehension: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; explaining motivation, sequence of events, and the relationship between actions or events.
- Critical reading: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text.
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation.
- Comparing texts: comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context (where known), style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above.

#### **Writing**

- Producing clear and coherent text: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references.
- Accurate Standard English: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.



# Mathematics

## What is Mathematics GCSE?

Mathematics is a mandatory course at GCSE, which all students are entered. Students in Sets 1 and 2 will sit the Higher tier and students in Sets 3-5 will sit the Foundation Tier exams. The content taught at Key Stage 3 builds the foundations for topics in Key Stage 4.

## How is the course structured?

You will have covered a range of topics in Key Stage 3 from the five strands: Number, Algebra, Geometry & Measures, Statistics and Ratio & Proportion. These are repeated in Key Stage 4 with an emphasis on where topics require cross-strand skills, knowledge and application.

## What will I learn?

By taking Mathematics, students will learn to:

- ⇒ become confident mathematicians, prepared for life beyond school
- ⇒ develop their problem-solving skills
- ⇒ improve mental arithmetic
- ⇒ enjoy and embrace challenge

## Knowledge Areas

Number  
Algebra  
Geometry & Measures  
Statistics  
Ratio & Proportion

## What homework will I get?

Homework is set weekly on Sparxmaths which can be accessed on computers, phones or tablets. You will be expected to spend approximately an hour on homework a week.

## What syllabus will I follow?

You will follow the Edexcel GCSE Maths course. More information can be found here: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assesment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf>

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

Go to <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/papers.html> to have a sneak peak at past exam papers to get an understanding of what is expected of you by the end of Year 11.

It is also imperative you have a suitable calculator. We recommend the Casio Fx83gt.

## What could help me to do well?

Start to organise your notes in lessons to ensure you can use your class book to assist with independent study. You could also look carefully at the topic lists provided prior to each half termly-assessment and ensure you revise thoroughly.

We recommend purchasing the CGP GCSE Mathematics workbook and exam questions.

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit three exams in the Summer of 2028, consisting of one non-calculator and two calculator papers.

Each exam consists of between 20 –30 questions, totalling 80 marks. You are given 1 hour 30 minutes to complete each paper.

The sum of your scores generates one final GCSE grade.

For those students entered for Higher tier, you can achieve between a Grade 3-9, whereas the maximum grade on Foundation tier is a Grade 5.

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Miss Barry if you any questions about the course.

# GCSE Statistics

## What is GCSE Statistics?

GCSE Statistics enables you to understand how data is used to predict trends in the real world, critically evaluate data, understand how technology is used in the analysis of data and apply appropriate mathematical and statistical formulae, building on your prior knowledge from Key Stage 3.

This will help to support your progress in GCSE maths, as well as other subjects such as science, psychology, computing, geography and business studies.

## How is the course structured?

GCSE Statistics will be taught throughout the maths curriculum, so you will be able to complete the course alongside your maths GCSE. Students in maths sets 1 and 2 will sit the higher tier, sets 3-5 will sit the foundation tier. For those students entered for Higher tier, you can achieve between a Grade 3-9, whereas the maximum grade on Foundation tier is a Grade 5.

## What will I learn?

You will learn about the statistical enquiry cycle, which helps you to understand the importance of planning, constraints involved in sourcing appropriate data, ways that data can be processed and presented, how to interpret results and encourages clear and concise communication.

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exams in the Summer of 2028, both are calculator papers.

The papers contain short, medium and extended response questions. Questions cover statistical methods, familiar and unfamiliar contexts and the component parts of the statistical enquiry cycle. The mathematical demand increases as you progress through the paper. Each paper is 80 marks. You are given 1 hour 30 minutes to complete each paper. The sum of your scores generates one final GCSE grade.

## What syllabus will I follow?

This course is run by Edexcel. More information can be found here: [Edexcel GCSE Statistics \(2017\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

## Knowledge Areas

The collection of data

Processing, representing and analysing data

Probability

## Who is the course aimed at?

All students who are following pathway 1 and 2 for their options.

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Miss Barry if you have any further questions.

# Combined Science: Trilogy

## What is Trilogy Science?

All students must take some form of science and most will take Trilogy which is a double-award GCSE (previously termed as 'Double-Science'). Your child will be allocated to study Trilogy Science as part of their core curriculum and will have lessons covering all three sciences.

## How is the course structured?

Trilogy Science is a 2 year course which meets the requirements of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The GCSE examination syllabus taken is the AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy .

## What will I learn?

By taking Combined Science students are encouraged to:

- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, all three science subjects
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how the individual science subjects work and their essential role in society
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## Knowledge Areas

### **Physics:**

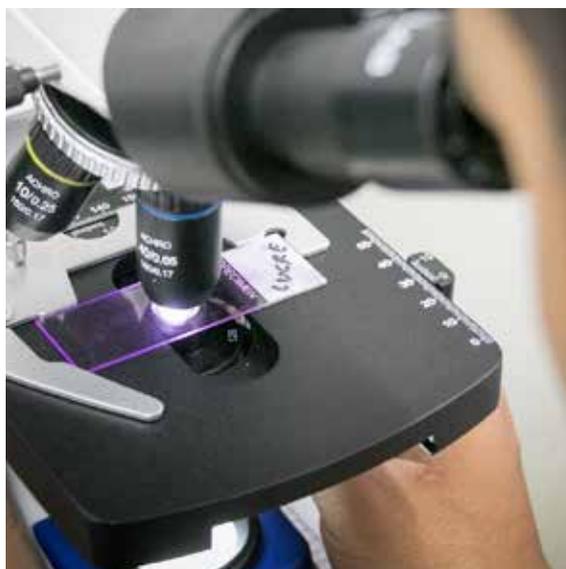
1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism

### **Biology:**

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

### **Chemistry:**

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



## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the Combined science: Trilogy course from AQA.



## How will I be assessed?

Science is assessed through six 70 mark exam papers with 2 papers for each of the three science strands. The examinations can be taken at one of two tiers of entry: **Foundation** and **Higher**. The exams are all 1 hour 15 minutes in length and are taken at the end of Year 11. The Foundation tiers will cover grades 1–5 and the Higher will cover grades 4-9. Questions assessing students' investigative skills will make up 15% of the examinations and these refer to specific practical activities that must be carried out– Required Practicals.

## Who is the course suited to?

All students will study Science. The Trilogy Science course results in two GCSEs covering 3 subject areas. It is suitable for students who want to pursue careers related to Science. All students will use Maths skills, English skills and will complete practical work and learn scientific skills. Being able to learn and remember facts is essential as well as the ability to apply knowledge to new contexts/scenarios.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to classwork and includes: planning and writing up experiments, reading, note-taking and answering questions to aid understanding, extending your understanding of a topic through research and revision for the end of unit tests and end of year examinations.

## What could help me to do well?

Online textbook access, worksheets, checklists and revision resources will be available through Kerboodle. Revision guides, specifically for the AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy are useful as are the workbooks associated.

Using SAM Learning and independently accessing Seneca can help support revision.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non-fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying:

### **Online and updated regularly:**

Focus magazine ([sciencefocus.com](http://sciencefocus.com));  
Catalyst magazine ([www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/catalyst](http://www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/catalyst));  
Newscientist.com

### **Fiction:**

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card  
The Hitchhikers guide to the galaxy by Douglas Adams

### **Non-fiction:**

Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words by Randall Munroe  
The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe by Theodore Gray  
The Diversity of Life by E. O. Wilson  
The New Way Things Work by D. Macauley  
Bad Science by Ben Goldacre

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Mrs Briggs-Hunter or Mrs Baldry if you any questions about this course

# Triple Science

## What is Triple Science?

Triple Science is three separate sciences: Biology Chemistry and Physics. You will be awarded a GCSE for each subject independently (three in total). All students must take some form of science and most will take Trilogy which is a double-award GCSE. Your child may be invited to study Triple Science as part of their core curriculum and as one option choice. Students who have not been invited can express an interest to be considered as part of the options process.

## How is the course structured?

Triple Science is a 2 year course which meets the requirements of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The GCSE examination syllabuses taken are the Biology, Chemistry and Physics AQA separate science courses.

## What will I learn?

By taking Triple Science students are encouraged to:

- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, all three science subjects
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how the individual science subjects work and their essential role in society
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## Knowledge Areas

### **Physics:**

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



### **Chemistry:**

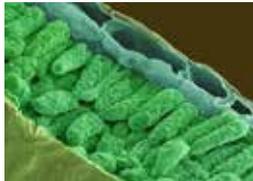
1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

### **Biology:**

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

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the Biology, Chemistry and Physics separate science courses from AQA.



## How will I be assessed?

The three Sciences are assessed through two 100 mark exam papers each worth 50% per GCSE. The examinations can be taken at one of two tiers of entry: **Foundation and Higher**. The exams are all 1 hour 45 minutes in length and are taken at the end of Year 11. The Foundation tiers will cover grades 1–5 and the Higher, grades 4-9. Questions assessing students' investigative skills will make up 15% of the examinations and these refer to specific practical activities that must be carried out– Required Practicals.

## Who is the course suited to?

The triple science course results in three GCSEs. This makes the course very intense but nevertheless rewarding. It is therefore recommended for students who want to pursue a career in Science. Being able to learn and remember facts is essential as well as the ability to apply knowledge to new contexts/scenarios.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to classwork and includes: planning and writing up experiments, reading, note-taking and answering questions to aid understanding, extending your understanding of a topic through research and revision for the end of unit tests and end of year examinations.

## What could help me to do well?

The online textbook access, worksheets, checklists and revision resources will be available through Kerboodle. Revision guides, specifically for the AQA GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics are useful as are the workbooks associated.

Using SAM Learning and independently accessing Seneca can help support revision.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying:

### **Online and updated regularly:**

Focus magazine ([sciencefocus.com](http://sciencefocus.com)); Catalyst magazine ([www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/catalyst](http://www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/catalyst)); News scientist.com

### **Fiction:**

The Martian, Andy Weir

The Fountains of Paradise, Arthur C. Clark

The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke

The Forever War, Joe Haldeman

Foundation, Isaac Asimov

### **Non-fiction:**

A Short History of Nearly Everything BILL BRYSON

The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins

Women in Science by Rachel Ignotofsky

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Briggs-Hunter or Mrs Baldry if you any questions about the courses.

# Geography

## Why choose Geography?

This exciting course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. It allows you to investigate the link between the two themes, and approach and examine the tension between the man-made and natural worlds.

You will travel the world from your classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, Higher Income Countries, Newly Emerging Economies and Lower Income Countries. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. You are also encouraged to understand your role in our global society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

## Which syllabus will I follow?

AQA Geography

### Exam structure

The GCSE is divided into four units:

- Living with the physical environment [paper 1: 35%]
- Challenges in the human environment [paper 2: 35%]
  - Geographical applications [paper 3: 30%]
  - Geographical skills [papers 1, 2 & 3]

**Who is the course suited to?** Students with a natural curiosity about the world! Geography at GCSE includes mathematical and graph skills and requires that students complete longer pieces of writing of around three to four paragraphs.

## What will I learn?

### Living With the Physical Environment:

Discover more about the challenge of natural hazards and the living world, physical landscapes of the United Kingdom and human interaction with them. This unit develops an understanding of the different natural processes and features in different environments; for example, plate tectonics leading to earthquakes and how erosion in coastal areas has shaped our landscape. It provides you with knowledge about the need for management strategies with a focus on sustainability and consideration of the direct and indirect effects of human interaction with the Earth and the atmosphere.

As part of this unit you will undertake fieldwork to the coast and collect your own data to understand transport and erosion processes and coastal management techniques. You will analyse and present this data in a variety of ways and work with your classmates as you do so. The skills gained from these activities will be directly applicable to your written subjects, sciences and maths and will provide transferable skills for your future work or study.

This unit also brings your learning about the Earth's physical environment up to date with study of the causes and impacts of climate change and human mitigation and adaptation strategies.

## What will I learn?

### Challenges in the Human Environment:

This unit is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change both in different places and over time. You will develop an understanding of the factors that produce a diverse variety of human environments; the dynamic nature of these environments at different scales and timescales; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity for these environments.

Areas of study include the changing economic world and urban environments. These will be explored through exciting case studies of Jamaica, Nigeria, and the UK.

This unit will also include fieldwork in Bury St. Edmunds town centre, allowing you to see your local environment in a new light whilst working in teams to examine urban processes in Bury.

## Where can Geography take me?

Choose GCSE Geography and you will learn how today's world was shaped and understand the challenges we face in the future. You will also examine the Earth's natural resources and how the growth of the human world creates challenges and conflict. This knowledge, paired with your essential curiosity, will give you sought after transferable skills for success in further education and the workplace.

### Career Paths Include:

- Travel writer • Expedition leader • Cultural arts officer • Aid worker • Diplomat • Lawyer • Retail management • Coastal engineer • Teacher • Military GIS specialist • Aerial surveyor • Pollution analyst • Conservation officer

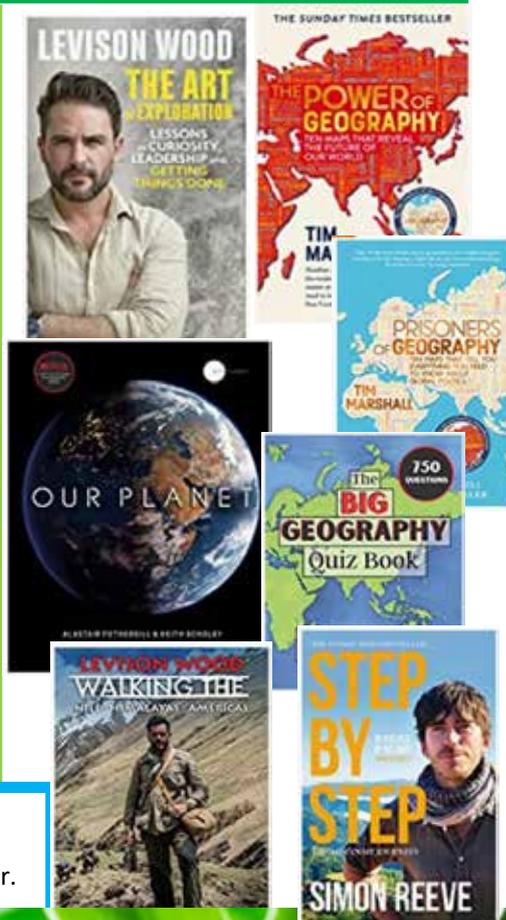
**How much homework will I get?** Homework is set two-weekly in year 10 and weekly in year 11.

## What could I do now if I am interested?

- Have a look at the curriculum overviews or knowledge organisers on the MCA website.
- Read some geographical fiction, nonfiction, or travelogues to develop your general geographical understanding.
- Visit the geography stand at the KS4 Choices Evening.
- Visit the Natural History Museum or National Maritime Museum in London.
- Visit the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition in London.
- Look at the Royal Geographical Society website for information and topic ideas: <https://www.rgs.org/>
- Look at the Cool Geography website for information and ideas: <https://www.coolgeography.co.uk/>
- Look around! Geography is everywhere and can be in your back garden as much as it is in distant continents.

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Billson ([bryony.billson@attrust.org.uk](mailto:bryony.billson@attrust.org.uk)) or your Geography teacher.



one THE GREEN PLANET

# History

## Why choose History?

We believe in the importance of learning from history. This course enables you to study different aspects of the past, so that you can engage with key issues such as conflict and civil rights, understanding what drives change and how the past influences the present.

Studying GCSE History will help you to answer important questions such as: Why do wars happen? Why do we have a National Health Service? How have we come to live in a multi-cultural society? Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it is at now and how it will continue to develop in the future.

## Which syllabus will I follow?

AQA History

## Exam structure

The topics you will study are split into two sections: Understanding the Modern World [paper 1: 50%] and Shaping the Nation [paper 2: 50%]. These are examined in two two-hour exams.

## Understanding the Modern World

- Conflict and Tension: First World War (1894-1918)
- America between 1920 – 1973: Opportunity and Inequality

## Shaping the Nation

- Health and the People: (1000-modern day)
- Norman England (1066-1100) with a Historical Environment Study

## What will I learn?

In Understanding the Modern World you will study:

### America between 1920 – 1973: Opportunity and Inequality

This period study focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent century of change. It was a period of opportunity and inequality – when some Americans lived the ‘American Dream’ whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice. You will study the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of these two developments and the role ideas played in bringing about change. You will also look at the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and the impact the developments had on them.

**Conflict & Tension 1894 – 1918:** This wider world depth study enables you to understand the complex and diverse interests of the Great Powers and other states. It focuses on the causes, nature and conclusion of the First World War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred, and why it proved difficult to bring the war to a conclusion. This study also considers the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and how they were affected by and influenced international relations.

A voluntary residential battlefields trip to Belgium and France will be planned to enhance the study of this unit.

## Who should study history?

Students who like debate and like forming and explaining their opinions based on evidence.



## What will I learn?

In Shaping the Nation you will study:

### Britain: Health and the People:

This thematic study will enable you to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. It considers causes, scale, nature and consequences of short and long-term developments, their impact on British society and how they were related to the key features and characteristics of the periods during which they took place. You will have the opportunity to see how ideas and events in the wider world affected Britain and this will promote the idea that key themes did not develop in isolation.

### Norman England c1066 – 1100: (incorporating the study of a specific historic environment).

This option allows you to study in depth the arrival of the Normans, the Norman Conquest and the establishment of their rule. The depth study will focus on major aspects of Norman rule and the economic, religious, political, social and cultural changes that occurred in England after 1066.

## Where can History take me?

Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you will learn a range of important skills that will help you with A-levels and future work. These include: excellent communication and writing skills; how to construct an argument; research, investigation and problem-solving skills; analytical and interpretation skills.

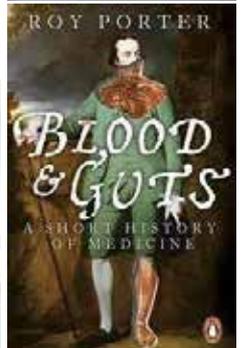
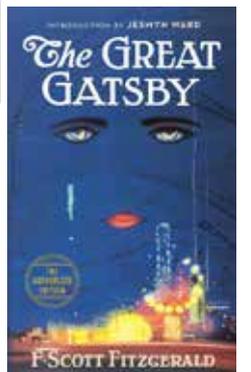
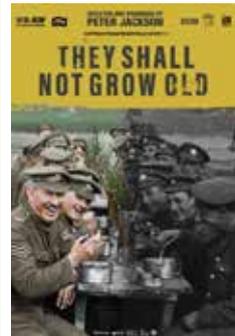
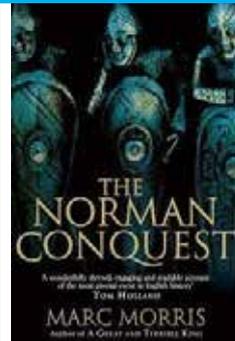
Studying history can lead on to some exciting career options, including: Journalism, Law, Business, Politics, Archaeology, Marketing, Teaching to name a few!

*This subject leads to A-level History and A-Level Politics at MCA6 (and supports the study of the Social Sciences)*

**How much homework will I get?** Homework is set two-weekly in year 10 and weekly in year 11.

### What could I do now if I am interested?

- Read a variety of historical fiction to develop your general historical knowledge, and sense of period. Examples include *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, or *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo.
- Read some academic history: *The War that Ended Peace* by Margaret Macmillan, *The Norman Conquest* by Marc Morris, or *Blood and Guts* by Roy Porter.
- Listen to podcasts—*You're Dead to Me*, *In Our Time* and *Hidden Histories* are recommended.
- Watch historical films such as *1917*, *They Shall Not Grow Old*, *The Help*, *On the Basis of Sex* or *Green Book*.
- Visit the Imperial War Museum in London, or one of many Norman castles or cathedrals.
- Have a look at the curriculum overviews or knowledge organisers on the MCA website.



### Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Betts or Miss Harris (Assistant Faculty Leaders) or your history teacher.



# French



## Why learn a language?

French is one of the top international languages you can learn and it gives you access to many countries around the world. Did you know that being bi-lingual improves all of your skills as your brain is effectively thinking in 2 Languages! Having a language qualification is really valued by employers, colleges and universities and can often lead to more opportunities to travel in your job –because you can communicate in another language! and it can even increase your earnings.



**What syllabus will I follow?:** Students will follow the French course from AQA.

## How is the course structured?

Foundation Tier (grade 1-5) and Higher Tier (grade 5-9)

Paper 1: Listening (25%)

Paper 2: Speaking (25%)

Paper 3: Reading (25%)

Paper 4: Writing (25%)

## What is assessed?

Paper 1: Listening: Understanding and responding to what you hear through a range of questions/ topics. A short dictation.

Paper 2: Speaking: A Role Play/ a reading aloud task/ Photocard– including a more general conversation.

Paper 3: Reading: Understanding and responding to what you read through a range of questions/ texts/topics.

Paper 4: Writing: **F** - 5 short sentences to describe a photo/ 50 word written task/ 5 sentences to translate/ 90 word written task.

**H**– Translation of 5 sentences/ 90 and 150 word written tasks.



## Who is the course suited to?

**Anyone who has been studying French since Y7.** The course is for anyone who is:

- Enthusiastic about learning a Language!
- Interested in the world they live in.
- Inquisitive about learning about other languages and cultures.
- Resilient: It can be hard work sometimes!

## What homework will I get?

- Key vocabulary and grammar to learn.
- Translations
- Exam style questions to enable you to regularly practise your skills.
- Learning answers to be assessed in speaking– as this is a really important part of being a linguist.

## What could help me to do well?

- Being organised.
- Listening and responding to Feedback.
- Completing homework.
- Doing something “extra” - like using the Duolingo App or putting your favourite series on Netflix into French (with or without subtitles!)



# Art and Design

## What is Art and Design GCSE?

The creative industries are one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the UK! The skills a student will learn in Art GCSE will be immensely valuable in the workplace. Creative thinking, problem solving and collaboration are just a few of these skills. Art and Design equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a GCSE subject. GCSE Art and Design provides the opportunity for students to explore contemporary and historical sources of art first hand through, and be able to for take an individual approach to their art.

## Which syllabus will I follow?

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Art and Design



## How is the course structured?

The first year of the course aims to broaden your historical and contextual knowledge of art and develop your skills and techniques as an artist through coursework projects.

## Breakdown:

**60%** - Personal Portfolio (Yr. 10– December Yr. 11)

**40%** - Externally Set Assignment (January Yr. 11)

**10 Hours**- Sustained focus period (Final Piece)



## What will I learn?

- You will learn a range of enjoyable, creative and exciting approaches to making art such as painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture.
- You will develop observational skills through sustained studies as well as shorter exercises.
- You will learn to analyse artworks and to present high quality research on a range of artists and designers.
- You should be prepared to make trips to support your studies with first-hand experiences.

## How will I be assessed?

Throughout the GCSE, alongside regular verbal feedback in lessons; students will be formally assessed using the following criteria at points during their projects:

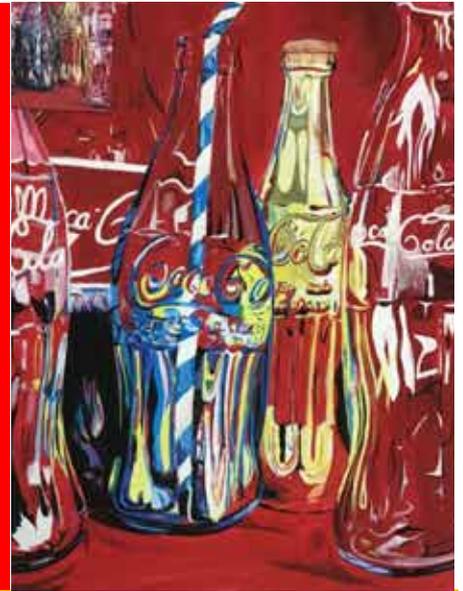
- **Developing ideas through investigations, and demonstrating an understanding of sources (AO1)**
- **Refining their work by exploring ideas, experimenting with materials, techniques and processes (AO2)**
- **Recording their ideas, observations and insights that are relevant to their work as it progresses (AO3)**
- **Presenting a personal and meaningful response / outcome (AO4).**



## Who is the course suited to?

Anyone who is:

- Keen to develop their visual skills
- Creative, enthusiastic and imaginative
- Willing to experiment with new materials
- Up for the challenge of taking risks in their work
- Motivated and able to work independently
- Able to review their progress and make improvements
- Using their thinking skills to come up with imaginative solutions



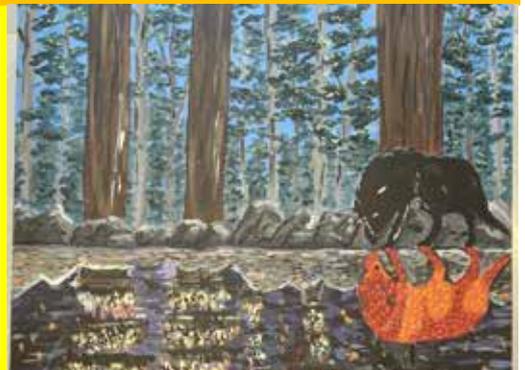
## What can help me do well?

- Being organised.
- Storing your work carefully, and bringing it to all lessons.
- Planning ahead in your project.
- Having your own basic art equipment for working at home.
- Choosing Sub theme topics that you are interested in.
- Taking on feedback
- Taking lots of photographs– You never know when you might need them!

## What Homework will I get?

Homework forms a significant part of your art course, and you will be set homework following on from your weekly lessons.

Tasks you are set all form part of you coursework, so every piece of work you complete is building to wards your final grade. It is important you make sure you are keeping up to date with coursework to avoid any stress!



## What could I do now if I am interested?

- Practice drawing skills.
- Build a bank of your own photographs.
- Create your own pieces of work.
- Research artists online.
- Visit Art exhibitions.
- Use Google Arts & Culture App to view artwork and galleries.
- Watch Netflix The Art of Design series
- Watch Portrait Artist of the Year & Landscape Artist of the Year.

## Who Should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Miss Moles-Smith (Subject Leader) if you have any questions about the course.

# Business Studies

## What is Business Studies?

Business studies is about learning how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Within Business Studies you will learn about different types of businesses from a start up to established, marketing, human resources, production methods and finance exploring the techniques used to analyse an organisation's performance and external influences such as the economic climate.

## How is the course structured?

Business Studies is a two year course. The course follows the OCR 9-1 specification and covers Business activity, Marketing, People, Operations, Finance and influences on business.

## What will I learn?

Students studying Business Studies will gain skills in:

- Decision-making
- Problem-solving
- Develop and apply quantitative skills
- Presentation Skills



## Knowledge Areas

### ***Business Activity***

- The role of business enterprise & entrepreneurship
- Business planning
- Business ownership
- Business aims and objectives
- Stakeholders in business
- Business growth

### ***Marketing***

- The role of marketing
- Market research
- Market segmentation
- The marketing mix

### ***People***

- The role of human resources
- Organisational structures and different ways of working
- Communication in business
- Recruitment and selection
- Motivation and retention
- Training and development
- Employment law

### ***Operations***

- Production Processes
- Quality of goods and services
- The sales process and customer service
- Consumer law
- Business location
- Working with suppliers

### ***Finance***

- The role of the finance function
- Sources of finance
- Revenue, costs, profits and loss
- Break-even
- Cash and cash-flow

### ***Influences on business***

- Ethical and environmental considerations
- The economic climate / Globalisation
- Interdependence of functions

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the OCR Business 9-1 (J204) course.



## How will I be assessed?

The course is 100% examination. It is assessed by two written exam papers which are both worth 50% of the marks.

Paper 1: Business activity, marketing and people

Paper 2: Operations, finance, influences & interdependent nature of business functions

## Who is the course suited to?

Those considering running their own business or interested in finding out about life after school in the workplace.

## What homework will I get?

You get one homework a week which develops and builds on your classwork knowledge.

There is an expectation to consolidate/revise the work from the lesson to help with memory and recall.

## What could help me to do well?

Consolidating your learning to develop your memory and recall of the subject.

Testing yourself on the lesson knowledge.

Asking questions, being curious.

Reading around the subject and listening or reading the news will help to develop your understanding of real world businesses.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

- Read the business news section
- Read entrepreneurs autobiographies e.g. Alan Sugar, Duncan Bannatyne, Richard Branson
- Visit a business like Cadbury or Lotus
- Take the time to talk to people about their job roles
- Find a business on [www.crowdcube.com](http://www.crowdcube.com) that looks interesting or research a business that you want to learn more about
- Watch Business programs to find out more for example Dragon's Den, The Apprentice, Inside the Factory or Shark Tank
- Follow business people or business news sites on x (previously Twitter) for example [@richardbranson](https://twitter.com/richardbranson) or [@businessinsider](https://twitter.com/businessinsider)

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Willingham if you have any questions about the course.

# GCSE AQA Citizenship

## What is Citizenship?

In GCSE citizenship you will learn about how the UK is set up as a democracy. You will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics related to law, democracy, voting systems and how to be an active citizen.

The exam board is AQA.

## How is the course structured?

GCSE Citizenship has five units in total. Unit 1 is Citizenship Skills and Processes; Unit 2 is Life in Modern Britain; Unit 3 is Rights and Responsibilities; Unit 4 is Politics and Participation; and Unit 5 is Active Citizenship. You will sit two examination papers in year 11.

## What will I learn?

GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable you to become thoughtful, active citizens.

You will gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and you will develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society.

You will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.



You can find out more about the Citizenship Studies qualifications at [aqa.org.uk/citizenship](http://aqa.org.uk/citizenship)

## What could help me to do well?

Being up to date with current affairs and watching and reading news articles will support you on this course. You will have a keen interest in politics, law and historical and current affairs.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be awarded a GCSE in Citizenship upon successful completion of two papers at the end of year 11. Grades will be awarded between 1— 9.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is set frequently. You will be expected to know a range of new terminology. Often the research will involve looking at case studies for a particular topic issue so that your knowledge can be increased with real world examples.



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mr Goodenough, Mr Kennedy or Mrs Powling if you any questions about the course.

# Computer Science

## What is Computer Science?

Ever wondered how robots work, or how special effects are created in movies? Computer science is all about using your creativity and problem-solving skills to make amazing things happen with computers! In this subject, you'll learn how computers store information, follow instructions (like recipes) and solve problems. You'll also discover how to use them responsibly and ethically to make the world a better place.

## How is the course structured?

The two year OCR GCSE computer science course is designed to help you build a strong foundation in programming. You will also learn how computers work, the components that are required and how computers can communicate with each other.

## What will I learn?

Students studying Computer Science will gain skills in:

- Problem solving
- Team work
- Planning and testing instructions
- Organising and explaining code
- Perseverance and resilience
- Determination

All of the above skills are transferrable to other areas of school, work and life in general. Computer Science helps to build a more rounded individual.



## Knowledge Areas

### **Computer systems:**

- **Systems architecture**
  - *Understanding of the central processing unit*
- **Memory and storage**
  - *Understanding memory and storage devices*
  - *Understanding how different types of data are stored*
- **Computer networks, connections and protocols**
  - *Understand the components of networks*
  - *Understand the rules devices use when communicating to other devices*
- **Network security**
  - *Understand the threats to networks*
  - *Understand common threat identification and prevention measures*
- **Systems software**
  - *Understand the software which is used to run and manage computer systems*
- **Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental impacts of digital technology**
  - *Understand a range of issues linked to the use and development of technology*

### **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:**

- **Algorithms**
  - *Understand common algorithms and how they work*
  - *Be able to create, interpret and complete algorithms*
- **Programming techniques**
  - *Understand the different techniques used to create solutions to problems*
- **Defensive design**
  - *Understand how to make code easier to maintain*
  - *Understand how to thoroughly test programs*
- **Boolean logic**
  - *Understand the rules followed to process binary data*
- **Programming languages and Integrated development environments**
  - *Understand the types of programming languages*
  - *Understand the tools available to make writing and debugging code easier*

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the OCR GCSE Computer Science course (J277).



## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed using two 80 mark exam papers, each worth 50%. The examinations are taken at the end of year 11 and cover all grades (1-9).

Each exam will last for 1 hour 30 minutes with paper 1 covering the Computer Systems topics and paper 2 covering the Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming topics.

## Who is the course suited to?

Computer Science is suited to students who are interested in finding out more about how the technology they use works. It could lead to jobs in programming, hardware design, games design and many other areas. Any students thinking of continuing a career in computing, maths or science will need to understand programming. This GCSE will support you with this. Resilience is a key trait as you will regularly learn from your mistakes (as well as the mistakes of others – including your teacher).

## What homework will I get?

Homework is an essential part of the course. It is set to be linked to the lessons or to help with revision. It will take the form of preparation work for future lessons (taking notes on new topics) or recap and revision tasks to help embed prior learning. It will be set weekly and taking time to complete it properly will help with students understanding of the topics.

## Career prospects

There are many opportunities in careers including software developer, games developer, programmer, cyber security, robotics, analyst, computer engineer, network engineer, database designer. These types of careers tend to be challenging, exciting and often well-paid.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

Keeping up with the latest developments in technology and how it affects people and the environment will be beneficial. BBC New Technology is a good place to start: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology>

Installing a Python editor such as IDLE (<https://www.python.org>) or Thonny (<https://thonny.org>) will allow you to start to do some programming at home. **Please ask us how we can support you if you do not currently have any technology at home suitable for programming.**

You can practice programming using the following links:

- <https://www.w3schools.com/python/>
- <https://www.codecademy.com/learn/learn-python-3> (Only set up a free account)

Try to solve OCRs 40 coding challenges: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/260930-coding-challenges-booklet.pdf>

The best thing you can do to prepare is practice programming. You will have started programming in Python already in KS3. If you need support doing this in your own time, please ask us to help you.

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mr Roffe or Mr West if you any questions about the course.

# Drama

## What is Drama?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. It is suitable for those who already have done some acting before as well as those who have always wanted to. You must be able to work well as part of a team as Drama involves a great deal of group work. Lunchtime and after school rehearsals are an essential part of the course. Drama is a GCSE that will help you in whatever you would like to do in the future. Drama offers transferable skills that universities and employers look for.

## How is the course structured?

GCSE Drama is a 2 year course—across the two years you will develop your skills in multiple areas of performing, creating and responding to theatre.

## What will I learn?

By taking Drama students are encouraged to develop the following skills...

Acting/Performance

Confidence

Teamwork/Communication

Evaluation/Analytical Skills

Leadership Skills

Creativity and thinking outside the box

Problem solving



## Knowledge Areas

### Component 1: Devising Drama

You will create a performance based on stimuli options provided by the exam board.

This unit involves working practically on devising and rehearsing your performance.

You will also work on creating a portfolio exploring the research you have done as well as an evaluation of your finished performance.

You can use video recordings, observations and images in your portfolio—it does not need to be purely written.

### Component 2: Presenting and Performing Texts

You will study a chosen play text. You will then take part in two performances of different extracts from the text.

You must perform one extract as a member of a group; the other may be a monologue (individual).

You will create an Artistic Intention that shows your understanding and interpretation of the text to go alongside your performances.

### Component 3: Performance and Response

You will sit a written exam at the end of the course (1hr 30mins). This exam is split into 2 sections.

Section A: You will study a whole play text. The questions will focus on the process of creating and developing a performance of this text.

Section B: You will be asked to review a live performance that you have seen during your course. It is expected that you will analyse and evaluate the performance.

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students currently follow the OCR GCSE Drama Specification



## How will I be assessed?

Devising Drama is assessed by your teacher in school.

Presenting and Performing Texts is assessed by a visiting examiner from the exam board.

Performance and Response is a written exam assessment.

Devising Drama - 30% of GCSE

Presenting and Performing - 30% of GCSE

Performance and Response - 40 % of GCSE

## Who is the course suited to?

You should take GCSE Drama if you already have an interest in acting and theatre. You should also take Drama if you wish to develop your skills and interests in this area. **Some things to consider before taking this course-** Can you work well with others? Can you attend additional rehearsals and workshops? Will you be committed to the course?

## What homework will I get?

- Practical Rehearsals
- Lesson Log Reflections
- Watching/Evaluating/Analysing Performances
- Practice exam questions
- Learning lines

## What could help me to do well?

BBC GCSE Bitesize offers fantastic resources that have been created to match the specification that we follow.

There are also a range of revisions guides that have been created by OCR for the topics covered in the specification.

CGP also offer general revision guides suitable for all GCSE Drama courses.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of things that you can be doing to give you a head start if you are interested in taking GCSE Drama!

- Go and watch some live theatre!
- Make the most of streaming services and find a musical/play to watch from the comfort of your own home.
- Speak to Miss Finbow or Mrs Harper and they will recommend some specific plays that match your Interests.



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Harper or Miss Finbow if you any questions about the course.

# Design Technology

## What is GCSE Design Technology?

Design Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical STEM subject. Using creativity and problem solving students research, design and develop practical outcomes that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts which consider other needs and wants.

This GCSE course has changed significantly over recent years, and in the coursework element there is now a big emphasis on written and design work which includes researching and analysing the work of famous designers, research about the structure of materials to be used and detailed planning before practical work begins. There is a final written exam worth 50% of the qualification and 20% of the written examination is mathematics based.

Students will learn how to take risks, become resourceful, innovative and enterprising and will develop a critical understanding of the importance and impact of Design and Technology in today's world.

## How is the course structured?

### **Written Exam Paper**

#### **What's assessed**

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

#### **How it's assessed**

- 2 hour paper
- 100 marks
- 50% of final GCSE grade

### **Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)**

#### **What's assessed**

Iterative design challenge. Where you will be given a context and will design, develop and create an electronic portfolio and physical working prototype. This starts in June in Year 10 and finishes April Year 11 (Approx. 40 hours).

#### **How it's assessed**

- 100 marks
- 50% of final GCSE grade

## What will I learn?

- Core principles of materials: Timbers, Polymers, Metals, Textiles, Papers and boards, including new developments in materials
- Specialist knowledge: Timbers and Polymers
- Understanding and identify the needs of users and stakeholders
- Learning from existing products and practice
- Implications of wider issues
- Design thinking and communication
- Technical understanding
- Manufacturing processes and techniques
- Viability of design solutions.



## How will I learn?

- You will learn through a combination of theory and practical lessons.
- Year 10 will focus on skill building and developing on KS3 knowledge. You will then complete three NEA style projects in preparation for your non-examined assessment.
- Revision and exam practise will run throughout Year 10 and 11 to prepare you for your written examination.

## How will I be assessed?

Substantial design and make task

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating
- Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.



### **What syllabus do we follow?**

AQA GCSE Design and Technology

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

### **What homework will I get?**

In Year 10 it will be mainly tasks based on online platforms to enhance theory work and this will be set every week.

Year 11 will be weekly homework tasks aimed at supporting NEA (coursework) based learning and progression with revision for summer exam paper.

### **Is GCSE Design Technology for you?**

This course will suit independent self-disciplined, creative students who enjoy problem solving, and have an interest in the world of design. Students are encouraged to experiment with materials and techniques, take risks and be adventurous within the confines of the given context.

- Are you creative?
- Are you imaginative?
- Do you enjoy problem solving?
- Can you take a paper-based idea and develop it through to a finished 3 dimensional product?
- Are you motivated and can you commit long term to ongoing projects?

**If you can honestly answer yes to the above questions then GCSE Design Technology is definitely a GCSE option you should take!**

### **What could help me do well?**

Using a range of websites such as:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm>

<https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning/secondary-design-technology>

<http://www.dtonline.org/>

[Free KS4 Design and technology teaching resources | Y10 & 11 | Oak National Academy](#)

Develop your sketching and designing skills here:

[Sketching and animating - Designing - AQA - GCSE Design and Technology Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

### **Where will Design and Technology take you?**

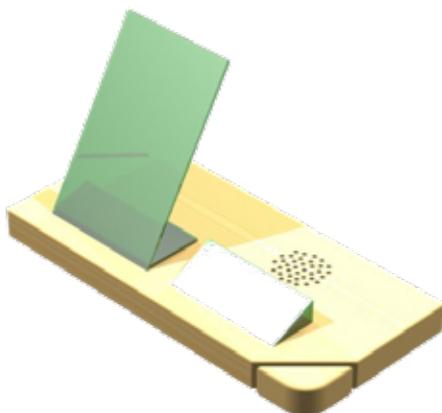
Design Technology leads to Product Design which is offered at A Level. This will be useful alongside additional STEM subjects such as Science and Maths as they are reinforced throughout the course.

### **Jobs:**

Design Technology is an excellent STEM subject to develop your problem solving and design thinking skills which prepare you for pathways such as Architecture, Product Design, Engineering, Video Game Design, Electrician, Joiner, Surveyor.

### **Who should I contact if I have questions?**

Ask Mr West if you any questions about the course.



# Food Preparation and Nutrition

## What is Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages students to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

## How is the course structured?

The GCSE course in Food Preparation and Nutrition is a two year course which spans years 10 and 11. All preparatory work is completed in year 10 and all assessed elements are completed in year 11 (both pieces of coursework and final written exam).

## What will I learn?

By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will:

- be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes

## Knowledge Areas which are covered through practical and theoretical lessons

Areas of Content

1. Food commodities
2. Principles of nutrition
3. Diet and good health
4. The science of food
5. Where food comes from
6. Cooking and food preparation



### What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the WJEC Eduqas GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition [GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition | Eduqas](#)

### Who is the course suited to?

This course is suitable for any student who wants to learn more about food preparation, cooking and the functions of ingredients which is looking at the science behind cooking processes. The course is appealing to all students who are interested in the sciences or sports as physical exercise and healthy diet are closely linked.

### How will I be assessed?

Component 1 Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition  
Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes, 50% of the qualification (100 marks)

Component 2 Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action non-examination assessment: 50% of the qualification (100 marks).

This is made up of Food Investigation Assessment (15%) and Food Preparation Assessment (35%)



### What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to the subject area covered at the time and aims to increase the understanding of the topic. Homework can be in the form of research, revision questions or short projects.

### What could help me to do well?

Revision books and study guides approved by WJEC can be offered to students to purchase at a reduced rate through the Academy. Videos to support practical learning are available on the WJEC website under the heading 'Resources'. WJEC has also released a question bank with correct answers, spanning all topics to help with revision.

### What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

You could:

- explore the WJEC website and have a look at the videos and materials posted in the resources section.
- look at the question bank posted by WJEC
- look at some past papers released by WJEC

### Where could studying Food Preparation & Nutrition take you?

This can lead to A Level Food Science and Nutrition or Hospitality and Catering courses at college or apprenticeships.

Careers in hospitality management, catering, nutritionist, chef, business management.

### Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Peacock or Mr West if you would like to know more about this exciting course.

# Health and Social Care

## What is Health and Social Care?

Health and Social Care is an examination and course-work structured course which focuses on a wide range of topics involved in caring for adults, older adults and children. All theory is linked to practical applications so that you have a very clear idea of how to use the skills and knowledge you learn. We use case studies about real situations to help students apply their skills and show understanding in a 'real world' environment.

## How is the course structured?

The Health & Social Care Course is a 2-year course. As it is a vocational (job-related) course, it is assessed by both examination and coursework. The exam element is worth 40% of the marks, whereas the coursework element is worth 60% of the marks. **It is important that students are prepared to be *proactive and self-reliant and willing to put the effort into their own coursework*; if not, the course is not for them.**

## What will I learn?

**Before reading any further, please note that students will learn about Health and Social Care related to working with ADULTS only; there is no element of child care on this course.**

### **R032: Principles of care in health and social care—Exam**

In this unit, students will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, person-centred values and how to apply them.

Students will also learn about the importance of effective communication skills when providing care and support for individuals in care settings. Procedures and measures used to protect service users and service providers such as safeguarding, hygiene and security will also be studied.

### **R033: Supporting individuals through life events—Coursework**

In this unit, students will learn about life stages and the factors that affect them. They will understand expected and unexpected life events and the impact they will have on physical, social/emotional and socio-economic aspects in an individual's life.

Students will research the service providers and practitioners that can support individuals, recommend support and justify how this will meet the needs of a specific individual.

### **R034: Creative and therapeutic activities—Coursework**

In this unit, students will learn about a range of creative activities and therapies that are available in health or social care and understand the physical, intellectual, emotional and social benefits of these.

Students will learn how to plan and deliver a creative activity with an individual or group and evaluate their planning and delivery.



## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the OCR Cambridge National in Health and Social care J835 level 2 (GCSE level) course, which will be graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction.



## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed using a combination of an externally marked examination and internally assessed coursework tasks.

The examination is taken at the end of year 11 and is worth 40% of the final grade.

The coursework tasks will be taken during year 10 and year 11 and combine for the remaining 60% of the final grade.

## Who is the course suited to?

This course results in an equivalent to a single GCSE. It is relevant to everyone, but particularly to those considering a future in working in the health sector (e.g. care, nursing, paramedic) or the social care sector (e.g. care, rehabilitation, early years, counselling, support worker, social work). Remember, this course is linked to the care and support of ADULTS only.

## What homework will I get?

All homework is meaningfully related to work undertaken in class, so is always relevant.

It can include learning key content for the exam element, as well as practising exam-style questions and producing revision materials. For the course work element, further research to support students' writing in class is essential. In addition, using friends and relatives for case studies will be necessary in order for students to succeed.

## What could help me to do well?

All lesson content and revision resources will be available through Teams so that resources can be accessed at home and at school.

Revision guides and materials will be available to access / purchase at a reduced rate.

Your teacher will support and encourage you to achieve your full potential.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

Students could start preparing in a number of ways:

Reading:

- I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- The Language of Kindness by Christine Watson

Watch TV programmes e.g. Call the Midwife; watch documentaries e.g. Extreme Love: Dementia by Louis Theroux, see blogs etc. This can be about any health care setting (hospitals, the emergency department, paramedics, midwives, GPs) or social care setting (psychiatrist, support worker with young adults with learning disabilities)

Talk to family members/friends who have jobs in health care (hospital, dentistry, chiropody, opticians, Chemists/pharmacies like Lloyds or Boots) find out about what they do, how they communicate etc.

Talk to family members/friends who work in social care (carer for adults in someone's own home or in a residential care home, social work, art therapy, counselling e.g. drug or alcohol abuse).

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Contact Miss Holland (HSC teacher of Year 10 and Year 11) if you have any questions about the course.

# Music

## What is Music?

In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum). GCSE Music fosters this creativity through the study of Performing, Composing and Listening.

## How is the course structured?

Music is a 2 year course which meets the requirements of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The GCSE examination syllabus is EDUQAS and is based around Performing, Composing and Listening

## What will I learn?

By taking Music students are encouraged to:

- Build resilience, creativity and reflection
- Develop confidence and presentation skills
- Develop analytical and problem solving skills

## Knowledge Areas

### **Component 1 : Performing (30%)**

You will rehearse and play music on your own and in a group. This could be in any style, on any instrument or voice.



### **Component**

### **2: Composing (30%)**

You will explore how great pieces of music are put together, then when you have learnt some of the techniques, compose your own music. This could involve using computer software, writing for a specific purpose, writing songs etc



### **Component 3: Appraising (40%)**

You will listen to a variety of music and learn to identify the facts about what you hear. We have four areas of study

**Area of Study 1: Forms and Devices**, Western Classical tradition (Set Work; 'Badinerie')

**Area of Study 2: Music for Ensemble**

(Musical Theatre, Blues, Jazz, Folk)

**Area of Study 3: Film Music**

**Area of Study 4: Rock and Pop Music** (Set Work: 'Africa' by Toto)



## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the EDUQAS GCSE Music syllabus.



## How will I be assessed?

Performing : Recorded performances, assessed by teacher and moderated by the exam board

Composing : Recorded and notated compositions, assessed by teacher and moderated by the exam board

Appraising: A 1 hr 15 min listening exam which is externally assessed

## Who is the course suited to?

Anyone who likes Music! If you already play an instrument or sing, you can develop your skills. If you don't already play an instrument or sing then you can take the opportunity to learn new skills. If you are a creative person who wants to learn to make music then this course will give you the chance. If you love listening to music and can spot all of the details then you will enjoy learning about many different styles and genres.

## What homework will I get?

Regular practice on your instrument or voice is an ongoing homework. You will also have online and listening homework or research homework.

## What could help me to do well?

You don't have to have instrumental or singing lessons however they would help you. We offer Piano, guitar, drums, Flute, Violin, Clarinet and Singing lessons in school  
Regular practice at home or at school will also help

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

You could start to rehearse songs / pieces now using You-tube videos

You could also widen your listening by accessing different music platforms

Attending live music events or watching online concerts

Attend extra-curricular groups



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Sayer or Mrs Wright if you any questions about the course.

# Physical Education—GCSE PE

## What is GCSE PE

GCSE PE is a practical and engaging qualification that takes into consideration your practical ability in a range of sports, both team and individual, as well as your theoretical understanding of the body and mind during sport and physical activity.

## What will I learn?

By taking GCSE PE students are encouraged to:

- develop a critical approach to the workings of the mind and body during sport and physical activity.
- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for Physical Education
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how the mind and body work together to create optimal performance
- acquire skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## Knowledge Areas

### **Health, training and exercise**

- Consequences of a sedentary lifestyle.
- Diet and nutrition
- Components of fitness

### **Movement analysis**

- Lever systems
- Planes and axes of movement
- Technology in sport

### **The active participant**

- Practical performance in one individual sport
- Practical performance in one team sport
- An additional team/individual sport.
- Performance analysis and evaluation.

### **Exercise physiology**

- Muscular-skeletal system
- Cardio-respiratory system
- Aerobic and anaerobic exercise
- Short and long term effects of exercise
- Methods of training
- Principles of training

### **Psychology of sport and physical activity**

- Goal setting
- Information processing
- Guidance
- Motivation
- Classification of skills

### **Socio-cultural issues in sport**

- Participation
- Provision
- Performance

## Who is the course suited to?

Students will be selected to study GCSE PE upon application. The GCSE PE course is aimed at students that are both practically talented and academic. Students will develop a good understand as to how the mind and body work in Sport and some of the influences that affect participation in sport. This course is ideal for students who want to go on to study PE at sixth form and peruse careers in both the sports and medical industry. Being able to learn and remember facts is essential as well as the ability to apply knowledge to new scenarios.

## How will I be assessed?

GCSE PE will be assessed in 3 key content areas:

**Component 1: Introduction to Physical Education will be assessed through a written examination.**

2 hours

60% of qualification

120 marks

Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended answers. The questions will be based on stimuli/sources .

**Component 2: The active participant in physical education will be assessed through non-examination assessment.**

This includes three different activities in the role of performer and a written piece of coursework in the form of a personal training programme linked to your chosen major activity.

This is worth 40% of the total qualification.

Three different activities in the role of player/performer from the approved list found in the specification

At least one individual and one team sport.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to classwork and includes: additional reading, note-taking and answering questions to aid understanding, extending your understanding of a topic through research and revision for the end of unit tests and end of year examinations.

## What could help me to do well?

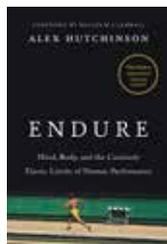
All lesson content and revision resources will be available through Eduqas approved resources. Eduqas accredited revision guides will be offered to students to purchase at a reduced rate through the Academy.

Independently accessing Seneca can help support revision

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying:

- Look in more detail at the GCSE PE specification
- <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/ukinjoyx/eduqas-gcse-physical-education-spec-from-2016-e-02-10-20.pdf>
- Pocket atlas of the Moving Body
- The Body: A Guide for Occupants
- Open Side, Sam Warburton
- Endure: Mind, Body and the Curiously Elastic Limits of Human Performance



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mr Burt if you any questions about the course.

# Psychology

## What is Psychology?

Psychology is a very **broad** subject that looks at human mind and behaviour. In one lesson, you might look at why we forget certain memories. In another lesson, you could be looking at why people suffer from mental illnesses such as depression.

## How is the course structured?

There are 2 exams. Paper 1 is focused on Cognition and Behaviour and Paper 2 is on Social Context and Behaviour.

### **Paper 1**

Memory  
Perception  
Development  
Research Methods

### **Paper 2**

Social Influence  
Language, thought and communication  
Brain and neuropsychology  
Psychological problems

## How is the course assessed?

Paper 1 50% 100 marks

Paper 2 50% 100 marks

Both exams are sat at the end of Year 11 and both are 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

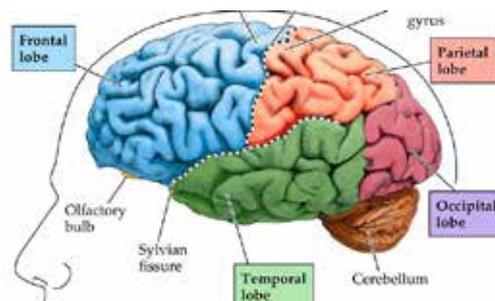
## What syllabus will I follow?

## AQA GCSE Psychology

## Who is the course suited to?

Anyone who is:

- Interested in the world they live in
- Enthusiastic, thoughtful and inquisitive
- Willing to work hard
- Interested in Human behaviour, science and maths
- Motivated and able to work independently
- Able to review their progress and make improvements
- Using their thinking skills to come up with imaginative solutions



## What can help me do well?

- Being organised
- Listening to feedback
- Keeping up to date with current affairs and having a good level of general knowledge

## What Homework will I get?

You will get homework every fortnight based on the topics you are studying. As you progress through the course it will also include prior learning to help you remember all you have learned and make links between ideas and concepts. Homework will be a combination of research, short answer questions and some essay writing.

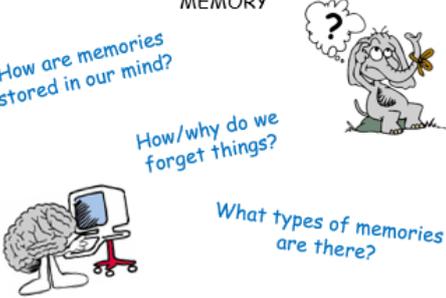
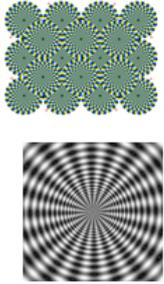


WRITING AND  
NUMERACY  
SKILLS ARE  
IMPORTANT  
IN  
PSYCHOLOGY!

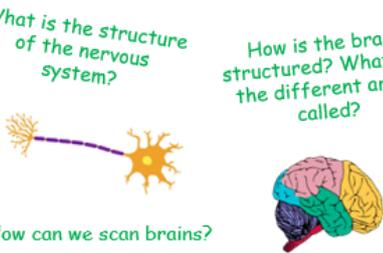
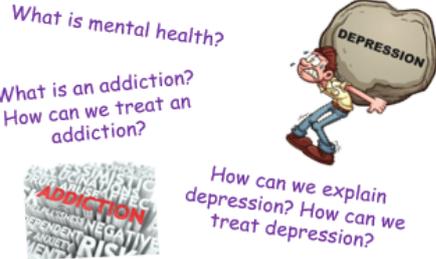


## What will I learn?

# YEAR 10 PSYCHOLOGY

<p><b>MEMORY</b></p> <p>How are memories stored in our mind?</p> <p>How/why do we forget things?</p> <p>What types of memories are there?</p> 	<p><b>PERCEPTION</b></p> <p>What factors affect our perception?</p> <p>How can we explain visual illusions?</p> <p>What are the theories of perception?</p> 
<p><b>DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>How do our brains develop?</p> <p>What impact does learning have development?</p> <p>How do we learn?</p> 	<p><b>RESEARCH METHODS</b></p> <p>How do Psychologists conduct their research?</p> <p>What is the difference between a questionnaire and an interview?</p> <p>How do Psychologists recruit people to take part in research?</p>

# YEAR 11 PSYCHOLOGY

<p><b>SOCIAL INFLUENCE</b></p> <p>What makes us conform or obey?</p> <p>How can we explain crowd behaviour?</p> <p>Why do people step in to help others in need?</p> 	<p><b>LANGUAGE, THOUGHT AND COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p>How do humans and animals communicate?</p> <p>What is non-verbal communication?</p> <p>How does language develop?</p> 
<p><b>BRAIN AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGY</b></p> <p>What is the structure of the nervous system?</p> <p>How is the brain structured? What are the different areas called?</p> <p>How can we scan brains?</p> 	<p><b>PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS</b></p> <p>What is mental health?</p> <p>What is an addiction? How can we treat an addiction?</p> <p>How can we explain depression? How can we treat depression?</p> 

### What could I do now if I am interested/ Career opportunities?

- Keep up to date with contemporary affairs, for example the news, documentaries about real life events (Louis Theroux and Stacey Dooley).
- Pay particular attention to topics covered in SKL& RE lessons
- **Careers:** Psychology is a great subject for a variety of careers due to the nature of understanding human behaviour. Examples of careers: Medicine, Emergency services, Law, Criminal justice system, therapist.

### Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ms Coxall

# BTEC - Sports Studies

## What is the sport qualification ?

BTEC Sport is a practical and engaging course that helps to bring the subject to life and inspire you to achieve more. It will help you to develop knowledge , understanding and practical skills that can be used in eth exercise and physical activity sector.

## How is the course structured?

BTEC Sport is a two year course which comprises three units. One unit is an external assessment and the two remaining units are coursework units.

## What will I learn?

By taking BTEC Sport students are encouraged to:

- Complete research
- Work with others
- Plan training programmes
- Evaluate and make recommendations to improve performance
- Create and deliver presentations and practical sessions
- Develop leadership skills
- Develop healthy living and lifestyle skills

## Knowledge Areas

### **Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity**

- Explore types and provision of sport and physical activity for different types of participant.
- Examine equipment and technology required for participants to use when taking part in sport and physical activity.
- Be able to prepare participants to take part in physical activity.

### **Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance.**

- Understand how different components of fitness are used in different physical activities.
- Be able to participate in sport and understand the roles and responsibilities of officials.
- Demonstrate ways to improve participants sporting techniques.

### **Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity.**

- Explore the importance of fitness for sports performance.
- Investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels.
- Investigate different fitness training methods.
- Investigate fitness programming to improve fitness and sports performance.

## What syllabus will I follow?

BTEC Level 1/2 TECH award in Sport



## How will I be assessed?

BTEC Sport will be assessed in three key areas:

- 1) 90 minute written exam (60 marks)
- 2) 2x coursework based units, each has 4 set tasks and needs to be completed within a given timeframe.

## Who is the course suited to?

Students who want to develop their knowledge of the sport and activity leisure industry and who can work to deadlines on coursework based assignments.

Students who are interested in working in the Sport and active leisure industry.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to classwork and includes: additional reading, note-taking and answering questions to aid understanding and extending your understanding of a topic.

Students cannot work on coursework at home so may wish to do additional work with their teacher in school.

## What could help me to do well?

Using Pearson BTEC accredited revision guides for the examined element of the course.

Using intervention sessions effectively to keep onto of work and stick to deadlines.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying:

- Secrets of a successful programme design.
- The ultimate body plan
- Base of Strength

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mr Burt if you any questions about the course.

# RE/ SKL

## What is RE/ SKL

You will have one lesson per fortnight of combined religious education and skills for life combined.

## How is the course structured?

RE/ SKL is a non-assessed subject however we still report to your parents/ carers on the quality of work and attitude to learning. There will be knowledge tests built into lessons. RE and SKL are combined together.

## What will I learn?

RE/ SKL will teach you the skills that you require for becoming an adult. It will help you manage your finances, make sensible and informed decision about your future plans. It underpins everything that we offer at MCA.

In years 10 and 11 you will cover in detail the following topics.

- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Consent and the law
- Healthy Relationships
- Finances
- Planning for post 16 education
- Sexual Health
- Sexually Transmitted infections
- Terrorism
- Extremist Groups
- Media Literacy
- Social Media
- E-Safety



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A C A D E M Y

## What could help me to do well?

Being up to date with current affairs and watching and reading news articles will support you on this course.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is set accordingly to the topic that is being covered. Usually it is researched based so that topics can be covered in greater detail in lessons.

## How will I be assessed?

There is no formal assessment in RE/ SKL. You will have knowledge tests each lesson and small assessments at the end of a topic area.



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mr Goodenough or Miss Fisher if you any questions about the course.



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**Key Stage 4 Courses / 2026-2028**

