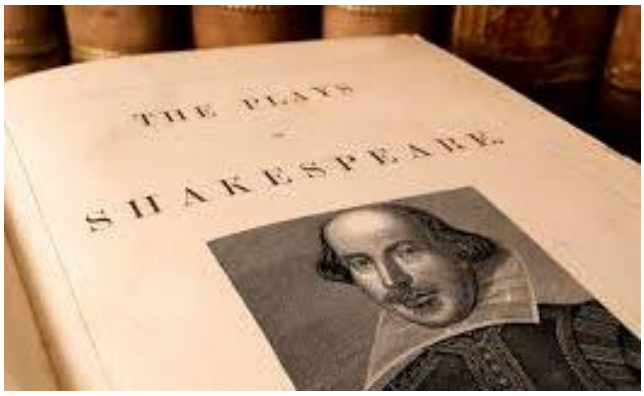
Ormiston Sudbury Academy

Curriculum Choices 2025

GCSE ENGLISH/ENGLISH LITERATURE



Why is this subject worth studying?
English is integral to everyday life – the skills of reading, writing and speaking effectively, to get your point across, are some of the cornerstones to success in today's society.

Through studying GCSE English, you will have the opportunity to discover a deeper meaning in books, newspapers, and other written texts, as well as studying classic literature from different periods in time.

What will I study in this subject?
English and English Literature are studied in depth, resulting in two separate qualifications.
You will explore ways in which writers adapt texts to suit their purpose and audience, through studying novels, plays, Shakespeare and poetry. You will learn how to present texts effectively and develop skills for responding to unseen texts.
The skills you learn will be assessed through final terminal examinations at the end of the two-year course.

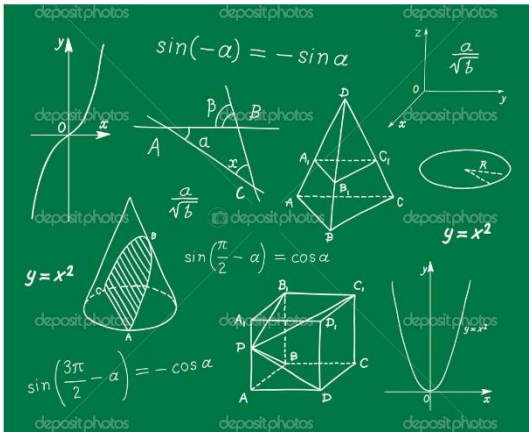
What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?
English is best approached with an open mind; you should be creative, thoughtful and have the desire to express yourself clearly.
Be willing to share ideas and make points for other people to build upon – speaking and listening to each other is of great value. An ability to act out parts and really get involved with a topic is also a valuable plus!
Read as much as possible to have a deeper understanding of topics/subjects and develop vocabulary.

How will this subject be assessed?

- English Literature will be assessed by examinations at the end of Year 11
- English Language will be assessed by examinations at the end of Year 11
- There will be only 1 tier of entry for all students.
- Students will be assessed using a numerical scale of 1-9

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Why is this subject worth studying?



Students in today's society need to be literate and numerate which is why Maths and English are so important. GCSE Maths offers a mixture of practical Maths alongside the rigour needed to be an academic course.

GCSE Maths allows students to improve their problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge to real-life situations. There is an increasing need for students to explain their thinking with their assessments which is valuable experience for their futures; employers are looking for employees who can work independently, without the need for constant support, and to coherently explain their plans and decisions.

Maths is a demanding subject and the 9–1 GCSE course is unashamedly more challenging than ever, but it is also very rewarding. It allows students to gain a sense of achievement and satisfaction in problem solving. Students who are successful in Maths have many opportunities available to them. It should be noted that most sixth forms, colleges, universities and employers are looking for a minimum of a grade 4 or 5 at GCSE, and that students who have not secured a 'good' pass will be required to continue studying Maths alongside their post-16 options.

What will I study in this subject?

GCSE Maths is split into the following areas – Number; Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change; Algebra; Statistics and Probability; and Geometry and Measures. There is greater emphasis on the first three of these areas, in recognition of the need for strong numeracy, number sense and proportional reasoning in later life and in the workplace, and of the strong methodical problem-solving skills built up in studying algebra.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

You will need to develop excellent problem-solving skills to succeed at Maths. You will require resilience, especially when the going gets tough, and the ability to think outside the box. Determination and belief in yourself – a growth mind set – are important to allow you to succeed, and willingness to commit to lots of practising Maths both in and out of lessons will have a crucial impact on your final grade.

How will this subject be assessed?

There are 2 tiers of entry at GCSE – Higher and Foundation. Whichever tier you take, you will sit 3 exams, each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. One is a non-calculator exam and the other two are calculator exams. The Higher tier covers content at grades 9 – 4, while the Foundation tier exam covers grades 5 – 1 and has a maximum grade of 5. There is no coursework in Maths – the course is assessed purely through the 3 exams at the end of Year 11.

Equipment you will need:

Scientific calculator, compass, protractor, ruler in addition to your everyday equipment.

GCSE SCIENCE

Why is this subject worth studying?

Science is all around us and linked to everything we do. Science asks questions about our world and by performing investigations, scientists find out the answers to their questions. By studying science, you will acquire skills in communication, practical work, questioning, researching and exploring ethical issues. Science has 3 main subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics each specialising in a different aspect of our everyday lives.

Science is vital to development and where the future might lead. It is only through the study of science we can develop and grow our industries and way of life. Science affects everything we do from working on computers, to touch screen 'phones to medicines taken when people get ill.

It can lead to a variety of science related careers for example: health professionals, vet and pharmacist, engineers and forensic analysist. However, so many other jobs require science and skills developed throughout the studying of science including: hairdressers, farmers, firefighters, climate change workers, surveyors and architects.

What will I study in this subject?

There are 2 options for studying science; combined science which results in 2 qualifications, or triple science which results in 3 qualifications. You will have completed your Key Stage 3 course by the end of the autumn term in Year 9 and will start to study towards your GCSE science course. Both combined and triple give you a broad understanding of all three sciences.

Both courses cover topics from: cells to managing health and food production; atoms; to fuel production and states of matter to electrical systems and space.

TRIPLE AWARD

Following the triple science pathway allows you to go into greater depth in all three sciences, it allows more opportunity to carry out advanced practical and develop skills that universities and employers value. The triple science course better prepares students for taking science subjects at A level and beyond.

COMBINED AWARD

The content of combined science is similar to triple but not in as great a depth, there are still opportunities to carry out practical investigations and develop important skills for life and work.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

To be successful in GCSE Science, you will need to be inquisitive, a good team worker as well as being able to work independently. You will need to be organised and conscientious and learn to apply your knowledge to different topics across science.

How will this subject be assessed?

There will be tests throughout the course to assess your understanding and offer feedback and opportunities to reflect on your learning. In year 11 if you have followed combined science, you will sit 6 x 1hour 15-minute exams, each making up 16.7% of your final GCSE grade. If you follow the triple science pathway route you will sit 2 x 1hour 45-minute exams, each with a 50% weighting, in each of the 3 subject areas.

Core Physical Education

Why is this subject worth studying?
All students follow the Core PE programme throughout Years 10 and 11.
The aims of this programme are to:

- Promote student enjoyment and to give them the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of sports and activities.
- Promote physical activity and the importance of a healthy active lifestyle.
- Develop a positive attitude towards physical activity.
- Improve and maintain fitness levels.
- Inspire students to participate in physical activity on a regular basis both now and in the future.

What will I study in this subject?
You will choose to be in one of four PE groups and follow a wide range of different activities which best suits you. There is also an extensive extracurricular programme with numerous activities running after lessons.

In each group you will have the opportunity to

- Outwit opponents in games activities.
- Explore and communicate ideas.
- Perform at maximum levels.
- Identify and solve problems to overcome challenges.
- Exercise safely and effectively to improve health and well-being.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?
- Take a full and active part in all lessons.
- Approach all lessons with a positive attitude.
- Have a willingness to improve fitness and performance levels.
- Be prepared with all the items of kit you require.
- Develop skills learnt by attending extra-curricular clubs and representing academy teams.

How will this subject be assessed?
Each sport (unit of work) will last approximately 6 lessons. Practical assessment will be graded against the GCSE practical activity criteria. Students will evaluate their performance and complete a work booklet at the end of each unit of work.

GCSE FRENCH

Why is this subject worth studying?

Today we all take it for granted that we can travel freely to other countries. But how many of us really get to know a foreign country when we visit? Without even a basic command of the language we are unable to really communicate with the people there or understand their culture, traditions and values.

Employers here and abroad are looking for people who can communicate well – in their own language and in other languages, too. Languages are valuable in a wide range of jobs, including travel and tourism, banking, teaching, translating, law and business.

During the GCSE French course there will be the opportunity to get to know France and French-speaking countries better.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

Over the 2-year course we cover the following themes:

- identity and culture
- local area, holiday, travel
- school
- future aspirations, study and work
- international and global dimension

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

If you enjoy communicating, then you will do well in French.

It is also useful if you have a good memory as there will be times when you need to learn language off by heart. If you like solving puzzles or conundrums, then maybe French is right for you. It can be really satisfying to piece bits of language together and develop your understanding of grammar – not just in French but you'll find you will understand English better as well!

How will this subject be assessed?

You will be assessed in the 4 key language learning skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Each skill is assessed by an exam at the end of Year 11 worth 25%.

GCSE Religious Studies

Why is this subject worth studying?

This subject explores the bigger questions of life and morality. It challenges the concepts of right and wrong and examines the philosophy that underpins the development of our society, laws and culture. Engagement in lessons contributes to success in other subjects that require critical thinking and good written and verbal skills such as English and history. This is a very well-regarded subject, both at GCSE and A level.

Course content

There are two components to this GCSE:

Component 1: The study of Christian and Buddhist beliefs and teachings.

Component 2: Ethical and Philosophical studies.

There are 4 strands to this:

Theme B: Religion and Life

Theme C: The existence of God

Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

To succeed on this course, you will need to:

Engage in debate and discussion both in class and at home.

Develop the capacity to write at length and produce a coherent argument supported by evidence. Acknowledge different viewpoints and be able to reach conclusions and express your opinion.

Revise thoroughly for final examinations.

Be willing to complete regular homework consisting of either writing or reading specific books for the unit of study.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is by examination in the summer of Year 11.

Component 1 has a weighting of 50%. There is one written exam (1 hour, 45 minutes). Each religion assessed has a common structure of two five-part questions.

Component 2 has a weighting of 50%. There is one written exam (1 hour, 45 minutes). Each component has a common structure of one five-part question.

BTEC Child Development

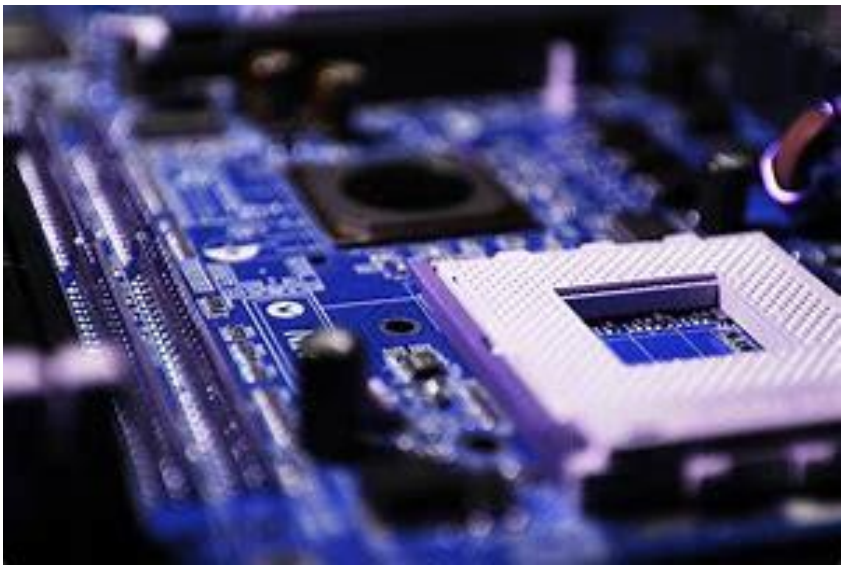
Why is this subject worth studying?
This is an exciting course offered to those students who have an interest in working with children. It is not essential, but students would benefit from having regular contact with a child or children under the age of 5. There is no work experience attached to this qualification.

What will I study if I choose this subject?
This qualification provides the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that gives a basic introduction to the sector. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being, necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of learners who wish to be introduced to childcare and development for children aged 0-5 years. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles and assists in developing their ability to study.

How will this subject be assessed?
Assessment is via two internally assessed tasks and an externally assessed unit, which encompasses all topics studied during Key Stage 4. The Award is graded from Pass Level 1 to Distinction Level 2.

GCSE Computer Science

Why is this subject worth studying?



Students will be required to design, write, test and refine program code in one of three coding languages Students will also gain practical experience of:

- structuring programs into modular parts with clear documented interfaces to enable them to design appropriate modular structures for solutions.
- including authentication and data validation systems/routines within their computer programs
- writing, debugging and testing programs to enable them to develop the skills to articulate how programs work and argue using logical reasoning for the correctness of programs in solving specified problems.
- designing and applying test data (normal, boundary and erroneous) to the testing of programs so that they are familiar with these test data types and the purpose of testing.
- refining programs in response to testing outcomes.

Students will be given as much opportunity as possible to practise their programming skills.

What will I study in this subject?

Fundamentals of algorithms; Programming; Fundamentals of data representation; Computer systems; Fundamentals of computer networks; Cyber security; Relational databases and structured query language (SQL); Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

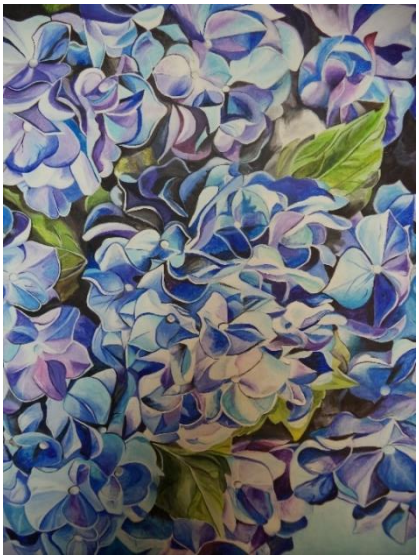
Due to the nature of the qualification, students need to be proficient in Maths (Grade 6 or better) to access the content.

This qualification is designed for anyone who is looking to gain knowledge and skills of core IT user skills and software applications to progress their learning in IT, or any subject where basic IT skills are required.

How will this subject be assessed?

Assessment is by two examination – each 50% of the GCSE qualification - A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving, theoretical knowledge and computational thinking skills.

GCSE ART and DESIGN



Why is this subject worth studying?

Art is a creative subject offering the opportunity to develop imagination and intuitive responses based upon personal experiences, taught skills and understanding. You will have the opportunity to develop skills in many media types.

If you are interested in art including the work of artists and would like to take your interest further, GCSE Art, Craft & Design is a good basis for A Level and Further Education creative courses. It is also an essential subject for those wishing to study creative Higher Education courses related to Art, Craft & Design career paths, including: Architecture, Animation, Interior Design, Graphic design, Set Design, Printmaking, Fashion and Costume Design, Advertising, Photography, Film making, Illustration, Editorial and Web Design, CAD designing, Museum and Exhibition Curation, Art Restoration, Textile Design, Game, Creative jobs within App design and the social media industry, Sculptor, Teaching and careers linked to Art Therapy.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

Art is a popular GCSE choice, allowing you to develop your own ideas through recording and investigations, demonstrating your own visual ideas and creative literacy skills, from a set theme. Continuing your interest out of the lesson is an essential part of the weekly commitment to the Art, Craft & Design course, and you will be set independent weekly study tasks to refine ideas and develop your sketchbook work.

You will be encouraged to explore select and experiment with media, materials, techniques and processes over the two-year course. In addition, you will learn to record ideas, observations, and develop your drawing skills. Areas students may explore throughout the course include: Experimental media drawings. acrylic painting, batik (with embroidery), printmaking, clay, photography (exploring Photoshop) and an independent outcome piece in Year 11. Sketchbook work will develop many other experimental mixed media sample pieces, and you will also look at the way artists and designers have influenced art history and techniques, applying this knowledge to your own sketchbook annotation and practical work.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

We are looking for enthusiastic, well-motivated and hardworking students who are willing to get involved in the creative art subject in class and continue this independence at home and at art club. You will need to be committed to spending time on your coursework portfolio and outcomes, and enjoy art, visiting museums and galleries - looking at the work of other artists to inspire your own ideas.

How will this subject be assessed?

During the course you will explore four Assessment Objectives. These include: 'Develop' – demonstrating critical understanding; 'Explore' - experimenting and selecting appropriate media and processes; 'Record' – observations and insights as work progresses and 'Present' – a personal and meaningful responses that realise intentions.

GCSE Portfolio 60% - For this unit students need to produce a portfolio of work, including a sketchbook of work and supported portfolio outcome pieces, from a centre based selected themes.

GCSE Examination 40% - For this unit students will be provided with an externally set assignment, and produce supportive preparatory studies, in preparation for a 10-hour practical exam.

Equipment you will need:

Sketchbook and artist pencils, in addition to your everyday equipment.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Why is this subject worth studying?

Food preparation and nutrition will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and encouragement they need to cook. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition, and healthy eating.

Students will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways and develop vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

The skills and attributes acquired by studying this course are considerable. We build upon and develop the skills students already have, enabling them to become independent, confident, and adventurous cooks who experiment with ingredients to create innovative, original, and successful products.

Related career paths include: nutritionist, dietician, food standards advisor, environmental health officer, TV programme advisor, teacher and new product developer working for one of the many supermarkets and food manufacturing companies.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

You will gain understanding of modern food production in areas such as: Food, nutrition, and health; Food science; Food safety; Food choice; Food provenance; Food preparation and cooking techniques.

The range of food and ingredients studied should reflect the recommended guidelines for a healthy diet based on the main food commodity groups. Students must know how and when a range of twelve food preparation skills that can be applied and combined to achieve specific outcomes. The choice of recipes to exemplify the skills will be at our discretion.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

You must be enthusiastic about food and cooking; and interested in what people need to eat to stay healthy. We cook lots of different types of foods, and you must be willing to try new things. Food students need to able to bring ingredients in weekly and must be organised.

How will this subject be assessed?

- 50% of the course is assessed via a written exam (1 hr 45 mins) at the end of Year 11.
- Two controlled assessments
    - Food investigation: testing the practical application and understanding of ingredients.
    - Food preparation assessment: planning, including nutritional knowledge, preparing, and cooking three courses within 3 hours.

BTEC Engineering

Why is this course useful and what might it lead to?
Engineering is an increasingly innovative and exciting area to work in. It affects every aspect of modern life – from skyscrapers to smart 'phones, cars to carrier bags. This course introduces students to a host of new technologies, helping them to gain practical skills and understanding to inspire a lifelong interest in engineering. It will particularly appeal to those who enjoy being creative, with an affinity for drawing, making, maths and problem-solving. This qualification has immediate relevance to today's industrial and commercial needs and can be seen as the right qualification for those seeking employment in the exciting and diverse subject of engineering, whether at the level of engineering technician or engineering management.

What will I study if I choose this subject?
Core content:
Engineering disciplines; Applied science and mathematics in Engineering; Reading engineering drawings; Properties and selection of engineering materials; Engineering tools, equipment and machines; Hand-drawn engineering drawings; Computer-aided design (CAD) engineering drawings; Production planning techniques; Applied processing skills and techniques
Coursework Content:
Application of skills, knowledge and understanding in a practical context. Analysis and evaluation of evidence.
Students produce:
· Engineered products using workshop technology
· 2D engineering drawings, using hand-drawn and CAD techniques
· A portfolio of evidence relating to the above core content engineering disciplines
In the coursework section you will learn about the different aspects of engineering manufacture so that you can read engineering drawings and produce accurate, high-quality products.
You will also develop an understanding of the processes involved in producing an engineered product. You will learn how to create a production plan, use a variety of tools, equipment, machinery, and other suitable engineering processes to produce engineered products. You will also learn about and apply the different health and safety procedures applicable to different engineering processes, and understand the laws and regulations involved in staying safe in an engineering environment.

What should I consider before starting this subject?
You need to have shown a good level of commitment with regards to 'health and safety' and 'design and make' tasks in your Design and Technology lessons. You will be trained to use all the tools and equipment in the workshops to manufacture engineered components from mostly metals. You need to be able to confidently use a computer and be able to find out information for yourself. If you enjoy making products, show a good level of commitment to learning and have a keen interest in a vocational pathway, then you will excel in this subject.

GCSE Design and Technology

Why is this course useful and what might it lead to?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. This GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques, and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

1. Core technical principles
2. Specialist technical principles
3. Design and making principles

Coursework Content: (50% of GCSE) Written External Exam (50% of GCSE)

Substantial design and make task.

How will this subject be assessed?

• Identifying and investigating design possibilities • Producing a design brief and specification • Generating design ideas • Developing design ideas • Realising design ideas • Analysing and evaluating

Students will be awarded marks holistically, not as producing separate items of coursework.

Students will learn about Design and Technology within a wide range of contexts. They will also learn how the prototypes they develop must satisfy wants or needs and be fit for their intended use. For example, the home, school, work, or leisure. Students will need to demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of designing and making principles in relation to the following areas:

• investigation, primary and secondary data • environmental, social, and economic challenge • the work of others • design strategies • communication of design ideas • prototype development • selection of materials and components • tolerances • material management • specialist tools and equipment

• specialist techniques and processes

What should I consider before starting this subject?

You need to have shown a good level of commitment with regards to 'health and safety' and 'design and make' tasks in your Design and Technology lessons. You will be trained to use all the tools and equipment in the workshops to manufacture components from a wide variety of materials. You need to be able to use a computer and be able to clearly describe, explain and evaluate your ideas. If you enjoy designing to help solve real life problems, making products and show a good level of commitment to learning, then you will excel in this subject.

GCSE Geography

Why is this subject worth studying?

"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future" – Michael Palin

Studying GCSE Geography will help students to:

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of current events from the local area to the global scale.
- Investigate the earth and its peoples.
- Study the features of the earth, such as weather and climate, rivers, seas, and ecosystems and how they are formed.
- Develop a range of useful skills such as map reading, data collection, ICT and problem solving.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of the cultures and backgrounds of people from all over the world.

Students studying Geography follow a variety of careers path including:
Retail management, the business world, travel tourism and leisure sectors, teaching, social work, planners and advisors, environmental management, weather forecasting, coastal engineering, risk assessor, flood management, hazard prediction, hydrology, cartography, remote sensing, and surveying.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

Investigating Geographical Issues: Theme 1: Changing Places – Changing Economies. Theme 2: Changing Environments. Theme 3: Environmental Challenges - 1 h 45m exam (40% of GCSE).

Problem Solving Geography: Decision making exercise - 1 h 30m exam (30% of GCSE).

Applied Fieldwork Enquiry: Fieldwork, and geographical skills - 1 h 30m exam (30% of GCSE).

Throughout the course, you are encouraged to take part in day trips to various geographical sites and there is the opportunity to go on a residential field trip.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

Are you interested in the world around you? Are you concerned about the environment? Are you interested in people and cultures around the world? Are you able to listen to all sides of an argument and make informed decisions?

If the answer is yes, then you should consider taking GCSE Geography.

GCSE History

Why is this subject worth studying?

History is a lively and exciting subject that is respected by employers of all sorts. Students of history have gone on to work in a huge range of careers.

History teaches one to ask the right questions and to be discerning in gathering evidence for answers. Students learn to analyse causes and consequences of events; to investigate change and continuity across long periods of time; to consider the use of source material to build arguments; and to challenge the arguments of others.

A study of history is a study of people; real people living lives both remarkably similar and almost entirely different to our own. In this, it is unique.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment

Medicine in Britain, c1250-present *and* The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatment, and the trenches. Here you will study how and why our understanding of illness has changed from the Middle Ages to the Present Day. Within this you will also carry out a depth study of illness and treatment during WWI.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

Within this paper two you will study, British depth study (Henry VIII and his ministers) and an international period study (The American West c1835-c1985). By studying Henry VIII, you will learn how he changed England through his religious reform. The American West depth study looks at how the United States grew and developed so much in the 19th century.

Paper 3: Modern depth study

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939. Here you will study The Weimar Republic 1918-29, Hitler's Rise to Power 1919-33, Nazi Control and Dictatorship 1933-39 and Life in Nazi Germany 1933-39.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

If you would like to take history, you will, first and foremost, enjoy the subject. However, success will only come with hard work, and you will certainly be expected to do this by your history teacher, in lessons and at home. History lessons will involve lots of discussion, group tasks and some active learning, but also longer passages of reading and writing.

How will this subject be assessed?

There are three written exams. The exams will all be at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes, Paper 2 lasts 1 hour, and 45 minutes and Paper 3 lasts 1 hour and 20 minutes.

BTEC ACTING

Why is this subject worth studying?

This is a creative and exciting course suited to students who have an appetite to develop their skills and knowledge in Acting. There is a particular emphasis on performance and students will study a wide range of theatre styles.

This is a vocational course – in other words, it is practical and takes a real-world approach to learning. The assessed performances will be real life opportunities such as Children's Theatre tours of local primary schools or full productions in local theatres. Students should enjoy going to see professional theatre and taking part in practical workshops.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts. You will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts. You will develop your acting skills and techniques through the reproduction of professional repertoire in a variety of styles.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief. You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

You must have a passion for acting and performance. You will need to be dedicated and committed to work outside of lessons such as rehearsals and productions and read around the subject including scripts. You will also need to be well organised and have good time management skills.

How will this subject be assessed?

The BTEC Acting course is made up of several assessed performances throughout the two years. All practical work is assessed and then your best results are carried forwards. One piece of work, for the individual showcase unit, is recorded and externally assessed by an examiner.

BTEC DANCE

Why is this subject worth studying?

This is a creative, exciting, and diverse course that challenges students' practical and theoretical ability in choreography, performance, and appreciation. Due to the vocational nature of the BTEC, students will build skills in organisation, time management, independent and collaborative work, selecting and refining information as well as a host of others. The course is practically based which provides lots of opportunities for creative and performance work which always leads to being involved in a show. This course supports careers in: professional performance, technical work, arts administration, teaching and community work.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts. You will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts. You will develop your dance skills and techniques through the reproduction of professional repertoire in a variety of styles.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief. You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

Students must have a passion for dance and performance. You will need to be dedicated and committed to work outside of lessons such as rehearsals and shows. You will also need to be well organised and have good time management skills.

How will this subject be assessed?

The majority of the course is an ongoing assessment of practical work that is conducted by your teacher. One piece of work, for component 3, is recorded and externally assessed by an examiner.

BTEC MUSIC

Why is the course worth studying?

BTEC music is a creative, exciting, and diverse course that allows students to explore and find out about music and the music industry. Due to the vocational nature of the course, students will gain the skills needed to be successful in the music industry today through real life situations. Skills learnt include: performing, composing, musical analysis along with knowledge of how the music industry works.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

Component one: You will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.

Component two: You will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting your progress and planning for further improvement.

Component three: You will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief. You will demonstrate your understanding of how to respond to a music brief, how to select and apply musical skills in response to a music brief, how to present a final musical product in response to a music brief and finally how to comment on the creative process and outcome in response to a music brief.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

You must have a passion for music and performing. Students will need to be dedicated and committed to work outside of lessons such as rehearsals and productions. You will also need to be well organised and have good time management skills.

How will this subject be assessed?

The majority of the course is an ongoing assessment of practical work that is conducted by your teacher. One piece of work, for component 3, is recorded and externally assessed by an examiner.

GCSE Physical Education

Why is this subject worth studying?

The GCSE PE course involves a mixture of theory and practical lessons. These are in addition to Core PE lessons.

The course is suited to students who have a passion for sport and want to learn more about the rules, regulations and tactics of different sports as well as having an interest in the human body and the importance of a healthy active lifestyle.

The course is suited to students who wish to continue studying Physical Education at Level 3 and beyond.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

In practical lessons you will follow a range of activities and at the end of the course will be assessed in **three** practical activities out of those followed. These include: football, basketball, hockey, badminton, trampolining, cricket, dance, netball, rugby, table tennis, tennis, and athletics.

In theory lessons you will complete two theory exams, which will be worth 60% of the course.

Fitness and body systems (36%)

1. Applied anatomy and physiology.
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data

Health and performance (24%)

1. Health, fitness, and well-being
2. Sport Psychology
3. Socio-cultural influences
4. Use of data

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?

Your PE teacher will advise on whether BTEC Sport or GCSE PE will be the best route for you.

Owing to the nature of the theory component we recommend that you only consider this course if you are working at Secure or above in Key Stage 3 Science. You will also need to have shown consistent effort and achievement and a positive attitude during your Physical Education lessons by:

- Taking a full and active part in all lessons.
- Approaching all lessons with a positive attitude.
- Attending extra-curricular clubs and representing academy teams.

How will this subject be assessed?

Each sport (unit of work) will last approximately 8 lessons. Practical assessment will be graded against the GCSE practical activity criteria. In theory lessons, end of unit tests will monitor progress. At the end of the two years, you will sit two examinations in which you will be tested on your knowledge of all areas covered in theory lessons (60%). There is one piece of externally moderated coursework, a personal exercise programme (10%) and a practical exam, in which you are assessed in three practical activities (30%).