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# *Making Choices*

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**Information Booklet for Key Stage 4**

**2021-22**

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# Overview for Students

Welcome to the Making Choices Booklet. You are about to make some very important decisions about your future as you choose the subjects that you wish to study in Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4). Our results for Year 11 over the past few years have consistently placed us in the top 150 non selective schools in the country; and in the top 5% of all schools for the amount of progress made from KS2 to KS4. This means you are already on your journey to success: you will have already made more progress than you would have done had you been at another school! Achieving good GCSE grades is vital so that you have as much choice as possible at the end of KS4. Your job now is to work with us to make sure you achieve the best possible qualifications at the end of KS4.

This booklet is intended to give you all the information you need to help you make an informed choice, so you need to read it very carefully. Read about each subject and what it has to offer you. Talk to your parents, your subject teachers, your form tutors and students in Years 10. It is important to make your choices wisely as they may affect your post 16+ choices.

Once you have made your choices, you need to complete the Making Choices form. You will need to list **in order of preference**, the subjects you would most like to study and then choose another **two** reserve subjects. The number of students who choose each subject may affect whether we can offer the subject or not. It is important to be aware that we cannot always guarantee your first choices, but we will make every effort to do so.

An information evening about Making Choices will be offered to parents virtually on the school's website where they will be given information by Heads of Department and other senior staff about what subjects will be on offer to you and how demanding they might be.

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Making Choices forms will be sent home for students to complete; Your completed form needs to be signed and returned by you and your parent.

We hope that you will do well in whatever course you choose. What is absolutely true is that all your efforts in school will have a direct influence on your future. As a year group you have impressed us greatly to date and we are sure that you will have a successful KS4.

**Morgan Alexander-Crump**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

# The KS4 Curriculum

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Our timetable is organised as a two week cycle of 60 lessons. In Key Stage 4, there is a core curriculum which you will follow and this takes up 60% of the total teaching time. During the core lessons you will study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education (PE non examination)
- A Humanity (History or Geography)

History and Geography are considered as 'facilitating' subjects by universities. Facilitating subjects give you access to study a wide range of courses at A level and degree level which is why we have made studying a Humanity compulsory for students.

In order to give you the best possible choices at A Level, and if you are considering applying to a top University, you should study the subjects that make up the English Baccalaureate. The English Baccalaureate is awarded to students who achieve a GCSE at 9 to 4 in English Language or Literature, Mathematics, two Sciences (including Computer Science) a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject; History or Geography.

We therefore suggest that you aim to choose a balanced choice of subjects from:

History	Geography	Religious Studies	Design & Technology
French	Spanish	Business Studies	Food Preparation and Nutrition
Art	Photography	Drama	Computer Science/ICT
Music	PE	Economics	BTEC Health & Social Care

- You **can** choose both History and Geography.
- You can only choose the language which you have already been studying at KS3.
- You **cannot** choose Business Studies with Economics.
- You **cannot** choose Art with Photography.
- You **cannot** choose Food Preparation and Nutrition with Design & Technology.

# Qualifications Explained

## GCSEs

GCSEs have undergone a significant reform resulting in curriculum changes across all subjects with the aim of specifications becoming more challenging, with a greater amount of content covered. The reformed GCSEs will use a new grading structure, using grades from 9 (the highest) to 1 (the lowest). There isn't a one-to-one mapping between the new numeric grades, and the previous A\*–G grades, but the two systems will be aligned at key grades, as shown below. All courses will have exams which the students will sit at the end of the two year course.

GCSE Grades Comparison Table										
Old GCSE Grades	U	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A* and additional skills components	
New GCSE Grades	U	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The bottom of grade 4 is anchored to the <b>old C/D</b> borderline</li> <li>✓ Grade 5 is aligned with the <b>top third</b> of the <b>old C</b> grade and the <b>bottom third</b> of the <b>old B</b> grade. It is now the internationally benchmarked grade (as grade C used to be) in an aim to raise standards</li> <li>✓ The bottom of grade 1 is aligned to the <b>bottom</b> of a grade <b>G</b>. This bunches the lower 4 old grades of <b>G → D</b> into 3 new grades <b>1 → 3</b></li> <li>✓ Grades <b>C → A*</b> will be replaced by 6 higher grades <b>4 → 9</b></li> <li>✓ The new grade 9 includes material that was previously considered to be above the old GCSE grades. Grade 9 is the highest and likely to be the top 3% of students achieving this.</li> </ul>										

## BTEC Level Two (Vocational)

Health & Social Care is a BTEC qualification at Level Two, the Certificate, the Extended Certificate and the Diploma. All BTEC Level Twos are graded Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit or Pass. BTEC Level Twos have a large element of coursework and you will need to complete a portfolio of evidence to show you have met the assessment criteria. From September 2014 all BTECs also have an element of internal assessment and external assessment. At The Compton School we only offer the Certificate, to ensure that students have time to study a range of other subjects. Colleges value the BTEC Level Two Certificate as equivalent to a GCSE.

# Timetable for Choices

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<b>December- February</b>	Careers sessions during Personal Development Time
<b>January – March</b>	Making Choices talks begin in lessons
<b>January - February</b>	Making Choices assemblies
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Virtual Making Choices evening. Information about the process and selecting choices will be delivered by Mr Alexander-Crump. Heads of Department will provide a series of videos explaining their courses at Key Stage 4.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Making Choices forms will be sent home for students to complete alongside their parents. These will need to be filled in with your final choices alongside two reserve subjects. They will need to be signed by students and parents and then returned to school.
<b>June</b>	Letters home to parents confirming courses

Your preferences will be considered and granted as far as it is feasible but you must realise that the final decision will rest with the school. We will do all that we can to timetable you into the courses that suit your personal interests, aptitude and abilities and most importantly, that will enable you to achieve success. However, you must be aware that where very small numbers choose a subject, the subject will not run and therefore alternative choices will have to be made. If a particular course is oversubscribed, decisions about who should study the course will be taken by the relevant teachers and senior teachers, along with what preference number it was given by each student.

Don't forget to prioritise your preferred courses, remembering that number 1 is the course that you want to do most.

You must also choose two reserve subjects (labelled R1 and R2).

Late returns may limit your chance of getting one of your preferred subjects.

# Cross Curricular Programme

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At Key Stage 4 a range of cross curricular themes are delivered across a range of curriculum subjects, through assemblies, Personal Development Time, dedicated days and school visits.

Throughout Year 10 and 11 a range of cross curricular subjects are covered.

**Topics covered include:**

- Equal Opportunities
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE)
- Personal Finance
- Religious Education
- Citizenship Issues
- Careers Education and Work Related Learning
- Sex Relationships Education

The purpose of these sessions is to prepare students for an active role in shaping the life of the school, neighbourhood and wider community. The sessions support the development of the child into a responsible adult and are part of the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural entitlement provided for our students.

# Advice on choosing your courses

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## Do:

- Choose a **Humanity** from Geography or History as these are considered to be facilitating subjects
- Consider a **Modern Foreign Language** even if you do not want to pursue this past KS4 as it will provide a good basis of knowledge of the language
- Choose subjects that you **enjoy**. If you enjoy the subject, you will put more time and effort into it and the more time and effort you put in, the more successful you will become
- Choose subjects that you are **good at**. You need to gain as many high grades/points as possible
- Go for the English Baccalaureate if you are capable of achieving it. Many top colleges and universities will look for a language and a humanities subject. However, you should not choose a subject if you think you will struggle to achieve well in it.
- If you have a definite career in mind choose subjects that will best **support your career route**. However, remember that however keen you are on any particular career or job now, you may possibly change your mind before you leave school. Many people also change their career during their working life. Your choice of subjects must not limit you to just one type of career. If you have no definite career in mind choose what you are good at, what you like doing and what will give you a **good spread** of subjects. Many subjects can be picked up at A Level or beyond without earlier study
- Listen to advice given to you in subject talks over the next few weeks
- Talk to your parents, subject teachers and Year 10/11 students

## Don't:

- Try to get in to the same groups as your friends, it probably won't happen
- Don't choose a subject because of the teacher; teachers change
- Don't just go on your experience of Years 7 to 9, look at what each subject has to offer in Year 10 and 11, it may be different
- Don't narrow down your options too much; you may change your mind about what you like and what you want to do in the future

# English Language and Literature: Core

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## What will I learn?

You will practise and develop your reading, writing and speaking and listening skills for English Language and English Literature.

You will:

- read and respond to a variety of multi-modal texts, including novels, plays, poems, non-fiction and media texts
- write in a variety of ways for different audiences; these might include descriptive accounts, monologues and persuasive articles
- take part in a range of speaking and listening tasks, including group and class discussion and presentations

## How will I be assessed?

Your teacher will assess your work and advise you of ways to improve throughout the course. You will be assessed by **examination only** for both GCSEs. This is a two year, linear course starting in Year 10; all exams will be sat at the end of Year 11.

**English Literature:** 100% examination, two papers

**English Language:** 100% examination, two papers

**Speaking and Listening:** A separate endorsement on your GCSE certificate

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification and No.</b>	English Literature - 8702 English Language - 8700
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study English Literature or English Language at A' Level, as well as a Media based course. Career pathways include writing, journalism, teaching, publishing, advertising and Law.

# Maths: Core

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## What will I learn?

You will follow the Edexcel Linear GCSE Scheme of Work and you will learn in greater depth about the following topics:

- 1 Number
- 2 Algebra
- 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- 4 Geometry and measures
- 5 Statistics & probability

You will be in tiered groups according to your level of ability. You will work towards a GCSE at your appropriate level, either Higher or Foundation.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be tested at the end of each unit of work throughout Year 10 and Year 11.

The course is Edexcel GCSE Maths syllabus (1MA1). The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.

All students will sit the exam in June of Year 11 and will not take the exam early. However, some students may have some extension.

There will be a greater emphasis than before on methods, explanation and application to real life problems.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Edexcel
<b>Specification and No.</b>	1MA1
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study Mathematics at A' Level and then university. Mathematics supports many different career pathways including Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Finance and Accounting.

# Physical Education: Core

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## What will I learn?

During Years 10 and 11 the Physical Education Department aims to provide an enjoyable and extensive core PE programme. The programme will help students develop their confidence to take part in different physical activities and learn about the value of healthy, active lifestyles. Physical Education helps students develop personally and socially. They work as individuals, in groups and in teams, developing concepts of fairness and of personal and social responsibility.

A **range of learning experiences** will be offered to meet the needs of individual students and encouraging active involvement by all as **performers, coaches and officials**.

Through an *options system* students will choose six activities throughout the year, which best suit their individual needs.

### Activities include:

Football leadership  
Young First Aid Certificate  
Trampolining  
Outdoor games  
Striking and fielding  
Sports Leadership  
Handball  
Fitness  
Rugby  
Netball

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on your ability to demonstrate:

- Effective decision making
- Teamwork, communication and organisation of others
- An ability to acquire and refine new skills & techniques in a range of activities
- Resilience in the completion of core tasks and performances
- A developing level of personal fitness and understanding of healthy lifestyles.

# Combined Science

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## What will I learn?

You will learn about a wide range of topics relevant both to our everyday life and the technological world in which we live.

*Completion of this course allows progression to all A level science courses, subject to meeting grade entry requirements. For information on how decisions are made as to which pathway (Separate Sciences vs. Combined Science) your child will follow, please refer to the letter sent home in the Autumn Term.*

Content will cover all three sciences – Biology Chemistry and Physics. Modules include:

- Infection and response; Bioenergetics; Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Using resources; Quantitative Chemistry; Organic Chemistry
- Particle model of matter; Forces; Waves; Electricity and Magnetism

## How will I be assessed?

The examinations are subject specific and will take place in the summer term of Year 11. There are six, 1h15 papers in total. There will be a carefully organised series of mock examinations and tests at the end of each module to make sure students are making appropriate progress.

In addition, students will carry out a series of required practical activities throughout the course. They will be assessed on their understanding of these tasks in their final examinations.

Students will study the AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) course. They will gain two GCSEs in total, the two grades awarded being an average of their performance across all three sciences (biology, chemistry and physics). The grades awarded will either be the same e.g. 5-5, or consecutive e.g. 5-4 or 6-5.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification and No.</b>	Combined Science: Trilogy [8464]
<b>Level</b>	2-GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Science GCSEs can lead to any of the science A Levels of Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as the Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Applied Science. They may also be required, or advantageous for studying Psychology and PE.

Chemistry A Level is the only absolute essential for studying Medicine at university, but studying biology is also desirable. Physics and maths would be a requirement for engineering, architecture and meteorology courses.

Any university science degree will require the relevant A Level as a prerequisite and A Level Maths would be a serious advantage for both Chemistry and Physics degrees.

Science A Levels are always very highly regarded by universities, so studying at least one science will always be an advantage no matter what the university degree chosen.

# Separate Sciences

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## What will I learn?

In Science you will learn about a wide range of topics relevant both to our everyday life and the technological world in which we live.

*Completion of this course allows progression to all A level science courses, subject to meeting grade entry requirements.*

*For information on how decisions are made as to which pathway (Separate Sciences vs. Combined Science) your child will follow, please refer to the letter sent home in the Autumn Term.*

Content will cover all three sciences – Biology Chemistry and Physics. Modules include:

- Infection and response; Bioenergetics; Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Using resources; Quantitative Chemistry; Organic Chemistry
- Particle model of matter; Forces; Electricity & Magnetism; Space Physics

## How will I be assessed?

The examinations are subject specific and will take place in the summer term of Year 11. There are six, 1h45 papers in total. There will be a carefully organised series of mock examinations and tests at the end of each module to make sure students are making appropriate progress.

In addition, students will carry out a series of required practical activities throughout the course. They will be assessed on their understanding of these tasks in their final examinations.

Students will study the AQA separate sciences courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and gain a separate GCSE for each.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification and No.</b>	GCSE Biology [8461]; GCSE Chemistry [8462]; GCSE Physics [8463]
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Science GCSEs can lead to any of the science A Levels of Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They may also be required, or advantageous for studying Psychology and PE.

Chemistry A Level is the only absolute essential for studying Medicine at university, but studying biology is also desirable.

Physics and maths would be a requirement for engineering, architecture and meteorology courses.

Any university science degree will require the relevant A Level as a prerequisite and A Level Maths would be a serious advantage for both Chemistry and Physics degrees.

Science A Levels are always very highly regarded by universities, so studying at least one science will always be an advantage no matter what the university degree chosen.

# Art

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## What will I learn?

The GCSE course is particularly varied and exciting. You will learn a variety of skills and techniques such as:

**Painting, drawing, mixed media, printing, ceramics and 3D construction, textiles, and sculpture.**

You will research into the working methods of artists and crafts people from various times and cultures. You will use your sketch book to record and explore how ideas and feelings and meanings are conveyed in images and objects.

You will learn to develop and express individual ideas relating to a topic or theme working from observation and imagination. In Year 11 you will be encouraged to follow your own personal interests and research your ideas fully.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed at the end of each project by the teacher. However, great importance will be given to your own self-assessment and ability to recognise your own strengths.

**The GCSE course consists of three parts:**

1. All the work you do over the two years is coursework (60% of the total mark)
2. A series of preparatory studies for the timed test to be carried out for eight weeks before the timed test
3. A ten hour externally set timed test over two days.

All three parts are displayed as a final exhibition.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Edexcel
<b>Specification and No.</b>	Art and Design 2AD01
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study Art and Design at A' Level and then on to College or University. Career pathways include the creative industries such as media, advertising, marketing and PR, art administration and education. However many professions encourage applicants who can demonstrate creative thinking and organisational skills.

# Business Studies

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## What will I learn?

Business Studies is not just a theory based subject, it is about real life. It will help you to learn about businesses and the way they operate in today's society. You will investigate businesses in the local area, as well as well-known national organisations.

You will gain skills that will be useful for a wide range of jobs and in your personal life e.g. banking, government, industry, education. The exam board used is the new Edexcel GCSE Business Studies introduced for first teaching in September 2017.

### You will study

- Business and Enterprise
- How to start up a business
- Marketing and Finance

## How will I be assessed?

You will study two units:

**Unit 1:** Investigating Small Businesses — 90 minute written examination (50%)

**Unit 2:** Building a Business — 90 minute written examination (50%)

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Edexcel
<b>Specification and No.</b>	Edexcel GCSE in Business Studies (1BS0)
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study A Levels in Business Studies, Applied Business, Economics and Accounting and Finance.

You will gain skills that will be useful for a wide range of jobs and in your personal life e.g. banking, government, industry, education.

# Computer Science

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## What will I learn?

This course aims to give you the necessary foundations in Computer Science to help you go on to further study at A Level and ultimately employment within ever expanding industry. Within this course you will learn how to program in the python language and some SQL, along with gaining a deeper and wider understanding of computer systems and network technology. This course is highly technical and is ideal for students who are keen on maths, engineering and electronic technology or for students who already take a keen interest in computing / programming. The first two terms will focus on programming, this can be extremely challenging and students should be prepared for this.

## How will I be assessed?

### Paper 1 – Computer systems – 1 hour 30 minutes

- Theoretical elements of computer science, including networks, systems software and systems architecture, systems security, ethics and computing law.
- 50% of GCSE

### Paper 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming – 1 hour 30 minutes

- Computational thinking, programming, Algorithms, data representations, computational logic, translators and facilities of language.
- 50% of GCSE

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	OCR
<b>Specification and No.</b>	J277
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

As a Computer Scientist you may go on to write the next big Operating System, program computer games, create apps for smart phones, become a web developer, write specialist software for use in medical equipment or re-task your new found skills to other areas within the technology industry. The next step after GCSE Computer Science is to take the A level Computer Science course at the Compton Sixth Form.

Currently the UK is finding that it has a massive shortage of programmers / computer scientists. The government has been making changes to the education system from primary school to Sixth Form College to increase the number of students studying this important subject. If you are interested in Computer Science then come and be part of this exciting and rapidly developing subject.

# Design & Technology

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## What will you learn?

The new GCSE specification in Design and Technology will enable students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. They will enable students to use creativity and imagination to design and make 'prototype' (model) products that solve real relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It encourages students to apply knowledge learnt from mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.

In Year 10 students will acquire subject knowledge in that builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make prototype products in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities. They will learn how to take design risks, helping them to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising people. They will develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.

In Year 11 students will develop their own design briefs or contexts, which will inform and direct their designing and making. Students will be assessed on their ability to analyse and respond to their design brief or contexts.

You will be required to pay for materials via ParentPay for practical lessons and a revision guide which you will use to consolidate your knowledge and understanding.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on:

**Written exam** - Core technical, specialist technical and designing and making principles in a 2 hour exam. This will account for 50% of your GCSE.

**Non Examined Assessment** - known as NEA or Coursework consisting of 35 hours of work. The contextual challenges are released annually by AQA on 1 June, in the year before submission. Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence (approximately 20 pages) to demonstrate the assessment criteria. The work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA. This will account for 50% of your GCSE.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification No:</b>	8552
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study Product Design at A' Level at The Compton School. Students can go on to study a range of Creative Arts, Design and Technology courses and then to University, Art College or other further education courses. There are also many Apprenticeship Courses available in a range of disciplines. Career pathways are countless, Design & Technology is one of the most extensive industries in the world, with considerable opportunities in the UK, as a leader in the field of Art and Design.

# Drama

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## What will I learn?

To develop empathy through the exploration of topics and issues from various points of view

To explore ideas and scripts using the drama form

To improvise, rehearse and perform

To communicate effectively

To use space, movement and language imaginatively

To work co-operatively in groups

To develop imagination, sensitivity and self-confidence

To evaluate and reflect on the work

## How will I be assessed?

### Component 1: Devising 40%

Devise an original performance piece from a stimulus. Performed to an audience. Reflecting on the devising process through a written portfolio.

### Component 2: Performance from Text 20%

Performing 2 extracts from a full length play: Performing monologues/duologues or group work.

### Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice 40%

Responding to 2 questions based on a piece of live theatre (500 words taken into exam). Exploring 'The Crucible' from the perspective of a performer, director and designer.

### **OVERVIEW: 30% practical 70% written**

Although there will be opportunity for practical work throughout the full two year course.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Edexcel
<b>Specification and No.</b>	2DR01
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study Drama / Theatre Studies at A Level or a more vocational course such as BTEC Performing Arts, then on to university to complete a degree, or a specialist Drama School to train in various areas in the performing arts. Career pathways directly related to a career in drama and/or theatre are: Actor/Actress; Stage Manager; Sound & Lighting designer; Arts Administrator; Teacher; Director; Playwright; Drama Therapist; Marketing & Advertising; Journalist.

# Economics

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## What will I learn?

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Economics equips students with the skills and confidence to explore how consumers, producers and governments interact in markets nationally and internationally. It provides a well-rounded introduction to this subject and an excellent foundation for advanced study in Economics.

Students will gain transferrable skills that will benefit them in their further study and employment. By learning how to use economic data from a range of sources, such as tables, charts and graphs, students will acquire the skills to make informed judgements and to communicate in a clear and concise way. By learning how to explain and evaluate economic problems and possible solutions, students will acquire a way of thinking as economists and develop a logical approach to thinking and reasoning.

Both question papers will have questions assessing the some of the following quantitative skills: calculations, construction of graphs, as well as, interpretation and use of quantitative data to support and justify economic decision. **A high proficiency in Mathematics is advised.**

### You will study

- Introduction to Economics
- The role of markets and money
- Economic objectives & the role of government
- International trade and the global economy

## How will I be assessed?

You will study two units:

**Component 1:** Introduction to Economics — 90 minute written examination (50%)

**Component 2:** National and international economics — 90 minute written examination (50%)

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	OCR
<b>Specification and No.</b>	OCR GCSE (9-1) Economics (J205)
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study A Levels in Business Studies, Applied Business, Economics and Accounting and Finance.

You will gain skills that will be useful for a wide range of jobs and in your personal life e.g. banking, government, industry, education.

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

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## What will I learn?

This new GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. This qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them strong understanding of nutrition.

In Year 10 students will acquire subject knowledge in that builds on Key Stage 3, these five core topics: Food nutrition and health, Food science, Food safety, Food choice and Food provenance.

In Year 11 students will demonstrate their subject knowledge in 2 Non Examined Assessment tasks which will account for 50% of your final grade.

You will be required to purchase ingredients for practical lessons and a revision guide which you will use to consolidate your knowledge and understanding.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on:

**Written exam** - Food nutrition and health, Food science, Food safety, Food choice and Food provenance in a 1 hour 45 minutes exam consisting of 100 marks. This will account for 50% of your GCSE.

**Non Examined Assessment Task 1:** known as NEA or Coursework. You will undertake a food investigation to develop your understanding of working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. This will account for 15% of your GCSE, tasks are released annually by AQA on 1 September.

**Non Examined Assessment Task 2:** You will complete a food preparation task, where you will plan, prepare, cook and present your dishes. You will apply your knowledge of nutrition when designing each dish. There is a 3 hour practical exam included with this task. This will account for 35% of your GCSE, tasks are released annually by AQA on 1 November.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification No:</b>	8585
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study a range of Culinary Arts, Food Science and Nutrition courses. These could lead to a university degree in Food Science and Nutrition in addition to further education courses and vocations in: Food Styling, Home Economics, Product Development, Nutrition and Dietetics, Health Promotion.

# French

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## What will I learn?

In the GCSE French course, you will continue to learn French to a level you would need to communicate with a French-speaking person or to visit a French-speaking country. This includes developing key grammar knowledge, vocabulary, as well as listening, reading, speaking, translation and writing skills and strategies to be able to function independently in a French-speaking environment.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture (Family and friends, technology, free-time activities, customs and festivals)

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest (Home and neighbourhoods, social issues, the environment and more global issues, travel and tourism)

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment (Life at school and college, education post-16, career choices and ambitions)

## How will I be assessed?

The speaking exam will be conducted by your teacher, but will be externally assessed. Reading, writing, listening and translation will also be externally assessed exams. The four skills of listening, reading (including translation), speaking and writing (including translation) will be equally weighted at 25%. All four exams will be tiered (foundation or higher) and it is required to enter all skills at the same tier.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification and No.</b>	GCSE French 8658
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study French at A Level followed by a degree in French. This degree can be combined with another subject area (e.g. business, journalism, law, or another language).

# Geography

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## What will I learn?

### AQA Geography Specification

#### Unit 1: The challenge of natural hazards

Tectonic hazards - Tropical storms - Extreme weather in the UK - Climate change  
Coastal landscapes in the UK - River landscapes in the UK - Ecosystems – Tropical Rainforests – Hot deserts

#### Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment

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

#### Unit 3: Geographical applications

Geographical issue evaluation – Two pieces of fieldwork - Cartographic skills - Graphical skills - Numerical skills - Statistical skills - Use of qualitative and quantitative data - Formulate enquiry and argument – Literacy

## How will I be assessed?

The course is linear yet it is broken into three units. Unit 1 and 2 are worth 35% and Unit 3 is worth 30%. All three exams will be sat at the end of Year 11. There is no longer controlled assessment in Geography. Students will complete two pieces of fieldwork, one in the local area in Year 10 and then a geographical investigation at the London Docklands in Y11.

The course will allow all students to develop: communication skills, graphical and cartographic skills, technological skills i.e. ICT and GIS, interpersonal skills through debate and discussion, literacy and numeracy, problem solving skills and a sense of awe and wonder at our world.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification and No.</b>	8035
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study Geography at A' Level at The Compton School, then on to university. Geography is a very popular subject preference with employers as multiple key skills are covered whilst studying the subject. Career pathways include law, government, project managing, charitable work, environmental consulting, GIS specialists, carbon trading, teaching and working within renewable energy.

# Health and Social Care

## What will I learn?

The BTEC Health and Social Care course is aimed at anyone who has an interest in the Health and Social Care Sector.

## What does the qualification cover?

The qualification has three components that focus on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practises. Within the three components, students will be given the opportunity to study the five life stages experienced from infancy to later adulthood; the factors that may affect the Health & Wellbeing of people throughout their lives and the life events that people may encounter as they journey through the different stages. Students will learn how people adapt to the changes they experience in their lives, the types of support (formal and informal) available and about the different health and social care provision available in the UK. Students will also learn about Care Values, their importance and how to demonstrate the Care Values. Finally, students will develop skills of interpreting data to improve the health and wellbeing of an individual. This BTEC Tech Award is a vocational course, equating to a GCSE qualification.

## How will I be assessed?

The course is split up into three components:

Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development (Coursework)

Component 2 – Health & Social Care Services & Values (Coursework)

Component 3 – Health & Wellbeing. (External exam)

Components 1 & 2 are **100% assessment-based tasks**. Students need to be complete assessment-based tasks within a strict timeline. It is therefore imperative that students who take this subject have excellent attendance. Assessments will be marked by the Health & Social Care teachers and moderated by the internal and external verifier. Component 3 - Health & Wellbeing, is an external examination which takes place in Year 11.

<b>Awarding Body</b>	BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Health & Social Care
<b>Specification</b>	Pearson, Edexcel

## Resources

In lessons students will be working from the BTEC Tech Award Health & Social Care Student book (Pearson). Students will also be recommended to purchase the Health & Social care revision guide to support them for their external exam.

## Where will this take me?

This qualification will allow students to develop a practical understanding of the Health and Social Care sector. This course will also help students develop transferable skills and knowledge, such as self-evaluation and research skills. Once the course is completed, students may want to go on to further study, such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both, or find work in the health and social care sector as a trainee or apprentice. Which option is best will depend on the grades achieved and what students enjoy doing.

## Where can I find out more?

Further information about this qualification can also be accessed at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care.html>

# History

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## What will I learn?

History is a dynamic subject that encourages students to develop functional, transferable, and valuable skills. Our course gives students the opportunity to examine a range of periods throughout history, both British and international and to analyse the actions of past individuals and societies, engage directly with source materials and make judgements.

### Thematic Study and The Historic Environment:

***Medicine in Britain from c1250 – present; The British Sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatments and the trenches***

This study challenges students to understand change and continuity across a long sweep of history, including the most significant characteristics of different ages from the medieval to modern periods. The historic environment study examines the connections between specific locations and wider developments.

### Period Study and British Depth Study:

***Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 and Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1942-91***

This study encourages students to understand a short period in the British past and the ways in which different factors impacted upon society. The modern study focuses on a period of over 50 years and requires students to analyse how events unfolded within the context studied.

### Modern Depth Study:

***Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39***

This study examines one period from the past in depth. It challenges students to examine the individuals, events and conditions that allowed a totalitarian state to be established

## How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE grade will be determined by three end-of-course exams:

Thematic Study and the Historic Environment (30%); Period Study and British Depth Study (40%); Modern Depth Study (30%).

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Pearson Edexcel
<b>Specification and No.</b>	History 2016
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students who study History can go on to study History, Law, Media, Philosophy and other subjects that involve analytical and evaluative thinking. Career pathways include Law, Media/Journalism, Education, Civil Service and Government, Museum/Archive/Preservation.

# Music

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## What will I learn?

You will develop your:

- **Performing Skills** by performing on your instrument as a soloist and as part of an ensemble
- **Composing Skills** by creating and notating two compositions. One is a **Free** Composition the other is to a **Set Brief**
- **Appraising Skills** by listening analytically to 8 Set Works from 4 Areas of Study

## How will I be assessed?

**Performing = 30%**

Students have to perform a Solo & Ensemble piece. This is recorded in Y11

**Composing = 30%**

Students must compose a free Composition and a composition to a Set Brief. The minimum time for both pieces must be 3 minutes. You will produce a live recording of your Composition or use Logic Pro X on the Apple Macs

**Appraising = 40%** (Listening Exam in Summer Term of Y11)

Students will study 8 set works under four Areas of Study. It is a requirement for students to read and write staff notation and respond to unfamiliar music in the exam

**You do not have to have taken any Theory or Practical Music Grades to take GCSE. What you need is a passion for Music and a desire to develop your skills as a musician**

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Edexcel
<b>Specification and No.</b>	Music
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study Music at A' Level and then university, providing that they also have Grade 5 and above in an instrument and have taken Grade 5 Theory. Career pathways can include Musician, Teacher, Sound Production/Engineering/ Recordist.

# Photography

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## What will I learn?

The Photography GCSE is made up of two elements, portfolio work and the final exam. The portfolio work will be created in year 10 and the first term of year 11. You will work on 2 projects in this time. The portfolio mark will account for 60% of your final grade. The projects are 'Urban Environment' and 'Ordinary/Extraordinary'. We use the first project to teach you the technical aspects of photography such as how to use your dSLR. The next project sees you becoming more independent and taking most of your shots independent of class.

Do not worry if you do not know your way around a dSLR we can teach you this! You should be good with IT as this course is all digital so computers will be used a lot. You should enjoy writing as we analyse the work of other photographers throughout the projects.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed at the end of each term by the teacher. However, great importance will be given to your own self-assessment and ability to recognise your own strengths.

### The GCSE course consists of two parts:

1. All the work you do over the two years is coursework (60% of the total mark).
2. A series of preparatory studies for the timed test to be carried out for eight weeks before the timed test, plus a ten hour externally set timed test, over two days.

The exam will be 10 hours, spread over 2 days and sat at the end of year 11. You will have from the beginning of January to prepare for the exam and complete all your preparation work. You will be given a range of themes/ words by the exam board and you will have to select and investigate one of these for your exam work.

Both parts are displayed as a final exhibition.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Edexcel
<b>Specification and No.</b>	2PY01
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study Photography at A' Level then college or university. Career pathways include freelance work in photo-journalism, photography, fashion, web based publishing, journalism, public relations, advertising, design studios, teaching, media and broadcasting.

# Physical Education: \_\_\_\_\_

## What will I learn?

The GCSE Physical Education course will appeal to you if you:

- have a keen interest in sport and recreation and always look forward to your PE lessons
- take part in sport/recreation outside of class time
- want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise
- want to improve your own performance in a number of selected sports
- want to study a course that is theoretically based with an element of practical performance
- are considering a sports-related career or an A' Level/Higher Education course

You will:

- develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve your performance
- understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- develop your ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being and understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport

## How will I be assessed?

The GCSE PE course is assessed over four components.

Component 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport- 1 hour 15 minute written examination (30% of the GCSE)

Component 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport - 1 hour 15 minute written examination (30% of the GCSE)

Component 3: Practical Performance in physical activity and sport

**Three practical assessments** in the role of a performer (one team sport/activity, one individual sport/activity with the third assessment being from either a team or individual sport/activity). You can achieve up to **30%** of the marks from your three practical assessments.

Component 4: Analysis and evaluation of performance– The assessment consists of students completing an analysis and evaluation of their own performance in one sporting activity. Students will then need to research and suggest how performance could be improved through training and refinement. **(10%)**

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification and No.</b>	8582
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study PE at A' Level or BTEC Level 3 in Sport, then university. Career pathways include Personal Training, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Sports Management and PE teaching.

# Religious Studies

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## What will I learn?

You will study Christianity and Islam as well as non-religious attitudes to a variety of issues.

The course gives students the opportunities to study:

### Area of Study 1: Based on a study of Christianity

- Christian beliefs
- Marriage and the family
- Living the Christian life
- Matters of life and death

### Area of Study 2: Based on a study of Islam

- Muslim beliefs
- Crime and punishment
- Living the Muslim life
- Peace and conflict

## How will I be assessed?

During the course of study, you will be assessed by your teacher through classwork and homework tasks and end of unit tests.

The course is 100% exam assessed. There is no coursework.

You will take two examinations at the end of the course. Each exam is worth 50% of the final marks. Each examination lasts for 1 hour and 45 minutes

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Edexcel
<b>Specification and No.</b>	Religious Studies specification B
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study A-Level courses in: Religious Studies, Politics or other Humanities subjects such as History, Geography, Economics and English.

Students may wish to take their studies further at university. Subjects with strong links to Religious Studies include PPE, Law, Politics, Religion and Philosophy, History, English and Sociology.

The course will help you understand beliefs in society and as such could be helpful to a career where communicating with or working with others from diverse backgrounds is important. Career paths that would welcome Religious Studies include; Law, Journalism, News and Media, Nursing, Police and any careers that involve helping and dealing with people in a multicultural society.

# Spanish

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## What will I learn?

In the GCSE Spanish course you will continue to learn Spanish to a level you would need to communicate with a Spanish speaking person, or to visit a Spanish speaking country. This includes developing key grammar knowledge, vocabulary as well as listening, reading, speaking, translation and writing skills and strategies to be able to function independently in a Spanish-speaking environment.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture (Family and friends, technology, free-time activities, customs and festivals)

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest (Home and neighbourhoods, social issues, the environment and more global issues, travel and tourism)

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment (Life at school and college, education post 16, career choices and ambitions)

## How will I be assessed?

The speaking will be assessed by non-exam assessment. Reading, writing, listening and translation will be externally assessed exams. The four skills of listening, reading (including translation), speaking and writing (including translation) will be equally weighted at 25%. All four exams will be tiered (foundation or higher) and it is required to enter all skills at the same tier.

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	AQA
<b>Specification and No.</b>	GCSE Spanish 8698
<b>Level</b>	GCSE

## What can I go on to do at the end of the course?

Students can go on to study Spanish at A Level followed by a degree in Spanish. This degree can be combined with another subject area (e.g. business, journalism etc.).

**Making Choices 2021**

<b>December- February</b>	Careers sessions during Personal Development Time.
<b>January – March</b>	Making Choices talks begin in lessons.
<b>January - February</b>	Making Choices assemblies.
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Making Choices Information evening for parents.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Making Choices forms sent home

In making your choices you should consider subjects which you are interested in, as you are more likely to be motivated and succeed in these subjects. You should also consider choosing subjects which you find easy or have a natural aptitude for.

In addition, taking a Humanity subject (either History or Geography) is compulsory for all students as they are considered to be "facilitating" subjects which will keep a wide range of A Level and degree courses as well as career options open to you. These subjects are also considered as academic/difficult by top universities.

Your preferences will be considered and granted as far as it is feasible, but you must realise that the final decision will rest with the school. We will do all that we can to timetable you into the courses that suit your personal interests, aptitude and abilities and most importantly, that will enable you to achieve success. However, you must be aware that where very small numbers choose a subject, the subject will not run and therefore alternative choices will have to be made. If a particular course is oversubscribed, decisions about who should study the course will be taken by the relevant teachers and senior teachers, along with what preference number it was given by each student.

Don't forget to prioritise your preferred courses, remembering that number 1 is the course that you want to do most.

You must also choose two reserve subjects (labelled R1 and R2).

Late returns may limit your chance of getting one of your preferred subjects.

**Community Languages**

If you are studying another language outside school, please complete the details below. When you collect your result, please bring a copy into the Exams Office for our records.

**Language:** ..... **Exam Board:** .....

**CORE OPTIONS**

You **must** pick **one** subject from the following box. Please tick **one**.

<input type="checkbox"/> Geography	<input type="checkbox"/> History
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**FURTHER OPTIONS**

Important to remember:  
You **can** take both History and Geography so may wish to select the other here.  
You **cannot** choose Food Preparation and Nutrition with Design & Technology.  
You **cannot** take Art and Photography.  
You **cannot** take Business Studies and Economics.  
You cannot study a language you have not studied at KS3.

Choose **3** subjects from the list below. Rank your subjects. You should place a 1 next to the subject that you would most like to do, 2 for your second choice and so on. You should try to choose a broad and balanced range of subjects, as your interests may change as you get older.

In some cases students cannot always get their choices. Put an R1 - for Reserve 1 and an R2 - for Reserve 2, in case you cannot get your choices.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geography
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Social Care - BTEC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Science/ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>	History
<input type="checkbox"/>	Design & Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Music
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drama	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photography
<input type="checkbox"/>	Food Preparation & Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	French	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish

Do you have any concerns or questions about your subject choices?

<b>Student signature</b>	<b>Parent signature</b>
<b>Staff signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

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# *Making Choices*

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