



# Pathways

## 2026-28



### Key Dates 2026:

1. **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**, Pathways Evening, 5:00-7:00pm.
2. **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**, Progress Evening, 3:40-6:40pm.
3. **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**, pathways final choice sent electronically to students.
4. **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**, deadline for submission of options form, 9:00am.
5. **From 13<sup>th</sup> April**, best-fit interviews and subject choices confirmed.

## Key Stage 4 Pathways

For you as students, this year is a milestone. Until now you have taken, more or less, the same subjects from year to year and with a few exceptions, everyone's timetable looked very much the same.

Next year will be different. You will continue with some of the same subjects known as the Core subjects, but there will now be a range of new courses open to you. You need to consider from these courses, which pathway will help you to make the best of your abilities, whilst moving in the direction you wish to go when you leave school. You therefore need to think carefully about these choices, as the subjects you choose may affect your future. Find out about any subjects which may be required for any career you have in mind. Talk to your parents, your teachers, and other experienced adults.

This booklet is designed to help you. Read it carefully and make sure that your parents / carers see it. Inside, you will find course descriptions and a page which outlines all the subjects which you may choose, arranged in alphabetical order.

Between now and when you will be asked to choose your pathway there will be subject presentations available on the school website. Members of staff including Mr Austin, our post-16 Adviser who will attend the Pathways Information Evening and the Year 9 Progress Evening, will be pleased to talk with you and answer any questions you may have.

On **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** there is a Year 9 Progress Evening, when you will have time to talk to subject teachers about the progress being made in Year 9, which may be considered when making your choices. This evening is to discuss progress being made rather than the option subject in detail, so please take the opportunity to find out about your choices in advance of this evening by watching subject presentations and contacting the subject teacher separately if you have detailed questions about the course.

You will be sent an online application form, electronically, after the Progress Evening. This will need to be submitted **by 09:00am on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. We will begin to allocate groups on that day, so you must complete your online form on time, to ensure we can take your choices into account.

Please do not be daunted by this process and seek further guidance if you need any help.

With best wishes.

Mr D Bird  
Deputy Headteacher

## Key Stage 4 Pathways 2026 – 2028

The next three pages outline vital information – please read it carefully and ask if you are unsure.

### **The compulsory Core Subjects will be:**

1. English (English Language & Literature)
2. Mathematics
3. Science (Combined Science – 2 GCSEs)

### **Students will also study, but not be examined on:**

4. Physical Education
1. PSICHE

### **Pathway courses:**

These are the courses, in alphabetical order, which students will choose to study alongside the compulsory core:

- Art & Design
- Child development (OCR National)
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Engineering Design (OCR National)
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- Geology
- History
- Music
- Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics [RPE]
- Spanish
- Sport Studies (OCR National)
- Triple Science (biology, chemistry and physics)

**Students will study four of these subjects, but must choose a first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth preference from the list.**

- Students must choose a subject only **once** in their six choices.
- We aim to allocate the first four choices to as many students as possible, but we need to work within the constraints of available staffing.

These are important decisions and students need to think carefully about the courses on offer. Remember the following considerations though:

- If a subject is oversubscribed (too many students who want to do it) current motivation in that subject may be taken into consideration.
- If a subject is under-subscribed (not enough students who want to do it) it will not run, and we will then look at your fifth and sixth choices to allocate a fourth subject.
- Staff changes may mean that we are unable to offer a subject, and it will not run.
- There may be timetable clashes between the subjects you choose, or a course may be full so you may be asked to take one or more of your fifth or sixth preferences.
- We will hold best-fit interviews with students who may not be able to get their first four choices.
- It is therefore particularly important that you also think carefully about your fifth and sixth choices.

### **Pathways**

Most importantly you should consider which combination of courses may set you on the track (pathway) for the future you aspire to, whether this be college / university, training, or employment. Be careful not to focus too much on the actual job you think you may do but think about the range of skills you may need and the subjects that will give you the greatest flexibility.

### **NOTE**

**Triple Science:** This option is in addition to the two qualifications through the Combined Science course, which still involves studying biology, chemistry and physics. It is available to all enthusiastic science students. Seek advice from your teacher or Mr Cox if unsure.

### **Who can I talk to for advice?**

- Parents / Guardians
- Older brothers / sisters
- Subject staff / PSHE staff
- Mr Andrew Austin (Post 16 adviser)
- Older students in school who are already in Key Stage 4

**Points to consider.**

- Do not base your decisions on which members of staff have been teaching you. Timetabling changes every year and there is no certainty on which staff will be teaching you in Years 10 and 11.
- Do not choose a subject just because your friends are. You may end up in a different group and friendships can change! You also learn better when not distracted by friends.
- Do not base all your choices on future career plans. Many people change their job throughout their lifetime so think about a broad range of skills from a range of subjects that will serve a working life likely to span 50+ years.
- Listen to your teachers. They know you and although no one can predict how well you will do, if your teacher tells you that you may find their subject a challenge, they no doubt have good reason for saying so.

Information about the courses on offer can be found on the following pages. After the Progress Evening, we will send you a link to an electronic form for you to make your final choices.

Read the information carefully and start asking questions!

## Careers Guidance

'The Government's careers strategy, published on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017, sets out a long-term plan to build a world class careers system. This has since been strengthened through updated statutory guidance (most recently May 2025), which requires all secondary schools to deliver a stable, structured careers programme aligned to the Gatsby Benchmarks.

To achieve this aim, the careers strategy sets out that every school and academy providing secondary education should use the Gatsby Charitable Foundation's Benchmarks to develop and improve their careers provision. This statutory guidance has been restructured around the Benchmarks with information on what schools need to do to meet each one. The Gatsby Benchmarks are not a statutory framework but by adopting them, schools can be confident that they are fulfilling their legal duties: the existing duties to secure independent careers guidance and provide opportunities to a range of providers, to inform pupils about technical education qualifications or apprenticeships and the new duty to publish information about the careers programme on the school website.'

Careers guidance and access for education and training providers. Statutory guidance for governing bodies, school leaders and school staff – May 2025.

Our aim is to provide this guidance and specialist support for your child to make informed decisions regarding their career pathway. Using the pathways choices to move towards a more personalised pathway, therefore enabling them to reach their full potential. This all begins in Year 9 PSCE with 'Making Informed Career Choices'

Students will:

- Meet our Post 16 Personal Adviser.
- Question current Year 11 students, who explain how they chose the subjects they are studying, workload, coursework, exams etc.
- Review and assess their own abilities and interests, reflect on their strengths and weaknesses using sixteen personalities skills assessment and the Buzz Quiz.
- Receive up-to-date, objective advice and guidance to help them to understand, interpret and gather information to make informed choices about their future.
- Free choice session and subject around clash analysis.
- Learn to navigate the National Careers Service website and use the Start Profile in more in depth for careers investigation.
- Have virtual or real-world encounters with employers and gaining insights to different employment sectors.

In Year 10 they will complete one week of Work Experience during the Summer Term. The aim is to introduce the students to the work environment; they will attend normal working hours, participate as fully as possible in the workplace and keep a diary of their observations. Students will also be introduced to further education establishments with trips to local post 16 providers and workshops from the National Apprenticeship Service.

In Year 11 decisions need to be made regarding their Post 16 pathway, whether it is Further Education, Training or Employment. They participate in a Post 16 afternoon where they can select presentations from our Post 16 providers.

By Christmas application forms should be completed, mock interviews attended in preparation for college interviews which start in February/March. All students will be interviewed by our Post 16 Personal Adviser to discuss their career and Further Education plans.

With our guidance we hope your son/daughter builds a realistic and positive view of their needs and capabilities so they will be able to make effective learning plans, informed decisions at key transition points, be aware of changing career/ educational opportunities which in turn will support their decision-making process about future learning pathways.

Miss O Ireland  
Assistant Head Teacher

## Year 9 Pathways Evening 2026

**17.00-17.20 - Introduction and welcome in School Hall: Dr Wood/Mr Bird/Mr Longhurst/Mrs Quye/Mr Elkins.**

**17.30-18.30 - Opportunity to attend 10-minute presentations by subject staff plus Mr Austin, Post 16 Advisor available in the restaurant.**

**18:30-19:00 – Opportunity to ask further questions in the main hall.**

Room	Starting at 17.30	Starting at 17.45	Starting at 18.00	Starting at 18.15
<b>B10</b>	Art	Art		Art
<b>R5</b>	Food preparation & Nutrition	Child development	Food preparation & Nutrition	Child development
<b>B8</b>	Computer science	Engineering Design	Engineering Design	Computer science
<b>B9</b>		Music	Music	Music
<b>B5</b>	Triple Science		Triple Science	Triple Science
<b>Y2</b>	Spanish	Spanish		Spanish
<b>R7</b>		Sport Studies	Sport Studies	Sport Studies
<b>Drama studio</b>	Drama		Drama	Drama
<b>W4</b>	Geography	Geology	Geology	Geography
<b>W6</b>	History	History	History	
<b>W5</b>	RPE	RPE	RPE	

# Art & Design



**What is it worth?** 1 GCSE

**Why do it? Our aim is for every student to:**

- ✓ Enjoy Art and developing skills for expression
- ✓ Make excellent progress and
- ✓ Learn traditional skills and skills for life

Art GCSE is a qualification which will demonstrate your ability to be creative, able to plan, design and communicate visually.

It will benefit you if you are considering a career where visual skill is necessary.(e.g. illustration, graphics, architecture, hairdressing, fashion / textile design, publishing, interior design, theatre design, photography, etc.)

It could also lead naturally on to AS & A2 level Art and beyond that to an Art Foundation course and an Art Degree.

You will follow a broad-based course combining two or more of the following areas of study: fine art (including painting, printmaking, 3D work), textiles, ceramics and glass ware, digital photography and graphic design.

You will be given the opportunity to study and learn from the work of other artists, craftspeople and designers.

From Year 10 you will produce a portfolio of work (60% controlled assessment) and in Year 11 develop your own unit of work based around a theme for the final exam (40%).

Themes for 'controlled assessment' could include:

Body Decoration	Landscape and Printmaking	Still Life	Portraiture
Indonesian Batik	Natural Forms	Human Form	Cultural Identity

**What will you do?**

**Enthusiasm, creativity and determination**

Drawing from observation is an important element of the course, and will be included in **all** areas of study. You will be encouraged to show your understanding of composition, perspective, colour line, tone, etc. You will also be asked to investigate and experiment with a variety of different media in the production of Art work.

**What do you need?**

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Art	OCR	60% Controlled Assessment	40% Terminal Exam 6 weeks preparation Total 10 hours

For further details see: Mrs Fletcher-Tyrie or Mr Wise

# Child development



**What is it worth?** Equivalent of 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

This qualification will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in the Childcare sector.

## What will you do?

You will learn about the importance of pre-conception health and reproduction, antenatal care, and preparation for birth. You'll also learn about postnatal care and the conditions in which a child can thrive.

You will learn how to create a safe environment for children from birth to five years in childcare settings. You'll research and choose equipment that is suitable and safe for use and will learn about children's nutrition and dietary needs.

You will learn the physical, intellectual, and social developmental norms for children from one to five years. You'll understand the importance of creating plans and providing different play activities to support children in their development.

## What will you need?

To succeed in this subject, students will need to have:

- ✓ An interest in supporting those in care, starting from pre-conception through to children aged five years.
- ✓ A desire to gain knowledge and skills to help provide such an environment for children in care.
- ✓ A willingness to apply what you learn by completing practical activities.

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Child Development	OCR	Two non-examined assessments worth 60%	1 hour 15-minute written examination worth 40%

For further details see: Mrs Butler

# GCSE Computer Science



**What's it worth?** 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

The 9-1 Computer Science GCSE is a reformed qualification designed to meet the skills gap of tech-savvy experts in the world of computing and technology. They are the drivers of progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where technology meets everyday life at every turn.

## What will you do?

This two-year course has components that look at:

- How computers store, process, format and transfer data
- Computer network design and cyber security threats
- Data encryption, algorithms and programming code
- How to design, produce, test, and improve computer programs
- How to read and use binary and logic

Assessment is via two exams sat in the summer: Paper 1 is a written examination and Paper 2 is a practical onscreen assessment. The practical onscreen assessment will require students to design, write, test and refine programs in order to solve problems.

## What do you need?

To succeed in this subject, students will need to be:

- Interested in the history of computing, current applications, and future technology concepts
- Curious about how computers and devices work
- Able to create, design and make their ideas reality
- Tenacious in identifying and fixing problems
- Able to think logically, imagine creatively and focus on detail

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Computer Science	Edexcel	0%	50% Written exam 50% Practical onscreen assessment

For further details see: Mr T Shackleford-Chrimes

# Engineering Design



**What is it worth?** Equivalent of 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

Cambridge National in Engineering Design will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the sector and the wider industry.

It's a vocational qualification, equivalent in value to a GCSE and contains both practical and theoretical elements.

## What will you do?

You will learn about how designs are developed – including what information is needed and how manufacturing influences design.

You will learn about the different ways of communicating designs using sketches, drawings and computer aided design (CAD), producing accurate and detailed drawings and models.

You will learn about how designers create and test models to make a working prototype and you will have the opportunity to make your own high-quality models to represent design ideas.

## What do you need?

- A blend of research, technical, creative, and practical skills.
- The ability to analyse data, generate ideas, and effectively communicate designs.
- The ability to apply math and science to solve design challenges.
- Lots of curiosity and a real interest in the subject.

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Engineering Design	OCR	Two non-examined assessments worth 60%	1 hour 15-minute written examination worth 40%

For further details see: Mrs Butler or Mr T Shackelford-Chrimes

# Drama



## What is it worth? 1 GCSE

### Why do it?

- ✓ Drama is a practical and group work-based subject.
- ✓ You will have the opportunity to develop your creativity, imagination, and ability to solve problems as part of a team.
- ✓ You will be able to develop your confidence, presentation, and interpersonal skills.

### It is ideal for students who:

- ✓ have a good imagination and an interest in working practically and 'on your feet'.
- ✓ enjoy expressing themselves in an active and creative way.
- ✓ find it stimulating to share ideas, listen to others and work in groups.
- ✓ have an interest or talent in theatre, drama, and the performing arts.

### What will you do?

You will study a range of theatre styles, the works of different playwrights and various ways of making drama. You can choose to be assessed as either a performer (actor) or as a designer (lighting / set / costume / sound) through practical tasks and reflection records / journals. There is a final written exam at the end of the course that focuses on a play set by the exam board. You will have the opportunity to work with well-known plays and to create your own, original drama in a classroom environment that is active, challenging, and enjoyable.

### What do you need?

An ability to be responsible for yourself and how you learn.  
Good group work skills and to be prepared to work with a variety of different students.  
A positive attitude towards working practically.  
Commitment to extending your learning in lunchtime and after-school opportunities.  
Enthusiasm for working with others in groups and whole class activities.

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Drama	Eduqas	60% Assessed Practical Tasks	40% Written Exam

For further details see: Mr Wise

# English Language/ English Literature



## What is it worth?

All students will sit both an English Language and an English Literature course which will count as two separate GCSEs. They will also receive an award for Spoken Language. This will be expressed as a distinction, a merit, a pass or a fail.

## Why do it?

- ✓ English Language is a core subject and therefore compulsory. Many post-16 courses will insist on a Grade 4 in this subject.
- ✓ It is designed to improve student's communication skills in the key areas of Speaking and Listening, Reading, and Writing.
- ✓ By studying these courses, the student will learn more about the world, human nature – and themselves.
- ✓ They will have the opportunity to be creative and have fun too.

## What will you do?

The student will be required to study:

1. Shakespeare
2. A range of poetry on a similar theme
3. A Nineteenth Century Novel
4. A modern play
5. A range of literary and non-literary non-fiction texts/sources.

They will also be required to take part in:

- A Formal Presentation accompanied by questions and answers.

## What do you need?

- ✓ Self-motivation, resilience, and effective self-evaluation skills.
- ✓ Effective group work skills.
- ✓ Active reading and effective listening skills.
- ✓ A willingness to develop your communication skills orally and through writing.
- ✓ Effective notetaking, organisation, and revision skills.
- ✓ A willingness to develop your analytical skills at word, sentence, and whole text level.
- ✓ A desire to become the best that you can be!

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
English Language	AQA		100%
English Literature	AQA		100%

For further details see: Mr Balmer

# Food Preparation & Nutrition



**What is it worth?** 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on the science behind ingredients and on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

## What will you do?

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.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition, and health, including the current guidelines for a healthy diet.
- Food science, including the functional and chemical properties of food.
- Food safety including food spoilage and contamination and the safe use of microorganisms in food production.
- Food choice related to religion, culture, ethical and moral beliefs, and medical conditions.
- Food provenance including the environmental impact and sustainability of food the impact of food and food security on local and global markets and communities.

## What you will need

- ✓ Lots of curiosity and a real interest in the subject.
- ✓ A commitment to bring ingredients to practical lessons to experiment with recipes, learn about different ingredients, and understanding the science and skill of food preparation.

## How is it assessed?

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Food Preparation	AQA	Non-Examination Assessment (50%)	Theory Exam (50%)

For further details see: Mrs Butler

# Spanish



**What is it worth?** 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

- ✓ A foreign language gives you a competitive edge in the jobs market, helps you stand out from the crowd in a multitude of career paths and boosts your employability.
- ✓ Demand for languages skills is booming in the global job market and employers often rank language skills as high priority when recruiting.
- ✓ Scientists believe knowledge of an MFL can boost your brain power alongside enhancing your analytical and creative skills and improving your cognitive development.
- ✓ Learning a new language means developing confidence, and improving your communication skills, developing extremely useful transferable skills.
- ✓ Speaking another language helps break down cultural barriers, can help you better understand the world and encourages better understanding of other people's perspectives.
- ✓ Speaking another language helps you to be more confident when travelling and exploring the world, allowing you to be fully immersed in local life and have an authentic experience of another culture.

## What will you do?

**Listening exam:** The Foundation paper is 35 minutes. The Higher paper is 45 minutes.

**Reading exam:** The Foundation paper is 45 minutes. The Higher paper is 60 minutes.

**Speaking exam:** The Foundation exam lasts 7 – 9 minutes. The Higher exam lasts 10 – 12 mins.

**Writing exam:** The Foundation paper is 1 hour 10 mins, and the Higher paper is 1 hour 15 minutes.

All exams are done in Year 11 at the end of the course. **YOU MUST SIT THE SAME TIER IN ALL PAPERS.**

## What do you need?

**Communication skills in speaking and writing:** The ability to express ideas and thoughts fluently and with a good degree of accuracy is essential not only in your own language, but also when you communicate using a foreign language. You will also need to be able to translate into Spanish with accuracy and this skill will be regularly practised.

**Listening and reading skills:** Good listening and reading skills are important when learning a foreign language. You will practise and develop your ability to listen to, read and understand Spanish.

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Spanish	AQA	The speaking exam is conducted in school and marked externally.	Listening 25% Reading 25% Speaking 25% Writing 25%

For further details see: Mrs Proffitt / Miss Salt

# Geography



**What is it worth?** 1 GCSE

**Why do it?**

- ✓ Because it is fascinating, and it is all around you.
- ✓ It develops your skills and makes you more employable. Geographers can communicate effectively, draw and interpret maps and graphs, solve problems, and use GIS.
- ✓ Geography can take you directly into careers in the Tourism and Transport business, Civil engineering, Town and country planning and Landscape architecture and many more.
- ✓ Geographers can be in all walks of life, from pilots to lawyers to the TV weatherman.

**What will you do?**

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes, 35% of the GCSE. Includes:

- **Natural hazards:** volcanoes, earthquakes, tropical storms, extreme UK weather and climate change.
- **Ecosystems:** small scale UK ecosystems, tropical rainforests, and cold environments.
- **Physical landscapes in the UK:** coasts and rivers.

Paper 2: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 35% of the GCSE. Includes:

- **Urban environments:** growth of urbanisation, Rio de Janeiro, and Bristol.
- **Resource management:** global and UK resource management and in-depth study of food.
- **Changing Economic World:** development, Nigeria, and the changing UK economy.

Paper 3: 1 hour and 15 minutes, 30% of the GCSE. Includes:

- **An issue evaluation** based on pre-release material sent out 12 weeks before the exam.
- **Assessment of fieldwork:** questions based on fieldwork materials from an unfamiliar context and student's individual enquiry work based on two fieldwork trips.

**What do you need?**

We can develop your geographical skills during the course. You need to start with:

- ✓ Lots of curiosity and a real interest in the subject.
- ✓ A willingness to join in and work hard.

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Geography	AQA		100% Exam

For further details see: Mr Elkins

# Geology



**What is it worth?** 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

- ✓ Are you fascinated by the processes which have shaped the physical world around you and want to know more?
- ✓ Geology provides the foundations for understanding the science of 'how the Earth works': its structure, evolution and dynamics, and its mineral and energy resources.
- ✓ In addition, following the course will appreciate that the understanding and application of Earth science is vital to the future quality of life and prosperity of the world's population; from supplying the ever-growing demand for minerals, energy, and water resources to preventing natural hazards by improved engineering and prediction techniques.

## What will you do?

- Rocks and minerals (The rock cycle)
- Plate tectonics
- Deformational structures (folding and faulting)
- Geological time
- The origins of life and mass extinction
- Global climate and sea level change
- Geology in outer space
- Geological hazards (volcanoes / earthquakes / tsunamis / landslides)
- Geological engineering
- Two fieldwork visits and a range of classroom practical's

## How is it examined?

Component 1: Geological Principles On-screen exam: (1 hour 15 minutes 50% of the qualification)  
Component 2: Investigative Geology Written exam: (1 hour 30 minutes)

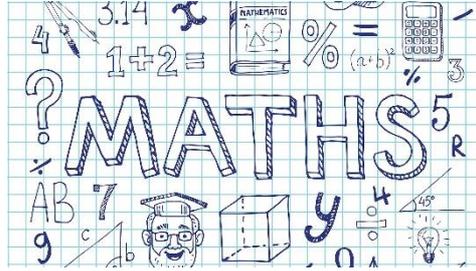
## What do you need?

- ✓ Anyone can choose to study GCSE Geology, but the subject is particularly suitable for those who have an interest in Earth Sciences.
- ✓ There are close links to both GCSE Geography and GCSE Chemistry, and the subject complements those option choices well.

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Geology	WJEC		100% Exam

For further details see: Mr Elkins

# Mathematics



**What is it worth?** 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

- ✓ Mathematics is a core subject and therefore compulsory.
- ✓ The course is designed to provide a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study and for employment, to give pupils the appropriate mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding to help them progress to a full range of courses in further and higher education.
- ✓ This includes A Level mathematics courses as well as A Level and undergraduate courses in other disciplines such as biology, physics, chemistry, geography, and psychology, where the understanding and application of mathematics is crucial.

## What will you do?

The course will cover topics under the following content sections:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion, and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

## How is it examined?

The qualification consists of three equally weighted written examination papers:

- Paper 1: non-calculator assessment.
- Paper 2: calculator is allowed.
- Paper 3: calculator is allowed.

Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and has 80 marks. The content outlined for each tier will be assessed across all three papers. Each paper has a range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts. Students can take assessments in either the foundation tier (grades 1 to 5) or higher tier (grades 4 to 9).

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Mathematics	Edexcel		100% Exam

For further details see: Mr Cox

# History



**What is it worth?** 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

- ✓ How else can you make sense of the present unless you have a good understanding of the past?
- ✓ How are you going to participate in the system if you do not know how it works?
- ✓ How will you carry on building up your own set of values without looking at how others have done so in the past?
- ✓ How are you going to change the world if you have not looked at how it got in the state it is in already?
- ✓ History is a great qualification for budding Journalists, lawyers, secretaries, accountants, researchers, businesspeople, managers, police officers to name but a few...

## What will you do?

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment, and the trenches.  
Anglo-Saxon and Norman England; Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39; The American West, c1835–c1895

## How is it examined?

Paper One: 1 hour and 15 minutes (30%): Medicine in Britain  
Paper Two: 1 hour 45 minutes (40%): Anglo-Saxon and Normans/The American West  
Paper three: 1 hour 20 minutes (30%): Germany 1918-39

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
History	Edexcel		100% Exam

For further details see: Miss Sollars

# Music



**What is it worth?** 1 GCSE

## Why do it?

- ✓ Music GCSE builds on the strengths developed at Key Stage 3 in performing, composing, and listening and analysis.
- ✓ You will develop an appreciation of music from other cultures and different styles of music from around the world.
- ✓ You will have the opportunity to create your own music using ICT and live instruments culminating in the recording of your own compositions and performances.
- ✓ If you are studying an instrument already then GCSE Music is the perfect course for you as it allows you to use your chosen instrument for your coursework.

## What will you do?

With a mix of performing, composing, and developing your understanding of music, the GCSE music course offered produces students with a wide range of skills that can be taken far beyond the reach of the Music Room door. The scheme contains a blend of teamwork and independence covering all three aspects of musical learning. The skills learnt in years 7-9 are a solid foundation for GCSE. They are developed through the creation of new material, refining performance practice, and constructing responses to music throughout history, in a variety of styles and from various parts of the world.

## What do you need?

A true interest in, and an enjoyment of all music is necessary. This course demands that you practise your instrument regularly and hone your composition skills through independent study.

The course offers students a selection of opportunities across a wide range of musical disciplines, both traditional and contemporary. An ability to be responsible for yourself and how you learn and a positive attitude towards working practically is important. You will need a commitment to extending your learning in lunchtime and after-school opportunities. Enthusiasm for working with others in groups and whole class activities.

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Music	OCR	30% Composition 30% Performance	40% Listening Exam

For further details see: Miss Chapman or Mr Wise

# Religion, Philosophy, & Ethics



What is it worth? 1 GCSE

## Why Choose RPE?

- **Debate Big Questions** – Discuss and challenge real-world ethical issues like abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty, exploring religious and secular views.
- **Stand Out to Employers & Universities** – RPE builds critical thinking, debate, and communication skills, valued in careers like law, medicine, journalism, and politics.
- **Make Your Voice Heard** – Engage in lively discussions, develop your own opinions, and learn to respect different perspectives.
- **Explore Different Beliefs** – Gain insight into diverse worldviews, broadening your understanding of people and cultures.

## What will you do?

### Topic 1: Philosophy & Ethics

**Sex & Relationships:** Debates on *Feminism, Men & Women, Sex, LGBTQ+, Gay Marriage, Alternatives to Marriage, Adultery, and Divorce.*

**Life & Death:** Debates on *Creation, Evolution, Environment & Climate Change, Animal Rights, Animal Testing, Veganism, Global Citizenship, Sanctity of Life, Abortion, and Euthanasia.*

**Good & Evil + Human Rights:** Debates on cause of Crime, Drugs, Death Penalty, Law, Human Rights, Poverty, and Discrimination.

### Topic 2: Christianity

**Beliefs:** *Traditionalists V. Modernists in Christianity, Life of Jesus, Parables, Incarnation, Death, Resurrection, & Afterlife.*

**Practices:** *Sacraments, Pilgrimage, Festivals & Charity.*

### Topic 3: Judaism

**Beliefs:** *Traditionalists V Modernists in Judaism, Covenant, Abraham, Moses, 613 Mitzvot, & Afterlife.*

**Practices:** *Festivals, Rituals, Orthodox & Reform.*

Subject	Exam Board	Exam Papers		
Religious Studies	Eduqas	1. Philosophy & Ethics	50%	2 hours
		2. Christianity	25%	1 hour
		3. Judaism	25%	1 hour

For further details see: Mr J Patrick

# Science



## What is it worth?

Course	What qualifications do I get
Separate Science	3 GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Combined Science	2 GCSEs (Combined Science)

## Why do it?

- ✓ Ever wondered how life began? Or how genetic engineering can prolong our lives or maybe you were just curious as to how suntan lotion works or how plastic can be made from oil? Studying science will broaden your understanding of the world around us whilst teaching you how to apply logic and reason to solve a problem, analyse data or make judgements about information and reports in the media.
- ✓ The skills gained in studying science are needed in a range of jobs, as diverse as a Beauty Therapist to an Astronaut. Science is useful for most careers - studying science will widen options later in life, not narrow them down.

## What will you do?

Students opt to study separate science, or will study combined science. All courses involve the study of biology, chemistry and physics. Separate science is particularly suitable for students wishing to study science to a higher level.

## What do you need?

Students not opting for separate science will study combined science - this course still requires a willingness to work hard. Separate science tackles each of biology, chemistry and physics in more depth, and 40 - 50% more hours are devoted to separate science to enable this. Separate science thus requires a higher level of commitment than the combined science course - but provides the best foundation for post-16 science study.

Subject	Exam Board	Exam Papers
Combined Science (2 GCSEs)	Edexcel	100% Terminal exams 6 x 70 minute, 60 mark papers
Separate Science (3 GCSEs)	Edexcel	100% Terminal exams 6 x 105 minute, 100 mark papers

For further details see: Mr M Cox

# Sport Studies



**What is it worth? Equivalent of 1 GCSE**

## Why do it?

OCR Cambridge National in Sport Studies will encourage students to think for themselves about the study of sport and the application to real life practical sport, leadership and evaluation of the skills required. They will study topics affecting sport through the contemporary issues unit, both play and lead sporting activities, as well as having the chance to explore the world of outdoor adventurous activities.

## What does it involve?

### Theory Assessment:

This is the bulk of the course; students will be given a brief and will be expected to work towards completing assignments. Students will have two opportunities to get feedback from the teacher on their assignments, and where they can improve their grade. Each assignment counts towards their final grade.

### Practical assessments:

Students will be expected to play two sports regularly and they will need to keep a 12-week diary of how often they play and to what standard. They will be marked on their skills in each sport.

Students will also be assessed in a leadership role, where they will be expected to lead a PE session on a sport of their choice.

The final practical assessment is to complete an outdoor activity independently, where the students plan a trekking route along the Long Mynd and work together to complete the route.

## You should take Sport Studies if...

- ✓ You have a positive attitude to PE.
- ✓ Take part in sport in and out of school.
- ✓ You are computer literate (can save files, work on assignments on computers etc).
- ✓ Can work independently and in a group setting.
- ✓ Happy to take on a leadership role.

Subject	Exam Board	Internal	Exam Paper
Cambridge National In Sports Studies	OCR	60% Centre assessed tasks	40% Exam

For further details see: Miss Ireland

**Notes:**