

# Year 9 Options Booklet

September 2018



Sir Robert Pattinson Academy  
Via diversa vita una



## Introduction

This booklet is designed to help parents and students make choices from the subjects and courses available in Key Stage 4. Decisions made at this point in time can affect the future direction that students take in life: making the right choices is incredibly important.

In this guide, you can find:

- a guide to the process and timescales;
- advice on choosing courses and combinations;
- a guide to the English Baccalaureate and other important government initiatives;
- a guide to the qualification types on offer and how they are graded, including the new-style GCSEs that are being introduced; and,
- a description of each course on offer.

Over the coming weeks, a wide array of events and consultation meetings will ensure that each student has a curriculum which is right for them.

A number of staff are involved, including:

- the headteacher and senior leadership team;
- key stage leaders;
- the heads of department;
- class teachers;
- Mrs Todd, our careers advisor; and,
- your child's form tutor.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy.

## Welcome from the Head

Dear Parent

I am delighted to present the Sir Robert Pattinson Academy booklet showing course choices available from September 2018.

Year 9 marks the end of Key Stage 3 National Curriculum subjects and your son or daughter now has to take the next important step in their education, which will form the basis of their career pathway post-16. It is important that your son or daughter thinks carefully about their next steps in education and it is essential that both the Academy and you as parents support them in the process of making these decisions. Making the right choices means that, at the end of two years of hard work, they will have achieved qualifications needed as the basis for their future success.

As an academy, we will provide your child with guidance in making their choices in tutor time, lesson time and assemblies using the support of visiting employers. There are a range of subjects on offer; some courses demand performance in examinations whereas others have a more practical or coursework focus. I hope this guide, with details on individual subjects, will support you and your child in making the most appropriate decision about options.

Over the last couple of years the examination system has undergone significant change with new grades being introduced, the return to linear courses with examinations taken at the end of two years of study and less emphasis on coursework. Please ensure you read this booklet carefully; all the changes are explained. However, if you have any questions at any point, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the Options Evening on Thursday 25 January, when there will be specialist staff from all subject areas available to answer questions. Mr Lloyd-Richards (Year Lead), Mrs Todd, who is Careers Advice and Guidance Coordinator and members of the



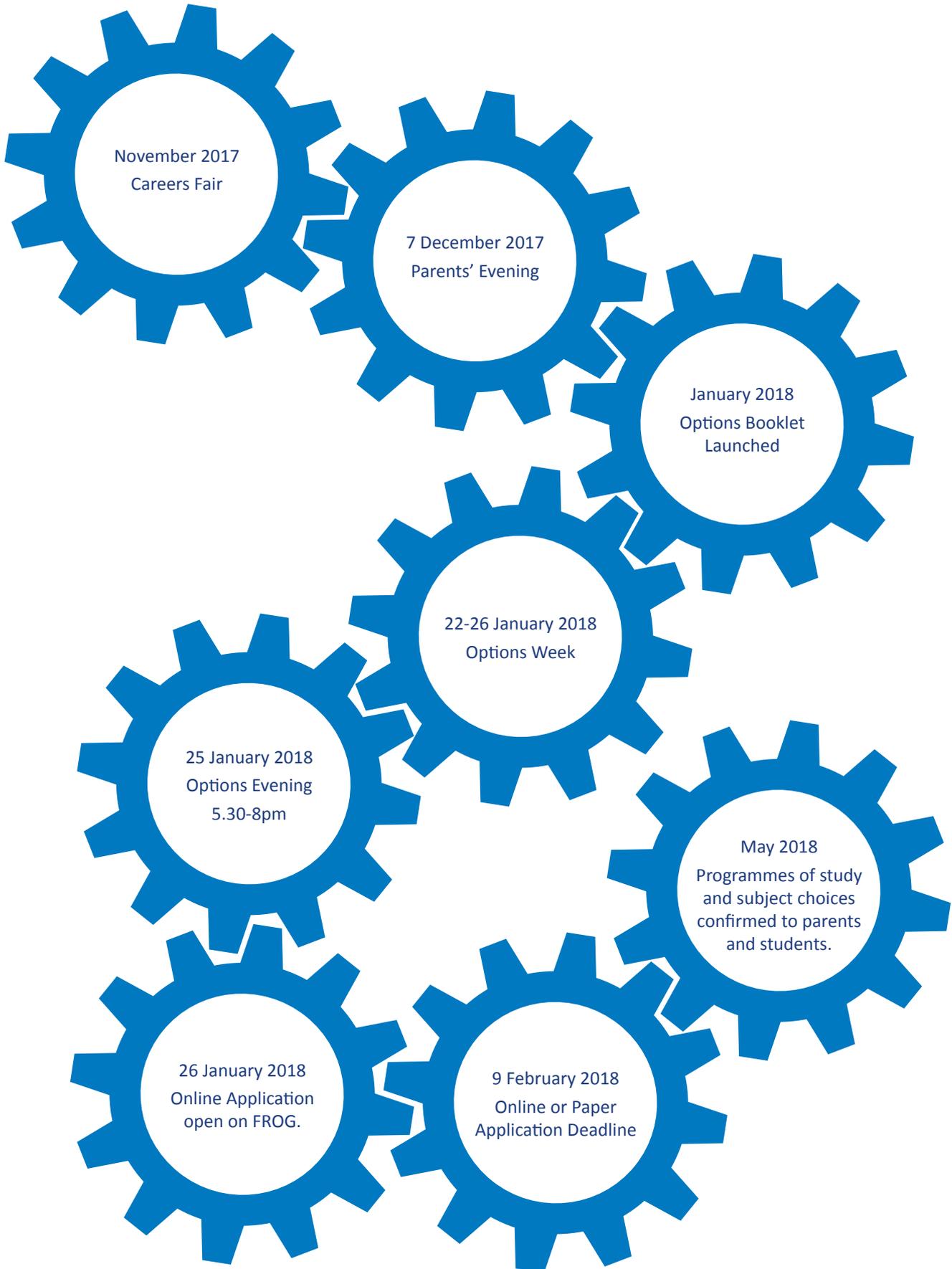
senior team will also be available to answer individual questions on the option process or future careers.

I look forward to seeing you at the Options Evening and continuing to work with you over the next few years to support your son or daughter in achieving their potential.

Yours faithfully

Mrs H S Renard  
Headteacher

# Application Process and Timeline



# Options Week: 22-26 January 2018

It is important for students to experience the true nature of the courses on offer at Key Stage 4. During options week, they will have one or more lessons in each subject which will focus on the knowledge and skills required of our students in upper school.

Some subjects are not studied at Key Stage 3 and others have a very different flavour from that experienced so far. For these, a series of talks are available on Wednesday morning from 9.00 - 11.05. Students choose three from those on offer, each talk lasting approximately 25mins. There is then some time for discussion between students and a reflection on the morning. The talks include:

- Finance
- Business
- Art & Photography
- Engineering
- Media
- Physical Education
- Child Development
- Construction

During this week, students will experience a KS4-style lesson in each of their subjects and choose from a series of talks about courses new to them.

## Y9 Options Assembly

Wednesday 10 January 2018

## Options Carousel

Wednesday 24 January 2018

## Options Evening

Thursday 25 January 2018

5.30pm Headteacher Talk/Browsing

6-8pm Talks & Events Programme

6.30pm Headteacher Talk repeated

The Headteacher's talk will contain information about national changes to the examination system and how these will affect our students. We highly recommend that parents try to attend one of these.

There will be talks from each course, supported by an information stall and teaching staff. Some of our existing Y10 and Y11 students will also attend so you can hear of their experiences of KS4.

The senior leadership team are available all evening to answer your questions, as well as Mrs Todd, our careers advisor.



Options week is not about making the choosing easier; it's about making sure you are well-informed before reaching a decision.



Secondary education is, in many ways, an elementary introduction to the world and represents a basic level of education. That is not to say that it is easy or straightforward. In general, however, no career will be closed to someone with a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4.

It is only at Level 3 that career sectors start to be restricted as students specialise down to three or fewer subjects/vocations. However, some post-16 courses require you to have studied a subject at Level 2 (GCSE level). For example, to study French at A-Level, you must have studied French at GCSE.

Some guidance has been provided on these requirements on the subject pages, however, you must investigate these yourself if there are particular careers or sectors in which you wish to later specialise. This guide cannot provide a definitive guide to the requirements of every career and you should ensure you have researched your preferred choices thoroughly.

## Further Careers Information

[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)  
(includes information about apprenticeships)

The Academy's careers service also provide drop-in sessions at lunchtime to support students with their options.

Most careers require good grades (4/5 or above) in English, mathematics and science at GCSE level. There are a vast number of jobs and positions in the modern world; this is exciting and some even say that up to 50% of our students will one day be doing a job that has not even been invented yet.

Most career sectors offer two or more tiers of positions:

- vocational training on-the-job, sometimes highly skilled;
- a professional tier, often containing indicators such as chartered, registered, commissioned etc.

Professional positions are usually higher paid and attract better working conditions of service. The GCSE courses needed for a few of the popular professions are shown on this page.

Please talk to us about careers. Further information can be found on websites or additional guidance provided by our careers adviser.

**Architect (Chartered)**  
5 GCSEs at grades 4 above to include English, maths and science.  
3 A-Levels or equivalent in useful subjects e.g. mathematics, physics and art.  
Degree in architecture from a university and post graduate study.

**Teacher (Secondary)**  
5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C to include English and mathematics.  
3 A-Levels to include subject being taught  
Degree in chosen subject from a university and teaching qualification.

**Engineer (Chartered)**  
5 GCSEs at grades 4 above to include English, maths and science.  
3 A-Levels or equiv to include maths & physics  
Degree in engineering from a university.

**Nursing**  
5 GCSEs at grades 4 above to include English, maths and science.  
3 A-Levels or equiv. including biology.  
Degree in nursing from a university.



# Important National Initiatives & Qualification Types

## English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

This is not a qualification in its own right. However, a student has achieved the EBacc if they have gained grade 5 or above in:

- GCSE English;
- GCSE Mathematics;
- GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science or two of the separate sciences;
- GCSE Geography or GCSE History; and,
- a GCSE in a modern foreign language.

Whilst this is not presently a separate qualification, many students are now following such a curriculum although clearly this is not right for everyone. We encourage any student who has the ability to achieve the English Baccalaureate to take it.

**We strongly recommend the EBacc combination of courses to any student as a broad and balanced curriculum but particularly if you are thinking of higher education in the future.**

The EBacc suite of subjects at GCSE level has become increasingly important and is looked upon favourably by universities and employers; we strongly recommend any student who is thinking of higher education in the future to ensure their options include such a combination.

## Rising Participation Age

All students now have to remain in some form of education or training until at least their 18th birthday.

This does not have to be a school sixth form; it can be:

- full-time study at a college or other training provider;
- an apprenticeship or work-based training; or,
- part-time study whilst in employment.

Ensuring that our pupils are well-qualified at the end of Key Stage 4 remains our first priority, but future destinations post 16 should also be considered.

## Qualification Levels

In the UK, qualifications are offered at different depths and difficulties of knowledge. A GCSE, passed at a grade between 1 and 4, is said to be a Level 1 qualification. Similarly a GCSE, passed at a grade of 5 or above, is said to be a Level 2 qualification. There are other Level 2 qualifications, including BTECs, CTECs, Awards and Certificates.

A-Level courses are known as Level 3 qualifications. Universities and higher education providers offer degree level courses and certificates that may range from Level 4 to 8.

## GCSE Courses

GCSE stands for the General Certificate of Secondary Education and is studied in a traditional manner. These have undergone huge reforms; students currently choosing their options will study the new-style GCSEs.

To be awarded a GCSE in some subjects, you may have to produce a number of pieces of work called controlled assessments and/or take a number of examination papers at the end of the course.

All examinations will be taken at the end of the two-year period, following recent reforms to the examination system. There are currently no opportunities to resit modules or units.

The new-style GCSE courses, which were introduced from September 2016, are graded from 1 to 9 with 9 being the highest. The content of them is more demanding than the existing GCSE qualifications that they have replaced.

The new grading system is being advertised as equating in the following way:



New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

All GCSE courses now contain marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## Vocational Courses

All vocational qualifications are assessed by portfolio and assignment over the course of study as well as an examination.

The GCSE, being a general certificate, is more broadly based, while a vocational course is usually focused on a particular area of employment and is intended to start preparing pupils for work in a particular sector. Assignments are set and marked by the staff of the Academy, but externally moderated.

Vocational courses are generally graded using a four-point scale of pass (P), merit (M), distinction (D) and starred distinction (D\*).

## Other Certificates and Awards

Vocational certificates, technical awards and awards are offered by a number of awarding bodies, including City & Guilds and other professional organisations. They share many of their features with BTECs. They are available at Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) and higher, often being known at higher levels as diplomas.

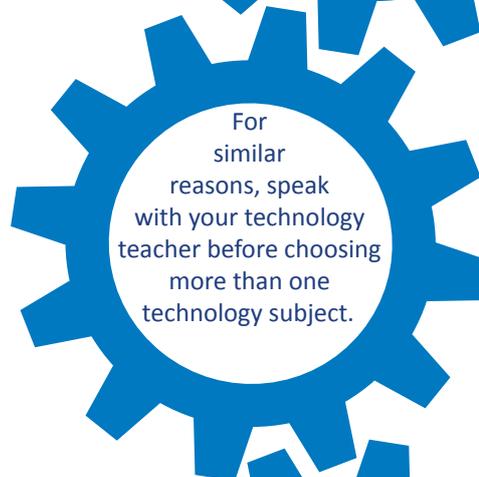
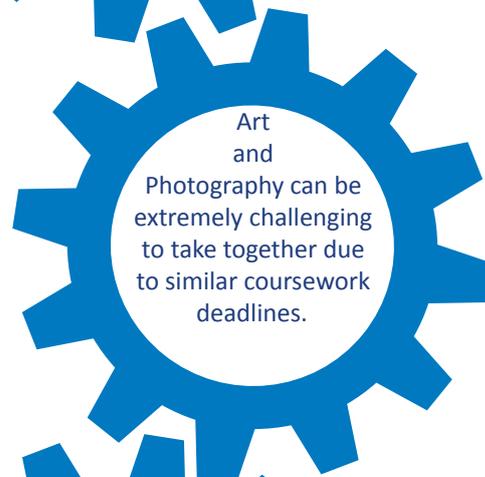
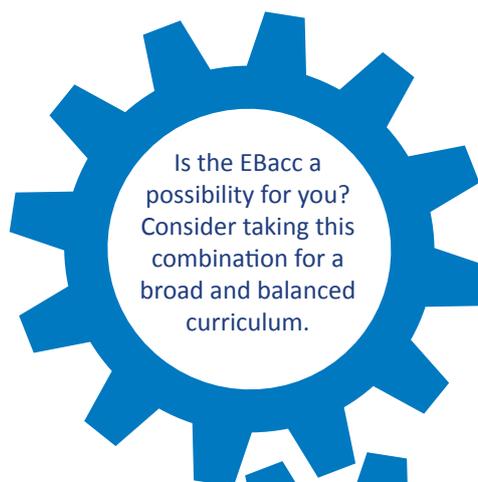
We offer a number of certificates, technical awards and awards; they are often focused on particular career sectors and specific job roles.

## CACHE Qualifications

We offer for the first time this year CACHE qualifications in Child Development and Care. CACHE stands for the Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education. These are high quality vocational qualifications, with the syllabus based on workforce development strategy for the sector, or jointly developed with employers. The assessments are developed, to determine if the learners have gained sufficient knowledge and skills from the course to be awarded the qualification.

## NCFE and LIBF Qualifications

We offer NCFE qualifications in Health & Fitness and Business and LIBF qualifications in Financial Education. NCFE stands for the Northern Council for Further Education and LIBF stands for London Institute of Banking and Finance. These are high quality vocational qualifications, with the syllabus based on workforce development strategy for the sector, or jointly developed with employers. The assessments are developed, to determine if the learners have gained sufficient knowledge and skills from the course to be awarded the qualification.



## Our Curriculum Offer

Young people can change their minds a great deal between the ages of 14 and 19 about what direction they wish to take in life. Our curriculum ensures future career options are kept open for as long as possible; we operate a core curriculum for all students to help to achieve this, whilst allowing as much freedom as possible to allow the pursuit of personal interests. Please remember a good range of subjects is preferable.

### Core Examined Curriculum

The mandatory core curriculum leads to externally assessed qualifications in English, mathematics and science. All students will study this.

### Core Non-Examined Curriculum

These courses do not lead to an externally assessed and recognised qualification, but form a central part of a well-rounded education. They are also required by law and will be found in all UK school curricula.

### Optional Examined Courses

We have kept the core quite small so as to allow a significant amount of flexibility for students in the curriculum time that remains; we want our pupils to have as much choice as possible as they move into upper school.

## Choose 1 from Option A

Then 3 + 1 reserve in order of preference from the Main List

### Option A

GCSE Geography, GCSE History, GCSE French, GCSE Russian, GCSE Spanish

### Main List

GCSE Fine Art  
NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise  
Level 2 CACHE Award in Child Development and Care  
Level 2 Award in Constructing the Built Environment  
GCSE Design & Technology  
GCSE Drama  
Level 2 Award in Engineering  
Level 2 Certificate in Financial Education  
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition  
GCSE French  
GCSE Geography

NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Health and Fitness\*  
GCSE History  
Level 2 Technical Award in IT  
GCSE Media Studies  
GCSE Music  
GCSE Photography  
GCSE Physical Education\*  
GCSE Religious Studies  
GCSE Russian  
GCSE Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)  
GCSE Spanish

\*(only 1 of these 2 subjects permitted)

## Core Examined Curriculum

GCSE English Language\*

GCSE English Literature\*

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy<sup>†</sup>

\*A small number of pupils may study just one English qualification.

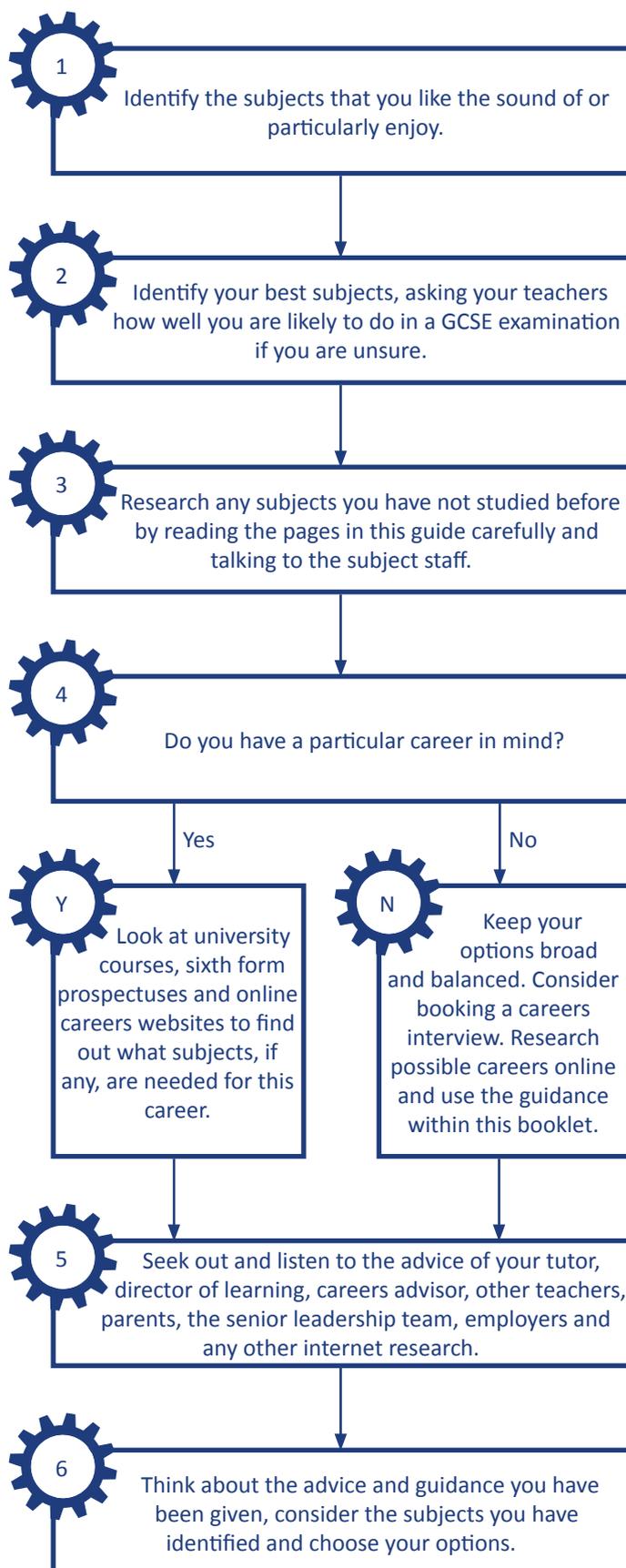
<sup>†</sup> Separate sciences are also available through the options system, but should come with a teacher recommendation.

## Core Non-Examined Curriculum

Physical Education

Philosophy & Ethics

Personal, social, health & careers education, delivered through our ASPIRE programme



NB: If the options as provided do not permit you to take the courses you require, please talk to us as soon as possible.



## Course Descriptions

Further information on the courses that are available.





## Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	OCR J171
Contact:	Mr Parker
Examined Component:	40%
Controlled Assessment:	60%

Studying art and design provides the opportunity to develop both practical skills and theoretical knowledge. It is a subject which concentrates on the visual image.

GCSE Art and Design allows students to build upon their good knowledge, understanding and art skills developed at KS3. Students have the chance to develop new skills and explore working in a range of materials.

The course is divided into two units of work: a portfolio and an examination. The portfolio consists of class-based projects that contribute 60% of the final mark.

The final unit is the examined unit which is worth 40% of the final mark.

The portfolio unit is completed after Christmas in Year 11 and the examination unit then begins. Students have up to ten weeks to develop their projects

before completing a final piece in examination conditions over a 10 hour period.

To successfully undertake the course students need good KS3 results and a commitment to producing independent work, along with a passion for the subject.

A GCSE in Art and Design can lead to a number of art and photography courses post-16, including those offered within the joint sixth form.

An education in art and design can

lead to a wide range of careers in arts management, conservation and restoration, stage design, art therapy, video, film and TV production, art education, packaging design, graphic design, computer games design or illustration, advertising, game design, web design, animation, cartoons, fashion design, textiles design, interior design, theatre design.

It is also incredibly enjoyable as a past-time and lifelong interest.

# NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise



## Course Details

Course Type:	NCFE
Specification:	
Contact:	Mrs Gilbert
Examined Component:	100%

Vcert Business and Enterprise is designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise which includes a vocational and hands-on element. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire learners about a career in business and enterprise.

The study of business and enterprise involves understanding the functions of business and data analysis, the importance of other influences in the external environment and the characteristics of being an entrepreneur and gives a real insight into running your own business.

Throughout the delivery of this qualification, the following core areas and transferable skills should be evident:

- team working
- communication skills
- presentation skills

- use initiative
- work independently.

The business course would suit students who enjoy finding out about the world around us, how businesses affect us and our purchases, and the importance of financial control. The courses are enjoyable and use local businesses, case studies and news reports as stimuli.

Learners who achieve this V Cert qualification could progress onto Level 3 qualifications and A Levels, such as Ctech Business and A Level Business. Business is a qualification with applications in many careers from retail and marketing to finance and human resources. It may be useful to those studying travel and tourism, marketing, business administration and business and enterprise.

## Level 2 CACHE Award in Child Development and Care

Child Development and Care is a vocational subject which allows learners to develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. It is ideal for any student who wishes to understand the development of children and wishes to pursue a career in working in childcare or other forms of working with children.

The course breaks down into three units as outlined below:

- Working with Children aged 0-5:

This unit looks at the types of settings which exist for young children. Students will learn the skills necessary to work in settings such as nurseries and understand the expectations placed on early years workers in supporting young chil-

### Course Details

Course Type:	Level 2 Award
Specification:	CACHE
Contact:	Mrs Swannack
Examined Component:	5%
Controlled Assessment:	95%



dren in their development and ensuring inclusive practice within settings.

- Development and well-being of young children:

This unit focuses on the holistic development of children, allowing students to understand the different strands of development and the factors which affect this development. The unit also looks at the role of observations in aiding and planning for the development of children as well as how to establish

daily care routines and support children through transition within their lives.

This qualification feeds into Level 3 CACHE Health & Social Care course at Key Stage 5, which further allows students to develop the skills and knowledge already outlined. The subject provides suitable foundations for degree level or a move directly into the workplace.

## Level 2 Award in Constructing the Built Environment

Level 2 Award in Construction offers you a learning experience that focuses on applied learning that will have many of the characteristics of real work. This means your learning is made relevant and purposeful. As a result, it also means you should be enthused, engaged and motivated to study all aspects of construction. The qualification provides you with a broad appreciation of work in construction and the built environment and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.

Everything you will learn is centred around three key areas; safety and security in construction, practical construction skills and planning construction projects. For example, you will learn the health and safety legal requirements for working in the construction industry and how to carry out effective risk assess-

### Course Details

Course Type:	Level 2 Award
Specification:	WJEC
Contact:	Mr Hardesty
Examined Component:	25%
Controlled Assessment:	75%



ment; learn how to understand technical information and use this to prepare and carry out practical construction tasks; learn the job roles of people involved in realising construction projects and how to plan built environment development projects.

You learn a minimum of three different skill areas; these are likely to be tiling, electrical and plumbing but could extend to basic joinery and painting and decorating. While carrying out these specialist trades, you will demonstrate

that you can work safely, can store and dispose of materials safely and can keep your work area clean and organised.

The successful completion of this qualification, together with other equivalent qualifications, such as in maths and the sciences, could provide you with opportunities including GCE, apprenticeships, vocationally related and occupational qualifications.

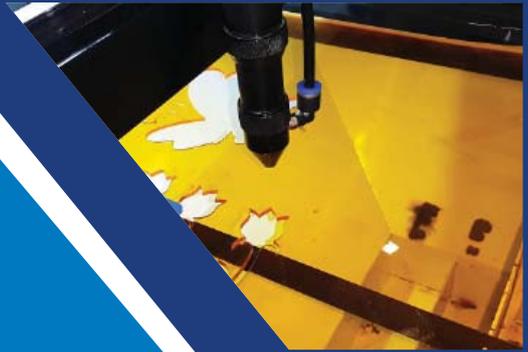
# GCSE Design & Technology

This GCSE aims to prepare you to develop an awareness of the importance of Design & Technology in a rapidly changing society. Design is everywhere in the modern world and this course specification calls for you to become an independent and creative problem solver. Students develop the knowledge, skills and understanding of Design & Technology within an overall design and make approach to everyday products. The students design and manufacture products using a combination of wood, metal, plastic, composite and smart materials. Typical examples of products include: contemporary lighting, house signage, bespoke furniture, etc.

The course will enable you to understand and appreciate the design and manufacture of products, making you a more discerning purchaser. It will help you to be creative in your approach and

## Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	AQA 8552
Contact:	Mr Hardesty
Examined Component:	50%
Controlled Assessment:	50%



you will use a range of design techniques to design and create your products incl. CAD/CAM.

During Y10, you will work with a variety of materials on a range of small projects. Alongside the practical element you will build upon your knowledge and understanding of the core technical principles used in Design & Technology.

Students who are successful on this course can further their study post-16 by choosing GCE Product Design.

# GCSE Drama

Drama has the power to develop students in a huge variety of ways; not just the typical expected performance ways but also in other skill areas such as empathy, self management and creativity. The skills enhanced through drama go on to be transferable and desirable within the world of work and continue to underpin the essential requirements for success in all areas of life.

The course studies dramatical techniques and skills found within and around modern and historical productions. In addition, students can opt to develop technical skills such as; sound and lighting. The diverse nature of drama allows for those who prefer backstage or production roles to gain a recognised qualification for doing so without the pressure to perform.

The first year of study involves developing understanding, followed by a

## Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	AQA 8261
Contact:	Mrs Davison
Examined Component:	60%
Moderated Assessment:	40%



devising unit where students work with a variety of stimuli. Practical work is supported by development log coursework. We also arrange a live theatre visit.

In the second year, pupils explore set text through a series of workshops. They will examine the text in a variety of ways. This year also involves developing evaluative skills as well as completing another performance unit, assessed by a visiting examiner. For their final performance, students can offer performance or support for two extracts from a

published play.

The subject itself does require a good aptitude for English skills, including textual analysis and as such, some students may struggle to cope with the demands of the written content, but support is provided. Drama continues to help form the backbone of transferrable work life skills and as such provides an avenue into many future career paths. If students have a real passion for drama, the course is well suited for further study at A-Level.

## Level 2 Award in Engineering

Level 2 Award in Engineering focus on applied learning, i.e. acquiring and applying knowledge, skills and understanding through purposeful tasks set in a context that will have many of the characteristics of real work. Everything you will learn is centred on three key areas: engineering design, producing engineering products and solving engineering problems. For example, you will learn how to analyse a product so you can see what features make it work and how it meets certain requirements. You will learn how to take ideas from different products in order to produce a design specification and design ideas for a product. You will develop the skills needed to work safely with a range of engineering processes, equipment and tools and will use these skills to produce an engineered product. Each unit has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the authentic work-related

### Course Details

Course Type:	Level 2 Award
Specification:	WJEC 9790A1
Contact:	Mr Hardesty
Examined Component:	25%
Controlled Assessment:	75%



learning.

This means your learning is made relevant and purposeful. As a result, it also means you should be enthused, engaged and motivated to study engineering. The qualification provides you with a broad appreciation of work in engineering related industries and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.

The successful completion of this qualification could provide you with op-

portunities to access a range of Level 3 qualifications including GCE, apprenticeships and vocationally related qualifications. These include GCE Engineering, GCE Design & Technology, Principal Learning Level 3 in Engineering and Apprenticeships in Engineering. You would normally be expected to have attained other qualifications at this level, including GCSE Maths at grade C or above.

## GCSE English Language (part of the core curriculum)

Both literature and language are embedded and taught in Schemes of Learning over the two year course. All students will be required to take GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature, allowing students to benefit from the transferable skills developed across both subjects.

The reading aspect of the Language course focuses on understanding and responding to a variety of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts from across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. When responding to fiction texts, students will be focusing on how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. When responding to non-fiction texts, students will explore how writers present a similar topic over time. Students develop skills of enquiry, evaluation, analysis and inference.

### Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	AQA 8700
Contact:	Mrs Selwood
Examined Component:	100%



A second focus is on helping students to produce clear and coherent writing for a variety of purposes and audiences, including to describe, narrate and argue - skills which are required in many professions and, indeed, in daily life to become a competent and effective individual in the 21st century. Students will also look at how to use language accurately and consistently, developing their ability to write for their desired impact and giving them the skills to influence others when they present their ideas.

Students are also taught how to communicate effectively in both formal and informal situations and listen closely and respectfully to the contributions of others.

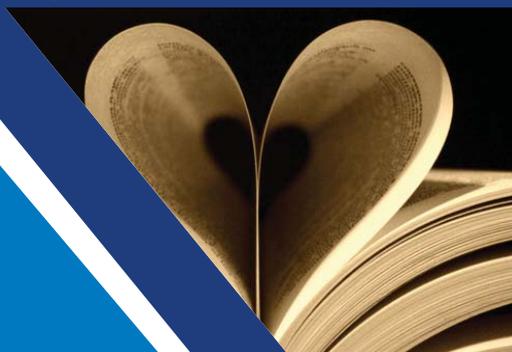
## GCSE English Literature (part of core curriculum)

All students are required to study GCSE English Literature. This is an excellent opportunity to develop the transferable skills which allow them to become more effective readers and writers of a variety of texts.

Throughout the course, students will be given the opportunity to develop their literal and inferential comprehension i.e. being able to distinguish between what is stated explicitly and what is implied. They will look at words, phrases and sentences in context, explaining motivation, sequence of events and the relationship between actions, characters or events. They will learn to recognise the possibility of and evaluate different responses to texts, support their points of view through selecting and referring to evidence, make an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of key details. All Schemes of Learning include

### Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	AQA 8702
Contact:	Mrs Selwood
Examined Component:	100%



a range of novels, plays and poetry. Our aim is to bring a variety of literary texts from different eras enriching an understanding of social, historical and cultural contexts.

Research has shown that young people who read widely are more successful in their education across all subjects. Literature offers excellent preparation for the study of English-related A-levels and beyond, but also in subjects that require depth of analysis and evaluation of texts e.g. History, Psychology, Sociology, Ethics

and Philosophy.

In addition, English Literature also benefits the further study of languages, therefore providing students with an invaluable platform for their future studies.

## Level 2 Certificate in Financial Education

The Certificate in Financial Education has been developed in response to the inclusion of Financial Capability in the National Curriculum. It has been designed to prepare students to take their place in society as responsible citizens by providing them with the skills and knowledge to manage their money well and make sound financial decisions.

The course is made up of three units:

**Unit 1: Finance, the Individual and Society.** This unit includes the study of money, income, tax and foreign exchange. It also looks at the contribution of individuals and organisations to the economy of a country.

**Unit 2: Practices of Managing Money.** This unit explores the concepts of financial planning and personal financial budgets. It includes the link between personal financial budgets and spending

### Course Details

Course Type:	LIBF
Specification:	CeFE
Contact:	Mrs Gilbert
Examined Component:	100%



choices. The different types of borrowing products available are also introduced, including credit cards, mortgages and secured and unsecured personal loans.

**Unit 3: Financial Capability, Work and Enterprise.** This unit provides an understanding of how a business manages money and the relationship between personal money management and business money management.

An education in finance opens up a wide

variety of professional and administrative careers within both the public and private sectors. It covers such wide employment opportunities as accountancy, banking, investment, stock broking, financial advice and economics.

There are a number of Level 3 courses which can lead on from this qualification available, including business, economics and finance offered currently in the sixth form.

## GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

A qualification in Food Preparation and Nutrition will equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, as well as 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.

Learners will be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills using a variety of food commodities, as well as understand the characteristics and properties of a range of foods. They will understand the importance of good nutrition, diet and health and how good food choices contribute towards a healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, learners will demonstrate a good understanding of food safety and the role of food science and how it affects the properties

### Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	Edexcel C560
Contact:	Mrs Payne
Examined Component:	50%
Controlled Assessment:	50%



of foods.

Teaching begins by ensuring that students have a good solid understanding of how to work in a practical environment, resulting from a series of practical lessons. Alongside this, the key principles of healthy eating and nutrition are reinforced. Students who opt to study food/catering finish with an excellent understanding of food, nutrition and cooking.

This course would offer valuable experi-

ence that could lead onto placements in catering establishments or further study at university.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition helps shape students into independent and resourceful young adults who are able to demonstrate a high calibre of transferable skills in the work place.

## GCSE French

To be successful at GCSE French you need to be a conscientious, independent student who can take responsibility for their own learning. The speaking and writing elements of the syllabus form a large part (50%) of the overall GCSE, so you will need to be able to organise your work and your time effectively. You will also need to be committed to learning.

There are approximately 274 million French speakers throughout the world. To put that in context, the population of Britain at the moment is roughly 64 million! French is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, the EU, UNESCO, NATO, IOC, International Red Cross and international courts. The UK economy loses £48 billion each year because of a lack of language speakers and French was the most widely sought after foreign language by UK businesses.

### Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	Edexcel 1FR0
Contact:	Mrs Hughes
Examined Component:	100%



Over the course of Key Stage 4, students develop their ability to use an increasing range of vocabulary and to use a number of different tenses.

The course focuses on interesting areas of life, including health, sport, home, friends, relationships, leisure, entertainment, travel, education and work.

# GCSE Geography

GCSE Geography is, potentially, everything students want to know about the world in which we live. 2016 saw the launch of the new GCSE in Geography. The changes have made the subject more in-depth than ever. This means that students will gain an understanding of a greater number of topics and themes which may shape their future:

## Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	AQA 8035
Contact:	Mr Curtis
Examined Component:	100%



**Physical Geography** – This unit encompasses many aspects of the physical side of the subject. Students will gain an understanding of current issues such as changing climates and managing and sustaining ecosystems. They will also look at natural hazards and physical cycles and systems such as the water cycle. This unit also expands their knowledge of physical landscapes and environments.

**Human Geography** – This unit brings in elements of economic development with countries and how this is measured

and promoted through systems and processes such as Aid. Students also focus on population & environments, including a key study on urban environments. Students will deepen their understanding of the UK as well as issues such as resource reliance and security.

**Geographical Skills and Fieldwork** – This unit is about developing students enquiry, investigative and field study skills, including field work.

It is useful for students to have prior

knowledge of the above topics from their own experiences. Skills such as OS map reading, data analysis and use of statistics are useful additions.

As Geography is a far-reaching subject with many separate areas, it is possible to study it further at both Advanced and Degree Level. GCSE Geography can provide the foundation for a variety of careers including urban planning, geology, the environmental agency, tourism and education.

# GCSE Russian

What this subject expects from its students:

To be successful at GCSE Russian you need to be a conscientious, independent student who can take responsibility for their own learning. You cannot start this subject at Key Stage 4; you need to have studied it in Y8 and 9. The speaking and writing elements of the syllabus form a large part (50%) of the overall GCSE, so you will need to be able to organise your work and your time effectively. You will also need to be committed to learning. Russian is only offered in 2% of UK state schools. Taking up the challenge of GCSE Russian will really make you stand out from the crowd and in a world where business is increasingly global, the ability to speak Russian will make you highly employable! It is spoken by approximately 260 million people; that's 260 million potential customers!

## Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	Edexcel 1RU0
Contact:	Mrs Hughes
Examined Component:	100%



In addition the ability to speak Russian is highly sought after by many government agencies and the Ministry of Defence. Who knows where in the world a career using Russian may take you?

# NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Health and Fitness

The NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Health is designed for learners with an interest in any of the health and fitness contexts such as exercise, lifestyles and diet. It is appropriate for learners looking to develop a significant core of knowledge and understanding, and want to apply that knowledge in preparing, planning and developing a health and fitness programme.

## Course Details

Course Type:	Level 2 Cert
Specification:	NCFE
Contact:	Mr Fell
Examined Component:	25%
Controlled Assessment:	75%



Students will study four units of work:

1. Principles of fitness: Includes components of fitness, principles of training and the benefits of exercise on the body systems.
2. Healthy lifestyles: How does food and physical activity contribute to a healthy lifestyle? Importance of diet and nutrition and how participation is affected by motivation.
3. Preparing and planning for health and fitness (external assessment):

Developing the ability to evaluate and prepare a health and fitness plan to improve their exercise and diet.

4. Developing a personal health and fitness programme: Brings together learning throughout the course to develop a health and fitness programme. Includes fitness testing and the importance of preparation.

Three of the four units will be assessed via the completion of assignments, the

topics covered must be applied to health and fitness and will have a vocational link.

This course is ideal for students who have a keen interest in the world of sport and exercise and leads to opportunities for further study in A-Level Physical Education and CTEC Sport. Both are currently offered in the sixth form. It is also relevant to those wishing to pursue a career in the health and fitness industry, or who wish to apply the principles to their own training.

# GCSE History

GCSE History will enable students to study the subject through in-depth studies and themes over a period of 2000 years. The subject provides students with the opportunity to study national and international histories and also investigate and explore periods of historical change.

The subject focuses on four areas:

- The study in changes of crime and punishment from Anglo-Saxon times to the present day. This topic looks at reasons behind these changes.
- A depth study into The American West, examining the way in which the American West was settled in and developed between 1840-1895.
- A period enquiry into Anglo-Saxon and Norman England including the build-up to Hastings and how England changed under the Normans.

## Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	EdExcel 1H10
Contact:	Mr Watson
Examined Component:	100%



- A modern world study focusing on Weimar Germany and the rise of the Nazi Party. Students are asked to compare and analyse historical interpretations.

The subject is well-balanced between traditional aspects of history and looking at key events of the 20th century.

It also allows students to build a wide range of analytical skills which can be applied elsewhere.

The subject is an enabling subject which builds skills used in a variety of settings. The GCSE provides a foundation to study the subject at advanced and degree level focusing on any number of different areas.

The subject provides a starting point for careers in law, research, archaeology and education.

## Level 2 Technical Award in IT

This new qualification is ideally suited to learners with a preference for practical, rather than theoretical learning within the IT industry.

The Technical Award in IT aims to give valuable opportunities for students to develop skills and gain knowledge which will support entry into work or progression to further study in an IT subject.

The course has three units of study. These are:

**Unit 1: Practical Skills in IT (controlled assessment 30%)** - Students will undertake a number of IT projects that will assess their IT skills in web design, video editing, animation, audio editing, word processing, spreadsheets, digital graphics and databases.

**Unit 2: Creating IT Systems (controlled assessment 30%)** - Students will learn specific knowledge and skills to enable

### Course Details

Course Type:	Level 2 Award
Specification:	AQA 3735
Contact:	Mr Bartle/Mr Barrett
Examined Component:	40%
Controlled Assessment:	60%

them to design and build their own IT system. This year the system will be to design and program an interactive 2D computer game.

**Unit 3: Fundamentals of IT (examination 40%)** - Students will learn how computers work. Students will have an external examination that will test their knowledge and understanding on hardware, software, networks, The Internet, security, data and emerging technologies.

A keen interest in IT is essential. The

course would ideally suit students who excel at the on-going controlled assessment elements rather than external examinations.

This qualification will enable students to study IT or Digital Media at sixth form or college. At SRPA we offer the Cambridge Technical Level 3 course in IT, where numerous students since studying this qualification have gone to study IT/Computer Science/Animation/Games Computing at degree level.



## GCSE Mathematics (part of core curriculum)

September 2015 saw the launch of the brand new GCSE in maths. The new specification is challenging with approximately 30 % more content included with many topics being required to be taught at a higher level than at present. In addition to these changes, this new GCSE will be awarded with grades ranging from 1 to 9, replacing the existing A\* - G.

There will be an increased emphasis placed on problem solving. Students will need to be able to use and apply maths in other contexts, interpreting and evaluating results and solutions. Good mathematical reasoning and communication skills will also be important so students can present arguments clearly through both method and results.

The course will also see an increase in examination time with a minimum of 4.5 hours of exam time being specified.

### Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	AQA 8300
Contact:	Mr Ireland
Examined Component:	100%

Topics and areas covered by the new specifications include:

- number skills;
- algebra;
- ratio, proportion and rates of change;
- geometry and measures;
- probability; and,
- statistics.

This new course will require a significant

commitment from students from the very start of the course recognising the pace and depth of teaching required.

The maths department are fully committed and prepared for the challenges ahead and will be happy to answer any specific questions you may have.



## GCSE Media Studies

Simply put, media is the word we use to collectively describe things such as television, film, magazines, newspapers, radio, video games and the internet. It is the means by which we humans communicate, entertain and educate ourselves.

In our society, we cannot escape the power and influence the media has on our lives. From the smart phones and wearable technology that keep us continually connected to each other and the rest of the world, to our choice of evening television and streaming and entertainment, we have to be aware of what we are seeing and hearing.

While there are no entry requirements, the course content is designed to appeal to students for its relevance to their lives and for the opportunities it provides for exploring contemporary issues through the use of different media in creative and practical ways. Obviously, it helps to

### Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	AQA 8572
Contact:	Miss Forth
Examined Component:	70%
Controlled Assessment:	30%



have an interest in different aspects of the media and how it affects our lives. As there is a great deal, particularly with the exam content, of analysis and technical vocabulary, it helps to have a high standard of English.

All students will have to complete the following two year linear GCSE course:

- 2 written examinations
- Paper 1 is worth 35% of your total.
- Paper 2 is worth 35% of your total.

#### • Non-exam assessment (NEA):

You will create a media product which is assessed by teachers and is worth 30% of your total GCSE.

The focus for the non-exam assessment changes each year. You will be asked to produce a statement of intent and create a media product for an intended audience. Being able to use or at least having a willingness to learn how use different forms of technology and software to help create your media product is vital.

## GCSE Music

The music course is to give students the opportunities to develop their understanding and appreciation of a range of different kinds of music that reflect our cultural heritage, extend their own interests and increase their ability to make judgments about musical quality through GCSE.

The course at Sir Robert Pat-  
tinson Academy is designed to give our students the knowl-  
edge, skills and understanding to:

- make music individually and in groups;
- develop a lifelong interest in music;
- progress to further study.

The course is based around practical music making, with the use of technology in the composition work. The music department has state of the art facilities that allow students to access a wide variety of resources.

In Years 10 and 11, students integrate

### Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	OCR J536
Contact:	Mr Jackson
Examined Component:	60%
Controlled Assessment:	40%



their performing, composing and listening skills into the following topics:

- My Music (spotlight on my instrument);
- The Concerto through Time
- Rhythms of the World
- Film Music
- Conventions of Pop

Students opting for this course will need to play an instrument or sing.

Students are able to opt to take music in the joint sixth form.

The possibilities of further study currently include GCE Music, Performing Arts and Music Technology. Past students have gone on to study music at degree level. Others have gone into the media or followed music careers in the forces.

# GCSE Photography

Photography is an area of art and design, taught as a specialised subject. Given a broad area, students produce work using lens-based media and at least two approaches, such as: printed photography, digital photography, photomontage and photographic manipulation.

Students are required to demonstrate achievement in photography through responses to four groups of requirements: visual recording; understanding contexts in art, craft and design; practical developing; and realising intentions.

Photography is an ideal subject for those with a keen interest in the arts and who wish to study art to a higher level. The course provides a strong foundation to those wishing to study or build a career in photography. Students will develop a professional portfolio ready for use in interviews.

## Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	OCR J173
Contact:	Miss Davis
Examined Component:	60%
Controlled Assessment:	40%



When responding to the titles given in their chosen activities, students learn new skills and a variety of processes and techniques that can be used when making images. We cover:

- taking photographs, exploring imaging techniques such as depth of field, film speed, lighting, exposure and viewpoints
- editing and refining digital images using specialist software
- use of camera equipment, format

and lenses

- elementary darkroom practice
- lighting and exposure techniques
- alternative print exposure techniques
- digital manipulation of images (image scanning, use of digital camera), photomontage and story grams.

Photography students may continue study of the subject in the sixth form.

# GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Physical Education provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide variety of sport and exercise related topics and issues. It also builds on their practical performance from Key Stage 3. This course is ideal for students who have an interest in the world of sport, exercise and physical education and who perform at a high standard in a range of sports or activity areas.

Topics covered in the theoretical aspect of the course include:

- anatomy and physiology;
- sport psychology;
- movement analysis;
- health, fitness and well-being;
- sociocultural influences;
- physical training; and,

## Course Details

Course Type:	GCSE
Specification:	AQA 8582
Contact:	Mr Fell
Examined Component:	60%
Controlled Assessment:	40%



movement analysis.

Students are assessed on their practical performance in three activity areas. These are assessed throughout the course, with a written analysis of performance, focused on one of these three areas. Performance outside of school can be assessed in activities such as equestrian, skiing, dance and numerous others. (Recorded evidence will need to be provided.)

It is strongly recommended that all

GCSE Physical Education students participate in sport or physical activity on a regular basis, both in and outside of school. Regular participation in physical education lessons is essential.

This course leads to opportunities for further study in A-Level Physical Education and CTEC Sport which are currently offered in the sixth form. Careers include sports management, coaching, armed forces, emergency services etc.

## GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies challenges students with questions about belief, value and meaning enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation for how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, research and leadership skills.

The subject is suitable for students who have an interest in thinking about a wide range of issues, including:

- The ethics of abortion, euthanasia and animal testing.
- Right and wrong relationships: do we need other people to give us rules to live by or should we each be free to make sense of life for ourselves?

### Course Details

Course Type: GCSE  
Specification: OCR J625  
Contact: Ms Papaioannou  
Examined Component: 100%  
2 X written exams 2 hours each



- How do we cope with people who are different to us? How should we respond?
- Can war ever be right? Is killing people the best way to demonstrate that killing people is wrong?

GCSE Religious Studies is open to all students of any academic ability. It is suitable for students who wish to pursue the course to A level and degree level. It is also a good course for students who

wish to enter the world of work as soon as they are able.

Health professionals, the police force, social workers, teachers and many professional bodies note religious studies as a valuable course because of the insights it provides into working with diverse groups of people. With this in mind, the two religions we will be studying are Christianity and Islam.

## GCSE Combined Science Trilogy (core curriculum)

All students are required to study science. Studying this subject broadens your understanding of the world around you and how it works.

Science will help you to understand how your mobile phone works, why your eyes are a particular colour, and why a firework display looks so spectacular. In that regard, it is truly fascinating.

Studying science enables you to develop key skills that will help prepare you for whichever career you pursue in the future, such as problem solving skills, communication skills and the ability to analyse data.

The GCSE Combined Science Trilogy course will enable you to build upon the topics that you have studied in Year 7, 8 and 9. You will study a range of biology, chemistry and physics topics including:

### Course Details

Course type: GCSE  
Specification: AQA 8464  
Contact: Mr Parkinson  
Examined component – 100%



#### Biology

- Cell biology
- Bioenergetics
- Ecology

#### Chemistry

- Atomic structure
- Chemical changes
- Organic chemistry

#### Physics

- Energy
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

There's no better way to learn about science than through purposeful practical activities. Throughout GCSE Combined Science Trilogy, students have regular opportunities to carry out practical work and develop investigational skills.

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy is equivalent to two GCSE grades. Successful completion of this course provides the ideal stepping stone to continue studying science at the North Hykeham Joint Sixth Form, with A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Applied Science.

# Separate Sciences (GCSE Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

Do you have a passion for science? Do you already know that you want to continue studying science beyond GCSE? Do you see yourself choosing a career in a science or engineering based field, such as medicine or veterinary science? If so, Separate Sciences (GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics) is the course for you!

## Course Details

Course type: GCSE  
Specification: AQA  
8461/8462/8463  
Contact: Mr Parkinson  
Examined component – 100%



Choosing this option will allow you to gain three science GCSE grades; one in each specialism. Though this option is not essential for studying science at A Level and beyond, it will better prepare you for the demands of the science courses post-16. Due to the challenging nature of this course you will need to have made excellent progress throughout KS3 and be recommended for this course by your science teacher.

If you choose to study the separate sciences you will cover all of the same exciting topics from the GCSE Combined

Science course but in greater detail. This will further deepen your understanding of how the world around you works. The topics include:

### Biology

- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution

### Chemistry

- Bonding, structure and the properties of materials
- Quantitative chemistry

- Chemistry of the atmosphere

### Physics

- Forces
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter

Successful completion of this course provides the ideal stepping stone to continue studying science at the North Hykeham Joint Sixth Form, with A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Applied Science courses all available.

# GCSE Spanish

To be successful at GCSE Spanish you need to be a conscientious, independent student who can take responsibility for their own learning. The speaking and writing elements of the syllabus form a large part (50%) of the overall GCSE, so you will need to be able to organise your work and your time effectively. You cannot start this subject at Key Stage 4; you need to have studied it in Y8 and 9. You will also need to be committed to learning.

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world after Mandarin Chinese and it is the first language of more countries than any other! Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the USA and employers there are desperate for Spanish speakers who will enable them to unlock a market which represents \$1.5 trillion!

The specification develops your ability to converse, whether in written or spoken

## Course Details

Course Type: GCSE  
Specification: Edexcel 1SP0  
Contact: Mrs Rodgers  
Examined component: 100%



form, in a number of familiar common topic areas, including:

- Generally out and about: visitor information, basic weather, local amenities, accommodation, public transport and directions.
- Customer service and transactions: cafés and restaurants, shops, dealing with problems.
- Personal information: general interests, leisure activities, family & friends, lifestyle, healthy eating &

exercise.

- Future plans, education and work.

## What else could you do and where will you be?

These students and staff travelled to Croatia as part of the World Challenge programme. In 2017 a visit was arranged to Nicaragua and this year Nepal. Before that, they travelled to Norway, India, Morocco, and Kenya. Where will you go over the next four years?



Closer to home, the most amazing skills and talents emerge as students embark on the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. It's not just about courses: it's about developing skills and memories.









**Find this information on our website:  
[www.srpa.co.uk/our-curriculum](http://www.srpa.co.uk/our-curriculum)**

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