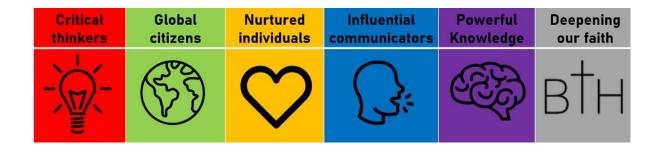


# Year 9 GCSE Options Information Booklet for Pupils and Parents Spring 2022

# **Curriculum Intent**























### Welcome and Introduction

This booklet contains lots of valuable information about the Key Stage 4 curriculum that your child will follow next year and you will also find out about other key aspects of your child's educational provision up to 18.

Our aim is for everybody to leave our school with the grades to enter top universities or apprenticeships and to have successful careers. We also aim to support our pupils' character development through a strong and effective programme of personal development and guidance.

During the seven years your child is with us there are two key moments when they are expected to make a choice of subjects - at the end of Year 9 and when applying to join our Sixth Form. We want to provide every pupil with excellent guidance and advice so that the best subjects are chosen and the potential of every student is reached.

Our track record in examinations is very impressive:

- We provide considerable support for our GCSE students and our results have been consistently outstanding
- The new accountability measure, Progress 8, shows all our pupils making significant progress when compared with other students across the country
- We are very proud of our Sixth Form students who achieved an overall pass rate of 99% ensuring the majority being accepted into the most prestigious universities in the UK

Over the next few years we have set ambitious targets for our future results despite the impact of the pandemic on your child's education. Of course we recognise what an important part parents play in the success of their child and during the coming weeks we will provide you with information about our GCSE courses and the options process. We hope this information will make you much better informed about GCSE examinations but also provide you with the opportunity to support your child.

Additionally, we will provide your child with information about Careers and Guidance Officer who will be working closely with your child from now up to Year 11 to ensure they have the best possible Careers advice and prepared for the next stage of their life.

We hope you will be able to visit the school in person on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February for our Year 9 Options Evening in the new school building.

### Mr J Cornally Executive Headteacher

Mr L Fishwick Head of School







### Year 9 Options Process for 2022

Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 and 9) at Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College forms a basic general course for all pupils. In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11), to allow more time for subjects to be studied in depth, an element of choice is introduced. Pupils commonly select 3 subjects to study in addition to Core Curriculum which everyone studies. This booklet contains details of courses available in Key Stage 4. It is designed to help pupils and parents understand the implications of option choices and to assist pupils, in particular, to make wise choices to prepare them for the next stage of their education or training.

All pupils in Key Stage 4 will study the core subjects. Pupils will be asked to choose subjects from the Option Subjects provided within this booklet and all pupils must study at least one from History, Geography, French, Spanish or Computer Science or Literacy and Numeracy intervention. Pupils can study 3 from this group.

When making choices of subjects it is beneficial to keep Careers and Further Education in mind. It is therefore important for the majority of pupils to concentrate on a balanced, general education that includes a Humanity and Language. The college reserves the right to withdraw any of the options and to amend the pupils' choices where it is educationally desirable.

It has always been important for pupils to make informed choices based on their own strengths, as once choices have been made, the scope for change is limited. It is also the case that, with regret, we may have to ask pupils opting for less popular subjects to make alternative choices. For subjects that are oversubscribed we will endeavour to discuss further options with individual pupils.

Mr Goldrick
Assistant Headteacher i/c of Key Stage 3

Mr Regan Assistant Headteacher i/c of Key Stage 4







### The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

During Key Stage 4 (Year 9 - 11), all pupils will follow a curriculum that is suited to their needs and interest. They will finish Year 11 equipped with a range of appropriate qualifications, skills and attributes to enable them to pursue their chosen path into further education and employment. The curriculum is divided into two parts, core curriculum and options – these are outlined below.

### The Core Curriculum (compulsory for all pupils)

- GCSE English Language & GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Religious Education
- GCSE Combined Science
- Physical Education (no qualification)
- Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (no qualification)
- Relationship & Sex Education (no qualification)

### **Options Subjects**

Group 1: All pupils must study at least one in their choice of three but can choose three

- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Computer Science

### Group 2: GCSE Subjects pupils may choose a maximum of two

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Classics
- Level 2 Certificate in Creative iMedia
- GCSE Design & Technology
- GCSE Food & Nutrition
- Level 2 BTEC Health & Social Care
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Physical Education or Level 2 Sports Studies

### Optional 4th Subject

GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
 (additional 4th option, lessons take place from 3.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. twice a week)

### Request for Option Change

Occasionally, pupils may feel they have made a wrong decision with an Option chose and may request a change. However, please note that all requests for option change can or cannot be granted due to staffing and timetable schedules. Also, class sizes – a pupil will not be allowed to move into a class that is already at maximum capacity.

In order to request a change, an email should be sent to Mr Fishwick, Head of School, (MrFishwick@bthcc.org.uk) who will consider the request given class sizes and timetable structure.

The deadline for all option changes is the end of September 2022. Request after this time will not be considered due to pupils having missed several teaching hours in the subject they wish to change. There are limited subjects to change to after the new academic year starts.

### **GCSE Grading Structure**

They are graded from 9 to 1, instead of A\* to G, 9 being the highest grade and 1 being the lowest. Pupils taking GCSEs over this period will therefore receive a mixture of 9 to 1 and A\* to G grades.

### To summarise:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C and bottom third of a grade B. This has been defined as a good pass by the Department for Education
- Pupils who do not achieve a grade 4 or above in English and Mathematics will continue to study these qualifications beyond 16. It is our aim for all pupils to achieve a grade 4 or above before they leave school.

### The graphic below explains the grading structure

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

Comparing old GCSE letter grades to new number grades



# **Core Subjects**

# All pupils study these qualifications



Subject	English Language - Core
Qualification Title	GCSE in English Language
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Miss Sigsworth
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language- 8700/specification-at-a-glance
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 10
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	N/A
Course Description	The English Language specification is split into two components: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing and Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives.  Each component is assessed via its own exam paper. Each paper assesses both reading and writing skills, both are equally weighted per paper (50% each).
Assessment Structure	2 written papers Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing Paper 2 - Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives Each paper is 1hr 45 minutes with 80 marks on each paper
Suggested next steps or course	A level English Language, A level English Literature, A level Creative Writing, A level English Language and Literature
Possible Careers	Journalism, Teaching, Copywriting, Media (social and newsworthy), Teaching, Marketing, Editor
Vital resources	SENECA, Pate Resources Y Drive/Google Drive – past papers, quizzes and recorded lessons
IT used in this qualification	Revision websites Email and online classrooms
Homework structure	One 40 minute reading task each week completed in a booklet with a focus on vocabulary, inference and interpretations.
Best way to revise	Complete questions and past papers
Trips in Key Stage 4	N/A

Subject	English Literature – Core
Qualification Title	GCSE in English Literature
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Miss Sigsworth
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature- 8702/specification-at-a-glance
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Copies of key text
Course Description	<ul> <li>The English Literature specification is split into five components:</li> <li>Shakespeare play</li> <li>19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel</li> <li>Modern prose or drama text</li> <li>The Poetry Anthology</li> <li>Unseen Poetry</li> </ul> Each component is assessed via its own section in an exam paper. Each paper assesses both reading and text analysis skills.
Assessment Structure	<ul> <li>Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel (64 marks)         40% GCSE 1hr 45 mins</li> <li>Paper 2 - Modern Texts and Poetry (96 marks) 60% GCSE 2hrs         15 mins</li> </ul>
Suggested next steps or course	A level English Language, A level English Literature, A level Creative Writing, A level English Language and Literature
Possible Careers	Journalism, Teaching, Copywriting, Media (social and newsworthy), Teaching, Marketing, Editor
Vital resources	SENECA, Pate Resources, Y Drive/Google Drive – past papers, quizzes and recorded lessons
IT used in this qualification	Revision websites, Email and online classrooms
Homework structure	One 40 minute wider reading task with a focus on recall and retrieving learning and applying it to the given text.
Best way to revise	Complete questions and past papers
Trips in Key Stage 4	N/A

Subject	Mathematics - Core
Qualification Title	GCSE in Mathematics
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mr O'Brien
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300/specification-at-a-glance
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	Yes (Higher Grades 9 -4 & Foundation Grades 5-1)
Essential Equipment	Scientific Calculator FX Casio 85 GT Plus, Protractor & Compass
Course Description	The subject content of this specification matches that set out in the Department for Education's Mathematics GCSE subject content and assessment objectives document. This content is common to all exam boards. The content has been organised into broad topic areas and given a reference as follows: <ul> <li>Number</li> <li>Algebra</li> <li>Ratio, proportion and rates of change</li> <li>Geometry and measures</li> <li>Probability</li> <li>Statistics</li> </ul> All content can be assessed on any of the three question papers. As such, some questions will draw together elements of maths from different topic areas.
Assessment Structure	3 written papers Paper 1 = Non-calculator, Paper 2 & 3 = Calculator Each paper is 90 minutes with 80 marks on each paper
Suggested next steps or course	A level Mathematics, A level Accountancy, A level Economics, A level Psychology & Level 3 BTECs
Possible Careers	Engineering, Teaching, Accountancy, Quantity Surveyor, Architecture, Medicine
Vital resources	Hegarty Maths (subscription provided by school) Mathswatch (subscription provided by school)
IT used in this qualification	Calculator, Spreadsheets, Online communication platforms such as email, Revision Websites, Online Geometry software such as Autograph and Cabri
Homework structure	One 40-minute task per week set on Mathswatch
Best way to revise	Complete questions and Past Papers

<sup>-</sup> Inspiring People, Changing Lives -

Subject	Combined Science - Core
Qualification Title	GCSE in Combined Science
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Miss Griffiths
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	One grade assigned on a 17 point scale from 9-9 to 1-1. The single grade assigned is double weighted and represents a grade in two qualifications for Combined Science. Grade 9-9 highest to Grade 1-1 lowest.
Tiered	Yes (Higher Grades 9-9 to 4-3 & Foundation Grades 5-5 to 1-1)
Essential Equipment	Scientific Calculator, 30 cm ruler, Protractor
Course Description	The subject content of this specification matches that set out in the Department for Education's Combined Science GCSE subject content and assessment objectives document. This content is common to all exam boards.  The content has been organised into topic areas per Science discipline and papers as follows: Biology Paper 1  Cell Biology  Organisation  Infection & Response  Bioenergetics Biology Paper 2  Homeostasis & Response  Inheritance, variation & evolution  Ecology Chemistry Paper 1  Atomic Structure & The Periodic Table  Bonding, Structure & Properties of Matter  Quantitative Chemistry  Chemical Changes  Energy Changes  Energy Changes  Chemistry Paper 2  The Rate & Extent of Chemical Change  Organic Chemistry  Chemical Analysis  Chemical Analysis  Chemistry of the atmosphere  Using Resources  Physics Paper 1  Energy  Electricity  The Particle Model of Matter  Atomic Structure

<sup>-</sup> Inspiring People, Changing Lives -

	Physics Paper 2     Forces     Waves     Magnetism & Electromagnetism
Assessment Structure	6 x written papers (2 in each science discipline; Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Each paper is 75 minutes with 70 marks on each paper
Suggested next steps or course	A level Biology, A level Chemistry, A level Physics, A level Mathematics, A level Physical Education
Possible Careers	Engineering, Radiography, Medicine, Teaching, Roboticist, Veterinary Science, Forensics, Pharmacy, Environmental Scientist, Nuclear, Physicist
Vital resources	Tassomai (subscription provided by school)  CGP Revision Guides (option to purchase at a reduced rate through school)  BBC Bitesize  Science equipment listed above
IT used in this qualification	Calculator, Graphical excel tools, Online communication platforms such as email, Revision Website, Revision applications, Online simulation software such as Phet
Homework structure	4 'daily goals' per week on Tassomai plus additional exam technique practice
Best way to revise	Complete practice questions and Past Papers



Subject	Religious Education
Qualification Title	GCSE in Religious Education
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mrs Ganderton-Burns
Examination Board	Eduqas Route B
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies- gcse/#tab_overview
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
	Component 1: Foundational Catholic Theology - Theme 1: Origins and Meaning. Theme 2: Good and Evil
Course Description	Component 2: Applied Catholic Theology - Theme 1: Life and Death. Theme 2: Sin and Forgiveness.
	Component 3: Study of a World Faith - Judaism.
	3 written papers
	Paper 1 = Component 1: Foundational Catholic Theology - written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 37.5% of qualification
Assessment Structure	Paper 2 = Component 2: Applied Catholic Theology - written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 37.5% of qualification
	Paper 3 = Component 3: Study of a World Faith (Judaism) - written examination: 1 hour 25% of qualification
Suggested next steps or course	A-level Religious Studies, A-level Theology, Philosophy and Ethics
Possible Careers	Education, research, law, journalism and the media, social and pastoral care, counselling, mediation and negotiation roles, government, prison services, project management training and facilitation roles, charity work, personnel and accountancy
Vital resources	Suggested revision guide: My Revision Notes WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Route B Paperback by Andrew Barron
IT used in this qualification	Online communication platforms such as email, Google classroom, Seneca, Eduqas Route B Digital Resources: https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs?subId=26
Homework structure	One 40-minute task per week
Best way to revise	Use notes in exercise books, home learning booklets, knowledge organisers, revision booklets, Seneca



# **Option Subjects**

## Pupils chose three subjects from this section

One of which must be one of the EBacc Subjects

- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Computer Science

Subject	French
Qualification Title	GCSE in French
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic and EBacc
Head of Department	Miss Horrocks
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658
Assessment & Date	4 separate examinations in Summer of Year 11, each examination is worth 25% (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1
Tiered	Yes (Higher Grades 9 -4 & Foundation Grades 5-1)
Essential Equipment	Dictionary (but this could be an online one)
	The content has been organised into three broad topic areas and given a reference as follows:
Course Description	<ol> <li>Identity and culture</li> <li>Local, national, international and global areas of interest</li> <li>Current and future study and employment</li> </ol>
	All content will be covered on all of the papers.
	3 written papers - Each paper is worth 60 marks.
Assessment Structure	<ul> <li>listening paper: foundation 35 minutes; higher 45 minutes</li> <li>reading paper: foundation: 45 minutes; higher: 1 hour</li> <li>writing paper: foundation: 1 hour; higher 1 hour 15</li> </ul>
	Speaking: 24 minutes (1 role play, 1 photo card, 1 conversation) 12 minutes preparation time and 12 minutes test.
Suggested next steps or course	A level French, A Level Law, A Level English, A Level Sociology, A Level Business, A Level Geography, A Level History
Possible Careers	Lawyer, Teacher, Journalist, Interpreter, Marketing executive, Tourism, Diplomatic services
Vital resources	Kerboodle (subscription provided by school) & Memrise
Hamayyark structure	A set amount of points to achieve on memrise each week
Homework structure	Weekly tasks: either reading, writing or listening
Best way to revise	Complete questions and Past Papers
Trips in Key Stage 4	Year 10 are able to go on the appropriate language trip which is run each year

Subject	Geography
Qualification Title	GCSE in Geography
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic and EBacc
Head of Department	Mrs Williams
Examination Board	Edexcel
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Geography-B/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification_GCSE_L1-L2_Geography_B.pdf
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Scientific Calculator, Ruler, Pencil
Course Description	The subject content of this specification matches that set out in the Department for Education's Mathematics GCSE subject content and assessment objectives document. This content is common to all exam boards. The content has been organised into broad topic areas and given a reference as follows:  1. Global Geographical Issues:  • Hazardous Earth  • Development Dynamics  • Challenges of an Urbanising World  2. UK Geographical Issues  • The UK's Evolving Physical Landscape  • The UK's Evolving Human Landscape  • Geographical Investigations  3. People and Environment Issues  All content is assessed across three question papers.
Assessment Structure	3 written papers, Paper 1 = Global Geographical Issues, Paper 2 = UK Geographical Issues, Paper 3 = People and Environment Issues. Each paper is 90 minutes, Papers 1 and 2 are worth 94 marks each and contribute 37.5% each towards the total GCSE Grade. Paper 3 is worth 64 marks contributing the final 25% to the qualification
Suggested next steps or course	A level Geography, A level Geology, A level Politics
Possible Careers	Cartographer, Commercial/Residential Surveyor, Environmental / Sustainability Consultant, Geographical Information Systems Officer, Planning and Development Surveyor, Education, Town Planner

	The following revision resources are available to purchase from the Geography Department:
	Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Guide
Vital resources	Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Workbook
	Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Cards pack
	• Seneca
	Calculator
IT used in this qualification	Analysis of Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
	Online communication platforms such as email
	Revision Website
Homework structure	One 40-minute task per week
Best way to revise	Using a combination of revision strategies: revision notes / cue cards / mind maps and completing exam-style questions and Past Papers
Trips in Key Stage 4	Two geographical fieldwork days – one day focused on physical geography and the second focused on human geography







Subject	History
Qualification Title	GCSE History
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mrs Winrow
Examination Board	Edexcel
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-history-specification.pdf
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Edexcel GCSE History 9-1 Revision Guides
Course Description	At GCSE we study:  Paper 1: Medicine Through Time and the Historic Environment: The Western Front. Paper 2: Superpower Relations and the Cold War, Early Elizabethan England. Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany
	This content will all be assessed in three exam papers in the Summer of Year 11
	3 written papers  Paper 1: Medicine Through Time and the Historic Environment: The Western  Front. 1 hour and 15 minute paper- worth 52 marks- 30% of the qualification
Assessment Structure	Paper 2: Superpower Relations and the Cold War, Early Elizabethan England. 1 hour and 45 minute paper. 64 marks- 32 marks per section- 40% of the qualification
	Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany. 1 hour and 20 minute exam- worth 52 marks- 30% of the qualification
Suggested next steps or course	A Level History & A Level Politics
Possible Careers	Teaching, Law, Media and Journalism, Historic Heritage Sites and Organisations, The Civil Service, Museums and Galleries
Vital resources	Edexcel GCSE History 9-1 Revision Guide
IT used in this qualification	Online communication platforms such as email, Revision Websites, Seneca Revision App
Homework structure	One 40-minute task per week set
Best way to revise	Complete questions and Past Papers
Trips in Key Stage 4	The Battlefields Trip, Krakow and Auschwitz Trip

Subject	Spanish
Qualification Title	GCSE in Spanish
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic and EBacc
Head of Department	Miss Horrocks
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698
Assessment & Date	4 separate examinations in Summer of Year 11, each examination is worth 25% (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1
Tiered	Yes (Higher Grades 9 -4 & Foundation Grades 5-1)
Essential Equipment	Dictionary (but this could be an online one)
	The content has been organised into three broad topic areas and given a reference as follows:
Course Description	<ul><li>4. Identity and culture</li><li>5. Local, national, international and global areas of interest</li><li>6. Current and future study and employment</li></ul>
	All content will be covered on all of the papers.
Assessment Structure	<ol> <li>3 written papers - Each paper is worth 60 marks.</li> <li>1. listening paper: foundation 35 minutes; higher 45 minutes</li> <li>2. reading paper: foundation: 45 minutes; higher: 1 hour</li> <li>3. writing paper: foundation: 1 hour; higher 1 hour 15</li> <li>Speaking: 24 minutes (1 role play, 1 photo card, 1 conversation) 12 minutes preparation time and 12 minutes test.</li> </ol>
Suggested next steps or course	A level French, A Level Law, A Level English, A Level Sociology, A Level Business, A Level Geography, A Level History
Possible Careers	Lawyer, Teacher, Journalist, Interpreter, Marketing executive, Tourism, Diplomatic services
Vital resources	Kerboodle (subscription provided by school) & Memrise
Homework structure	A set amount of points to achieve on memrise each week
Homework structure	Weekly tasks: either reading, writing or listening
Best way to revise	Complete questions and Past Papers
Trips in Key Stage 4	Year 10 are able to go on the appropriate language trip which is run each year

Subject	Computer Science
Qualification Title	GCSE Computer Science
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mrs O'Brien
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/computing/specifications/AQA-8525-SP-2020.PDF
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Calculator
Course Description	In computing, you learn how computer systems work, from the physical parts (the hardware) to the apps and programs that users interact with (the software). The opportunity to learn how to create and manipulate computer systems, and how to apply the skills and approaches you pick up in computing to tackle real-life problems creatively.
Assessment Structure	Paper 1 – 2 hours, 90 marks Paper 2-2 hours, 90 marks
Suggested next steps or course	A Level Computer Science
Possible Careers	Application Analyst, Cybercrime Analyst, Programmer, Systems Analysis, Systems Developer, Data Analyst, Database Administrator, Games Developer, Information Systems Manager, Multimedia Programmer, IT consultant
Vital resources	BBC Bitesize
IT used in this qualification	Calculator Online communication platforms such as email Revision Website
Homework structure	Pupils will be given weekly homework tasks consisting of recall activities and research into specific businesses.  Year 10/11 minimum of 45 minutes study per week outside the classroom.
Best way to revise	Complete questions and Past Papers
Trips in Key Stage 4	Amazon Business owners - guest speakers

Subject	Art
Qualification Title	GCSE in Art, Craft and Design
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mrs Penny-Collings
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206
Assessment & Date	60% coursework 40% examination
Grading Structure	Yes (Higher Grades 9 -4 & Foundation Grades 5-1)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Sketchbook, Pencil, Eraser, Sharpener, Coloured pencils, Fineliner, Watercolour paints
Course Description	The course promotes learning across a variety of experiences and through various processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to generate different kinds of evidence of working and outcomes. Emphasis is on an increased breadth of approach commensurate in demand with the other titles. Pupils will work in a variety of disciplines such as fine art, painting, ceramics, printmaking and digital art work. The course will culminate in a personal, pupil-led project where pupils produce a portfolio of work to explore an idea, convey an experience or respond to a theme or issue of their choosing.
Assessment Structure	2 coursework projects, 1 x mock examination project, 1 x practical examination
Suggested next steps or course	A level Art, A level Photography
Possible Careers	Advertising designer, Animator, Architect, Art Teacher, Art therapist, Ceramics artist, Concept Artist, Curator, GCI artist, Design director, Event planner, Engineer, Fashion designer, Fine artist, Floral designer Graphic designer, Hairstylist, Illustrator, Tattoo artist, Interior designer, Jewellery designer, Make-up artist, Photographer, Photojournalist Production designer, Sculptor, Set decorator, Set dresser, Web designer, Wedding planner.
Vital resources	<u>www.pinterest.com, www.studentartguide.com,</u> BBC Bitesize – Art and Design
IT used in this qualification	Photoshop, Powerpoint, Microsoft Word, Email, Camerap hone
Homework structure	Homework is set every 1-2 weeks
Trips in Key Stage 4	One international trip per year (Covid permitting)

Subject	Business Studies
Qualification Title	GCSE Business Studies
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Miss Dolan
Examination Board	Edexcel
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Business/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/GCSE_Business_Spec_2017.pdf
Assessment & Date	Paper 1- 90 Marks, 90 minutes Paper 2- 90 Marks, 90 minutes
Grading Structure	Yes (Higher Grades 9 -4 & Foundation Grades 5-1)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Calculator
Course Description	The subject content of Edexcel Business Studies equips students with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect decision-making. They develop their understanding of concepts, objectives and terminology, and the impact of contemporary issues on business operations.
Assessment Structure	Two written papers, 90 minutes each, 90 marks Completed in Summer of Year 11
Suggested next steps or course	A Level Business Studies, A Level Economics
Possible Careers	Accountancy, Advertising, Banking, Investment and Financial Services, General Management, HR/Personnel, Management Consultancy, Public Relations, Retail Management
Vital resources	Tutor2U, BBC Bitesize, Edexcel Revision Guide
IT used in this qualification	Calculator, Online communication platforms such as email Revision Websites
Homework structure	Pupils will be given weekly homework tasks consisting of recall activities and research into specific businesses.  Year 10/11 minimum of 45 minutes study per week outside the classroom.
Best way to revise	Complete questions and Past Papers
Trips in Key Stage 4	Amazon Business owners - guest speakers

Subject	Classics
Qualification Title	GCSE in Classical Civilisation
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mrs Wood
Examination Board	OCR
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/classical-civilisation-j199-from-2017/specification-at-a-glance/
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
	Classical Civilisation provides learners with a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the culture of the classical world. It offers learners the opportunity to study elements of the literature and visual/material culture of the classical world, and acquire an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts.
Course Description	Component group 1: Thematic study
course Bescription	Students complete a comparative study of ancient Greece & Rome, and combine literary and visual/material sources. Myth and religion (11)
	Component group 2: Literature and culture
	Students couple an in-depth cultural study with the study of a related body of literature. The Homeric world (21)
Assessment Structure	Component group 1 Myth & religion (11) - 90 marks - 1 hour 30 mins Examination - 50% Component group 2 The Homeric World (21) - 90 marks - 1 hour 30 mins Examination - 50%
Suggested next steps or course	A level Classical Civilisation, A level History, A level Art, A level English Literature
Possible Careers	Publishing, Law, Museum roles, Architecture, Politics, Journalism, Broadcasting, Media, Creative Writing
Vital resources	OCR Textbook (provided by school), Homer's Odyssey – key sections (provided by school)
IT used in this qualification	Smart History App / Website / YouTube Channel
Homework structure	One 40-minute task per week
Best way to revise	Complete Questions & Past Papers, Mind Mapping topic areas, Cue Cards for fact recall
Trips in Key Stage 4	Athens or Rome (travel restrictions dependent)

Subject	Creative iMedia
Qualification Title	Level 2 Cambridge Nationals Creative iMedia
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Vocational
Head of Department	Miss B Akintoye
Examination Board	OCR
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/creative- imedia-level-1-2-j834/
Assessment & Date	Students must complete three units: • one externally assessed examination unit • two NEA* units (*Non-exam assessment). The exam unit may be taken in January or June of Year 11.
Grading Structure	Level 2: Distinction*; Distinction; Merit, Pass (A*-C) Level 1: Distinction, Merit, Pass (D-G)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Access to Google Classroom from home, internet access.
Course Description	This qualification has been designed to meet the Department for Education (DfE) requirements for qualifications in the Technical Award. The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia will encourage students to:  • understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, preproduction planning techniques, legal issues and creation/publishing/distribution considerations  • develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations  • think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically  • develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely  • design, plan, create and review digital media products which are fit for purpose meeting both client and target audience requirements.
Assessment Structure	1 compulsory written paper, 1 compulsory NEA*, 1 optional NEA*
Suggested next steps or course	A Level Media Studies & Level 3 Vocational Qualifications in Digital Media
Possible Careers	Creative: animator, content creator, copy writer, graphic designer, illustrator/graphic artist, photographer, script writer, web designer.  Technical: camera operator, games programmer/developer, sound editor, audio technician, video editor, web developer.  Admin roles: campaign manager, creative director, director, editor, production manager.
IT used in this qualification	Google Classroom – online, Adobe Creative Cloud provided by the school, Photopea – free alternative
Homework structure	One research, reading or skill development task set fortnightly.
Best way to revise	Past paper questions, build and develop practical skills, work to deadlines for NEAs.
Trips in Key Stage 4	Trip to BBC Studios

Subject	Design Technology
Qualification Title	GCSE in Design Technology
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Miss Ginsburgh
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552
Assessment & Date	50% examination in Summer of Year 11 & 50% NEA staring in Easter Year 10
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Scientific Calculator, Pencil, Glue, Scissors, Pen, Rubber
Course Description	<ul> <li>Design Technology is broken up into:</li> <li>Core technical principles</li> <li>Specialist principles</li> <li>Design and making principles</li> </ul> All three sections will be assessed in both the NEA and the Final Exam
Assessment Structure	35 hours of NEA & 2 hour exam at end of Year 11
Suggested next steps or course	A level Design Technology  A level Product Design  A level Engineering  BTEC Construction
Possible Careers	Engineering – Mechanical – Electrical – Aerospace – Civil – Structural, Architecture - Architectural Technologist – Interior Architect – Interior Design, Product Design, Jewellery Design, Construction, CAD Technician, Set/Theatre Design, Visual Merchandiser
Vital resources	Suggested revision books will be given and pupils pick which works best for them.
IT used in this qualification	CAD – Sketch Up -Tinker CAD – 2D Design  CAM – Laser cutter – 3D printer  Power Point – Word – Excel
Homework structure	One 40-minute task per week

Subject	Food & Nutrition
Qualification Title	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mrs Breton
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585/specification-at-a-glance
Assessment & Date	50% - Written examination - Summer of Year 11, 15% - NEA1 – Food Investigation - September of Year 11, 35% - NEA2 – Food Preparation Assessment – September to February of Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Ingredients and container when required, Revision Guide,
Course Description	This new GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting course where pupils will develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the chemical properties and working characteristics of foods. Pupils will develop practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of food.  There are five core topics:  a) Food, nutrition and health, (b) Food science (c) Food safety, (d)
	Food choice (e) Food provenance  15% (30 marks) - NEA1 – Food Investigation, 35% (70 marks) - NEA2 –
Assessment Structure	Food Preparation Assessment, 50% (100 marks) - Written examination – 1 hr 45 mins
Suggested next steps or course	Food Science, Human Nutrition, Food Science & Innovation, Nutritional Therapy, Food Business Management, Food Marketing, Food Technology & Product Development
Possible Careers	Nutritionist, catering, sensory science, sports science, food science, food stylist, food microbiologist, agricultural science, product development, quality control, food manufacturer, branding, dietitian, marketing, research, biochemist, chef, home economist researcher for media and TV
Vital resources	Revision Guide – recommendations will be given, Knowledge organisers – will be given, Ingredients – when required,
IT used in this qualification	Revision Website, Online communication platforms such as email, Google Classroom, google docs,
Homework structure	One 40-minute task per week, Organising ingredients, Practicing food preparation skills
Best way to revise	Practice food preparation skills at home, Seneca, Revision Guide, Knowledge Organisers, Complete questions and Past Papers

Subject	Music
Qualification Title	GCSE Music
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mrs Edwards
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271
Assessment & Date	Summer in Year 11
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
Course Description	The GCSE Music course provides substantial scope for exploration of pupils' personal musical interests, as well as appreciation of the wider musical context.  The course structure is as follows:-  Component 1 - Understanding Music: 40% of the total award  Students explore different types of music ranging from Mozart to Paul Simon and Little Shop of Horrors! This is assessed through a Listening exam.  Component 2 - Performing Music: 30% of the total award  Students to perform one individual performance and one ensemble (group) performance which, combined, last for a minimum of four minutes. These can be recorded at any point in the course and will be re-recorded in Year 11.  Component 3 - Composing Music: 30% of the total award  Students compose two pieces of music in any style or genre of the student's choosing. One composition will be completed during Year 11 and will respond to a brief set by the examination board.
Assessment Structure	One Listening/Written examination (hour and a half) Solo and Ensemble performances (minimum of four minutes) Two individual compositions (one responding to a brief)
Suggested next steps or course	A Level Music , A Level Music Technology, BTEC Music Level 3, numerous sound recording courses, numerous performance courses including theatre courses.
Possible Careers	Secondary Music Teacher, Primary School Teacher, Music Performer, Music Production, Sound Engineering, Composer, Music Arranger, Events Organising/Fundraiser, Band Management
Vital resources	Music Dictionary Musical instrument AQA GCSE Study Guide The usual school equipment, including a pencil and rubber for music notation
Homework structure	Weekly task for 40 minutes

Subject	GCSE PE
Qualification Title	GCSE in Physical Education
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Mrs Regan
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582/specification-at-a-glance
	60% Examination – Paper 1 30% and Paper 2 30% in the Summer of Year 11.
Assessment & Date	40% Non-Examined Assessment
	10% Coursework – Spring of Year 11 deadline
	30% Practical – 3 sports: 1 individual, 1 team, and a third sport either individual or team. Moderation in the Spring term of Year 11.
Grading Structure	Grades 9 to 1 (formerly A*- G)
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	AQA Revision Guide & Full PE Kit
	The subject content of this specification matches that set out in the Department for Education's GCSE PE subject content and assessment objectives document. This content is common to all exam boards.
Course Description	The content has been organised into broad topic areas and given a reference as follows:
Course Description	Paper 1: Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, Use of Data
	Paper 2: Sports Psychology, Socio-Cultural Influences, Health, Fitness and Well-Being, Use of Data.
Assessment Structure	All content can be assessed on any of the two question papers.  2 written papers - Paper 1 = The Human Body and Movement in Physical Activity and Sport & Paper 2 = Socio-Cultural Influences and Well-Being in Physical Activity and Sport
	Each paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes with 78 marks on each paper
	Non-Examined Assessment:
	- 10% Coursework – A self-evaluation and improvement document of ones own performance in a sport.
	30% Practical – 3 sports: 1 individual, 1 team, and a third sport either individual or team.
Suggested next steps or course	A Level PE

	T Level Cambridge National Sports Studies Level 3 Certificate
	T Level Cambridge National Sports Studies Level 3 Diploma
Possible Careers	Teaching, Coaching, Sport Science, Sport Psychology, Sports Therapy, Physiotherapy
Vital resources	EverLearner (subscription provided by school), Seneca (subscription provided by school)
IT used in this qualification	EverLearner Revision Website, Online communication platforms such as email
Homework structure	One 40-minute task fortnightly set on EverLearner, One written document: Exam questions, revision tools, resource development
Best way to revise	Complete questions and Past Papers, alongside tracking performances on EverLearner
Trips in Key Stage 4	Rock Climbing Trip if student is struggling for an individual sport performance.





Subject	Cambridge National in Sport
Qualification Title	GCSE in Physical Education
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Vocational
Head of Department	Mrs Regan/Miss Hodgin/Mr Thorpe
Examination Board	OCR
Link to Exam Board Specification	https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/82412-specification.pdf
Assessment & Date	Examination – January or the summer of Year 11
Grading Structure	Distinction * 9, Distinction 7/8, Merit 6/7, Pass is equivalent to grade 4/5
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Cambridge Revision Guide & Full PE Kit if taking part in practical or leadership sessions
	The aim of this course is to develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that can be used in the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector. This is an engaging qualification where pupils will use learning in practical, real-life situations.
	Contemporary issues
	<ul> <li>The exam looks at issues in sport and how they impact on different sporting activities</li> </ul>
Course Description	Performance and leadership in sports activities
Course Description	<ul> <li>- Will look at how pupils apply their skills as both a performer in two different sporting activities and as a leader in one sporting activity</li> <li>- How to be a sports leader, through using your initiative to solve problems and making decisions when dealing with rapidly changing conditions and situations</li> </ul>
	Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities
	<ul> <li>- Will look at pupils applying skills to participate in an outdoor and adventurous activity in a natural setting and environment.</li> </ul>
	One written exam (Contemporary issues in sport) which is 1 hour long worth 60 marks 40%
Assessment Structure	Two other coursework-based units. These are: Performance and leadership in sports activities. This includes assessment of 1 individual and 1 team activity 40% and Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities 20%
Suggested next steps or	T Level Cambridge National Sports Studies Level 3 Certificate
course	T Level Cambridge National Sports Studies Level 3 Diploma

Possible Careers	Teaching, Coaching, Sports Journalism, Personal trainer, Sports analyst, Sports events planner, Leisure centre manager
Vital resources	Cambridge revision guide & PE kit to deliver coaching sessions and for practical lessons
IT used in this qualification	Online communication platforms such as google classroom, google drive, Word. PowerPoint
Homework structure	Weekly coursework tasks/Exam based questions
Best way to revise	Complete questions and Past Papers, alongside use of revision guides, attending revision sessions
Trips in Key Stage 4	OAA trip to Sale Water park









# Additional 4th Option

Two evenings a week from 3pm until 4pm

Subject	Triple Science – Biology, Chemistry & Physics
Qualification Title	GCSE in Biology, GCSE in Chemistry & GCSE in Physics
Academic or Vocational Qualification	Academic
Head of Department	Miss Griffiths
Examination Board	AQA
Link to Exam Board Specification	GCSE Biology Specification Specification for first teaching in 2016 (aqa.org.uk)
	GCSE Physics Specification Specification for first teaching in 2016 (aqa.org.uk)
	GCSE Chemistry Specification Specification for first teaching in 2016 (aqa.org.uk)
Assessment & Date	100% examination in Summer of Year 10
Grading Structure	One grade assigned on a 17 point scale from 9-9 to 1-1. The single grade assigned is double weighted and represents a grade in two qualifications for Combined Science. Grade 9-9 highest to Grade 1-1 lowest.
Tiered	No
Essential Equipment	Scientific Calculator, 30 cm ruler, Protractor
Course Description	The subject content of this specification matches that set out in the Department for Education's Combined Science GCSE subject content and assessment objectives document. This content is common to all exam boards.  The content has been organised into topic areas per Science discipline and papers as follows: Biology Paper 1  Cell Biology  Organisation Infection & Response Bioenergetics Biology Paper 2  Homeostasis & Response Inheritance, variation & evolution Ecology Chemistry Paper 1  Atomic Structure & The Periodic Table Bonding, Structure & Properties of Matter Quantitative Chemistry Chemical Changes Energy Changes Chemistry Paper 2  The Rate & Extent of Chemical Change Organic Chemistry Chemical Analysis Chemistry of the atmosphere

<sup>-</sup> Inspiring People, Changing Lives -

	<ul> <li>Using Resources</li> <li>Physics Paper 1</li> <li>Energy</li> <li>Electricity</li> <li>The Particle Model of Matter</li> <li>Atomic Structure</li> <li>Physics Paper 2</li> <li>Forces</li> <li>Waves</li> <li>Magnetism &amp; Electromagnetism</li> <li>Space</li> </ul>
Assessment Structure	6 x written papers (2 in each science discipline; Biology, Chemistry and Physics)  Each paper is 105 minutes with 100 marks on each paper
Suggested next steps or course	A level Biology, A level Chemistry, A level Physics, A level Mathematics, A level Physical Education
Possible Careers	Engineering, Radiography, Medicine, Teaching, Roboticist, Veterinary Science, Forensics, Pharmacy, Environmental Scientist, Nuclear Physicist
Vital resources	SENECA, Pate Resources, Y Drive/Google Drive – past papers, quizzes and recorded lessons
IT used in this qualification	Revision websites Email and online classrooms
Homework structure	One 40 minute reading task each week completed in a booklet with a focus on vocabulary, inference and interpretations.
Best way to revise	Complete questions and past papers

