Ormiston Sudbury Academy



KS4 Curriculum Choices 2026



Introduction

This booklet contains essential information about the Key Stage 4 Curriculum for students beginning Year 10 in September 2026.

Certain Key Stage 4 subjects are studied by all students, and these are referred to as the 'core' subjects. These subjects are: English Language and Literature; Maths; Science (Combined); PSHE, Religious Education (core) and Physical Education.

As well as studying the core subjects, all students must choose four 'option' choices. These subjects enable the curriculum to be personalised in response to individual student interests or needs. This booklet contains essential information on both the core and option curriculum available to students. Please review the individual subject pages alongside conversations with staff. Where available you will find direct links to subject specifications by using the QR codes on these pages.

Choosing Subjects

When thinking about which subjects to choose to study in their individual Key Stage 4 curriculum, students and their parents/carers should consider the following questions:

- Which subjects will I enjoy studying for the next two years?
- What are my strengths?
- What subjects am I currently achieving in?
- What are my ambitions for post-16 education? Are there subjects that I need to study now in preparation?
- What kind of careers might I want to follow in the future?
- Do the courses I am interested in provide me with a broad range of experience that will not close doors to me in the future?

All students should choose **four** subjects – as well as a 'reserve' choice - and complete the online form using the form link or QR code below:

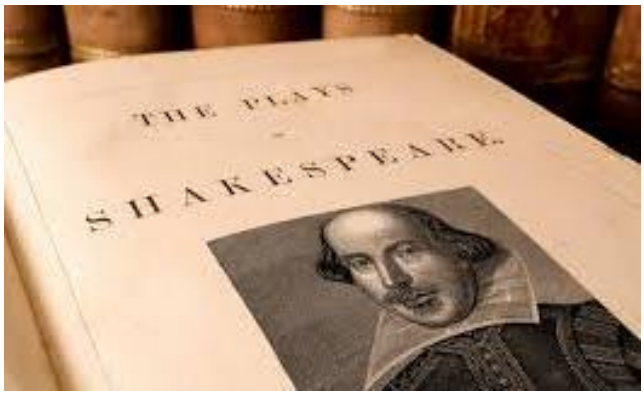
https://forms.office.com/e/ESqfAAPFrH

Submissions open: 6th February 2026
Submission close: 23rd February 2026

Please note there is a possibility that not all subjects will be timetabled and the option blocks and final curriculum offer is subject to change including some subjects being withdrawn. If your son/daughter has chosen one of these subjects, they will be given the opportunity to re-select a subject from the list of those courses that will be part of the 2026-28 Key Stage Four curriculum.

If you have any questions about this process or about individual subjects, please do not hesitate to contact Mr M Robin (Assistant Principal) or the relevant Head of Faculty.

GCSE English/English Literature



Why is this subject worth studying?
English is integral to everyday life – the skills of reading, writing, and speaking effectively form the foundation of future careers and study.

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 Language 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.

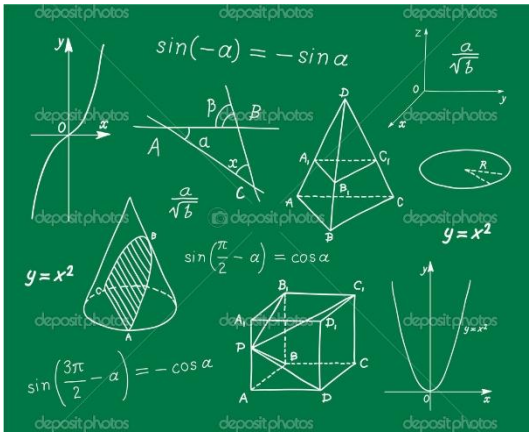
How will this subject be assessed?

- 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 'standard' 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 following the OAT Key Stage 4 curriculum – 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. The exam board for this GCSE is Edexcel.

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 discover the answers to their questions. By studying science, you will acquire skills in communication, practical work, questioning, researching and exploring ethical issues. Science has three 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. Only through the study of science can we 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 various science-related careers, such as health professionals, vets and pharmacists, engineers, and forensic analysts. However, many other jobs require science and skills developed throughout the study of science, including hairdressers, farmers, firefighters, climate change workers, surveyors, and architects.

What will I study in this subject?

There are two 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 Spring 1 half-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 ranging from cells to managing health and food production, atoms to fuel production and states of matter, and energy to electrical systems to space.

TRIPLE AWARD:

Following the triple science pathway allows you to explore all three sciences in greater depth. It also gives you more opportunities to carry out advanced practical work 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 like triple science but not in as great a depth. However, there are still opportunities to carry out practical investigations and develop essential skills for life and work.

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

To succeed in GCSE Science, you will need to be inquisitive, a good team worker, and be able to work independently. You must 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 1-hour 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 1-hour 45-minute exams, each with a 50% weighting, in the three subject areas.

AQA Combined Science	AQA Triple Science Biology	AQA Triple Science Chemistry	AQA Triple Science Physics

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.

SPORT (GCSE or BTEC)

PE staff can help to advise on whether BTEC Tech Award in Sport or GCSE PE will be the best route for you.

GCSE PE

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?

Owing to the nature of the theory component we recommend that you only consider this course if you are working at, or above, your target level 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%).

BTEC Tech Award in Sport

Why is this subject worth studying?

The BTEC Sport qualification is for students who have a passion for Fitness and Sport and are committed to developing their own and others' performance. The qualification has been developed in close consultation with current sports practitioners and employers to ensure that all of the key skills and areas of knowledge required for learners to work effectively in the sports industry are incorporated into both the content and the assessment process. The internally assessed components are task-based and largely practical, allowing learners to demonstrate their skills and ability – and their understanding of the theoretical content – in a way that suits them.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

The BTEC Sport course is made up of three Components:

Component 1: Preparing Participants to take part in sport and physical activity. Students will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport or physical activity and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity

Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance. Students will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance.

Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants' sporting performance in sports and physical activity. Students will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing

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

Owing to the nature of the theory work we recommend that you only consider this course if you are working at, or above, your target level 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?

Component 1	**Component 2**	**Component 3**
30%	30%	40%
Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity	Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance	Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity

GCSE French

Why is this subject worth studying?

Students will have the opportunity to continue their language learning from KS3 and build on this. People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world, they stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons!

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.

Taking a Modern Foreign Language means you will add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile meaning that any employer will be more interested in your CV, and you will be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or work abroad.

What will I study if I choose this subject?

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

1. **People and lifestyle -** identity and relationships with others, healthy living, free-time activities, education and work.
2. **Popular Culture** – media and technology, Customs, festivals and celebrations.
3. **Communication and the world around us** – environment and where people live, travel and tourism.

How will I learn?

You will learn using a variety of methods including:

- Listening to native speakers and authentic resources
- Phonics and Pronunciation
- Short dictations
- Reading aloud, using authentic texts
- Translation skills – both languages
- Writing (timed, and grammar practise)
- Scenarios of daily life situation for speaking purposes

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

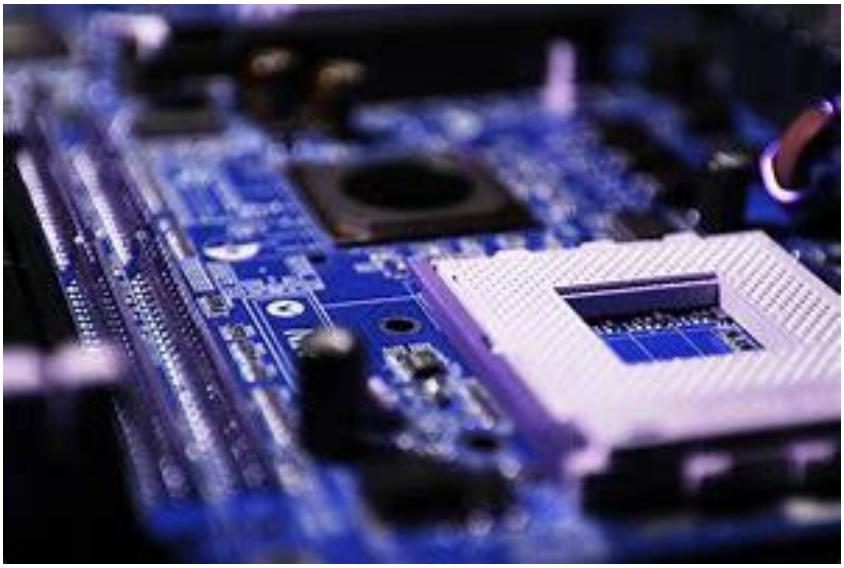
We encourage students to be independent learners and to develop their communication skills. Students will develop an understanding of French in a variety of contexts, develop transferable language learning skills. Having an interest in communicating, solving puzzles or conundrums, decoding texts, and have an open mind to other cultures and civilisations will help them progress their learning.

How will this subject be assessed?

This course is designed to prepare pupils in the 4 language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in which you will be assessed. Each skill is assessed by an exam at the end of year 11 and has equal weighting.

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?

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 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?

Living with the physical environment – Paper 1 - Written exam. 1hr 30 minutes 35%

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK

Challenges in the human environment – Paper 2 – Written exam. 1hr 30 minutes 35%

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications – Paper 3 – Written exam (with pre-release). 1hr 30 minutes 30%

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork

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?
Studying the History of Britain, Europe and the World over the last 1000 years. The course provides opportunities to explore History in a variety of ways: in depth, across a broad span of time, locality and with reference to a diversity of cultures. It also enables students to study History from a variety of perspectives. 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. Studying History can lead to several diverse careers where you are required to be critical and analytical thinkers. It is a highly regarded academic qualification by both further education providers and employers.

What will I study if I choose this subject?
Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment – Medicine in Britain c1250-present
The Medicine in Britain study is the story of the development of science and its place in British society. Our study begins in the Middle Ages and finishes with a focus on the rise of technology in the 21st century. In the linked study of the historic environment students will learn about the connections between conditions on the Western Front during WW1 and their wider impact on the provision of medical care.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study – Anglo-Saxons/Normans and American West
Students will study, a British depth study (Anglo-Saxons & 1066) and an international period study (The American West c1835-c1985). By studying the Normans, students will learn how England changed following the invasion. 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 & Nazi Germany (1918-39)
Students will analyse how, between the First and Second World Wars, a democratic Germany became a one-party dictatorship. Students will examine various political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the changes in Germany during this short time span.

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?
To develop the ability to be more independent in your learning, to evaluate varying ideas and interrogate evidence. You will also develop the ability to question, critically analyse and evaluate the past, explaining how it has affected the present.

How will this subject be assessed?
100% exam in the Summer of Year 11. The exams are worth 33% each and there would be 3 papers, for each of the topics listed above.

GCSE Religious Studies

Why is this subject worth studying?
All students have followed a core RS curriculum as part of their key stage 3 provision, which will continue into key stage 4. GCSE Religious Studies is an additional option subject that will develop this knowledge and understanding further. Students will be expected to show their understanding of religion through the application of teachings from religion and beliefs alongside application into moral and philosophical debates.

Religious Studies is a fundamental subject needed for any career. It will build strong skills in understanding other people's diverse cultures and viewpoints. It creates opportunities for young people to develop their skills of dialogue, literacy, interpretation, analysis and evaluation.

What will I study?
There are two components to this GCSE:
Component 1: The study of Christian and Islamic beliefs and teachings.

Component 2: Ethical and Philosophical studies. There are 4 strands to this:

- Theme A: Religion, Families and Relationships
- Theme B: Religion and Life
- Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

What are the qualities I need to be successful in this subject?
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.
Students are expected to interpret primary sources and apply this understanding to broader themes of belief.

Students must demonstrate knowledge and understanding that:
• the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian
• the religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse.

How will this subject be assessed?
Assessment is by examination in the summer of Year 11.
This course is 100% examination.
Paper 1: Study of two Religions – 50%.
Paper 2: Philosophy, Ethics and Religion – 50%.

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, printmaking, clay, photography (exploring Photoshop). 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:

- 'AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

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: A sketchbook and artist pencils, in addition to your everyday equipment. We also recommend purchasing an Art pack from the school website to support your studies.

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.

AQA GCSE Food preparation and nutrition Specification:

Engineering - Vocational Certificate Level 2

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.

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.

Component 1-Children's growth and development, you will learn how children grow and how they develop skills and knowledge from birth to five years, you will also learn how certain factors may inhibit normal growth and development.

Component 2-Learning through Play-you will learn about the different types and stages of play children use at different ages and how these will help children learn new skills. You will also be able to plan suitable activities for children aged 0-5.

Component 3-Supporting children to play, learn and develop-You will learn how to adapt activities so all children can play and learn in an inclusive environment.

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?

BTEC assessments are on-going throughout the year. Good attendance at school is essential for this course. Along with the practical assessments, there are also written write-ups throughout the course which will require analysis and detailed explanations.

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 assessments are on-going throughout the year. Good attendance at school is essential for this course. Along with the practical assessments, there are also written write-ups throughout the course which will require analysis and detailed explanations.

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?

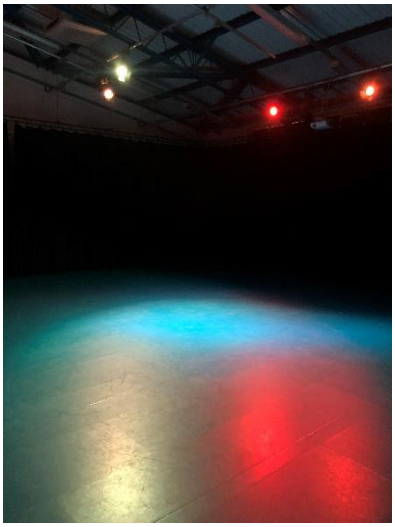
You must have a passion for music and performing. Students will need to be dedicated and committed to work outside of lessons such as rehearsals and productions. You will also need to be well organised and have good time management skills.

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.

BTEC assessments are on-going throughout the year. Good attendance at school is essential for this course. Along with the practical assessments, there are also written write-ups throughout the course which will require analysis and detailed explanations.

BTEC Production



Why is this subject worth studying?
This is a creative and exciting course which involves NO PERFORMANCE ELEMENT and is suited to students who have an appetite to develop their skills and knowledge in the technical aspects of performing arts. Students will study a wide range of different skills such as, lighting, sound, set design, costumes, prop making, stage management and many more. Taking BTEC Production also develops a huge amount of life skills such as confidence, collaboration & team work, imagination, creativity, leadership skills and many others.
This is a vocational course – in other words, it is practical and takes a real-world approach to learning. The assessment will all be on non-performance roles and there will be real life opportunities such as designing and operating the lighting for events at the academy, building set pieces for full productions and many more. Students should enjoy going to see professional theatre and finding out more about how back stage roles work. From this course, student can continue their study of technical theatre and production at BTEC Level 3 or look to careers / apprenticeships in the Performing Arts. The subject is extremely good fun, and often acts as a break from more written based, exam subjects. There is no final written exam or performance exam either, so this helps in the May of Year 11, as it's one less subject with a written exam to worry about.

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 work, with a specific focus on the more technical aspects of different styles of work.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts. You will develop your skills in a number of different technical areas through the reproduction of professional repertoire in a variety of styles. This component will involve working as the Production Crew for the BTEC Acting and BTEC Dance students, to plan, design and operate all technical aspects of their performances.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief. You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a production role design 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 the technical aspects of productions. You 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 as well as good attendance, due to the ongoing assessment.

How will this subject be assessed?
The BTEC Production course is made up of a number of assessments throughout the two years. All hands on work is assessed and then your best results are carried forwards. One piece of work is externally assessed by an examiner.

Entry requirements (desirable/required)
An interest in productions and at least one back stage element. For Component 2 and 3 you will be able to specialise in either lighting, sound, set design, costume design, prop making, make-up design or masks. You must also want to go on trips to see professional theatre, as this is a key part of the course.

Your Initial Curriculum Choices

Form link: https://forms.office.com/e/ESqfAAPFrH
Submissions open: 6th February 2026
Submission close: 23rd February 2026

All students will study:

GCSE English and English Literature
GCSE Maths
GCSE Science (Combined and equivalent to two GCSEs)
PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)
RE (Religious Education – non-examined)
PE (core)

Then decide on **one** option from:

GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE Science (Triple)	Section A

One from:

BTEC Performing Arts (Acting) BTEC Production GCSE Computer Science GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE Art and Design GCSE French GCSE Religious Studies	Section B

One from:

BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) BTEC Music BTEC Child Development GCSE Design and Technology VCert Engineering GCSE History	Section C

One from:

GCSE PE BTEC Sport GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE Art and Design GCSE Geography GCSE Religious Studies	Section D

EBACC Route Subjects

Before submitting, please bear in mind that the choices made are a commitment to a two-year study of the subject.
The final curriculum offer is subject to change from what is outlined here.