



KEY STAGE 4

OPTIONS BOOKLET

2024 - 2026

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this year's Option Booklet. This is to be read in conjunction with the information received at the Parents Options Information Evening on Tuesday 27th February 2024.

This booklet, along with the presentation, will explain the Options process, how to make the choice online and support you as parents and students in guiding your decisions.

Langdon Park offers a broad and balanced GCSE and vocational offer which is delivered by specialist teaching staff in our purposefully designed classrooms.

The grading system 9-1 has now fully embedded into the educational landscape and with the exams being linier in nature all GCSE subjects have their final exams in the summer of year 11 (2026). Vocational subjects, such as BTEC Business, have coursework elements which are completed and asses throughout Year 10 and 11.

This booklet contains detailed information on all the Options available to students but we recommend that you discuss the options with your child and speak to their form tutor and/or the subject specialists.



LPS OPTIONS

At Langdon Park we want students to enjoy their GCSEs and achieve the best they can. It is important, however, that students have a broad and balanced set of GCSEs that ensure they keep options open at post 16. Both employers and universities like students to have a range of skills and knowledge that will benefit them in further studies and the workplace. The options process includes a range of subject choices that fully support the students ensuring they have this breadth and depth of Knowledge and Skills. Students have a Core Provision that all must take in Key Stage 4 These include:

Mathematics

English

Science

Religious Education

Core Physical Education

Students will be allocated a pathway which will be either Green, Red or Blue. Students choose options from OPTIONS BLOCKS A, B and C.



CORE SUBJECTS OUTSIDE OF ENGLISH, MATHS, SCIENCE

We believe that Religious Education provides important practice in essay writing, debate, comparison, analysis and evaluation, all of which are transferable to other subjects and further education. Furthermore, immeasurable and essential life skills such as understanding, empathy, reflection and spiritual awareness are gained. Such skills are vital throughout life, particularly in this cosmopolitan age.

We believe Core Physical Education provides fundamental movement skills which can provide the foundation from which children move with increasing complexity, variety and versatility in a range of activity areas. Whilst developing these skills children are also able to build on social, affective and cognitive learning opportunities.

The Pathways process gives students a broad set of skills and knowledge for their next phase of study or work. As a school we fully value all subjects and what they have to offer our students.

WHEN CHOOSING SUBJECTS THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:

Student

- ◆ What do I enjoy studying?
- ◆ What are my strengths?
- ◆ If I choose this option now, will it keep more options open later for further study / training / work?

Parent / Carer

- ◆ Are they choosing a subject to stay in the same class as friends?
- ◆ Are they choosing a subject because they believe that it will not involve much work?
- ◆ Are they choosing a subject because they like the teacher?
- ◆ Have they chosen subjects which challenge them but allow them to achieve their potential?
- ◆ Does their choice qualify them for the English Baccalaureate? Is that important for them?

If you have any questions about the Key Stage 4 Curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Courses

GCSE courses are awarded from grade 9 to 1, with grade 9 being reserved for the most outstanding candidates, and U meaning 'ungraded'. Whilst the average grade across the country is 5/4, we would expect the vast majority of our students to be working towards all grade 5s, or better, with many achieving much higher grades in all subjects.

In some subjects, all candidates will take the same examination papers, whilst in others they will take different combinations of papers according to their attainment. In such cases it will, of course, be important to ensure that our students take combinations of papers in which they are likely to achieve their full potential. Some subject papers are 'tiered' and allow candidates to sit a paper most suited to their level of attainment. These tiers may be at Higher or Foundation level, depending on the subject. Each tier has a limited range of grades, so it will be important for staff to identify the most appropriate level of entry.

In all GCSE examinations which require the writing of sentences in English, 5% or more of the marks will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar, often called "quality of written communication".

CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

During the course of Year 10, students will receive extensive careers advice and guidance. Parents are invited to borrow (or purchase) recommended books which offer help in decision making. Also the Careers Library and computer facilities are freely available to all students.

The Form Tutor is the first person to contact with queries, but if you wish to talk through the process or choices in more detail please book an appointment with the senior team.

Our Careers Team are always willing to see parents and students to discuss the implications of subject choice and the options process in general as well.

ADDITIONAL STUDY SUPPORT

Breakfast club is open everyday from 8:00am where students can complete supervised study with access to text books and internet access. The Study Centre is open after school until 4.30pm where students can study under supervision along with access to a fully stocked school library and PCs with internet access.

COMPLETING THE ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

The Options Form will be available on the Year 9 Google Classroom during February and March. The form is open for 4 weeks to allow students and their families to assess the options and for students to have time to discuss choices with their form tutor or class teachers. The form should be completed only once. All students must be member of the Google Classroom to access the form. The code for the classroom is: 3yrtgzs

If you have issues accessing the form then please contact Mr Bullement or a member of the Year 9 Team for support. If students are unsure about how to complete the form, they should speak to Mr Bullement in the Heads of Year Office or in the P.E. office.

If a mistake is made and the form is submitted, please ask students to speak to Mr Bullement to rectify this. The deadline for completion of the form is Thursday 28th March.

CORE SUBJECTS	OPTIONS	
	GCSE	VOCATIONAL
ENGLISH MATHS SCIENCE PHYSICAL EDUCATION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	ART AND DESIGN BUSINESS COMPUTER SCIENCE DRAMA FOOD FRENCH HISTORY GEOGRAPHY MUSIC P.E. SOCIOLOGY SPANISH	BUSINESS I.T. SPORT

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Details
Tuesday 1 st February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 27 th February	Parents Options Information Evening
Wednesday 28 th February	Options Form Open via Google Classroom
Thursday 28 th March	Option Form Submission Deadline
Monday 15 th April	Year 9 End of Key Stage Exams start
Summer Term	Options finalised
September 2024	Students start Year 10 studies

GCSE ART & DESIGN



Examination Board: AQA

If you would like further information, please contact Ms Gray or Ms Rifat

WHAT IS GCSE ART & DESIGN ALL ABOUT?

ART IS EVERYWHERE. The course is designed to ignite and inspire your creativity. You will be shown key skills and techniques to unlock your imagination, practice creative problem solving. To keep drive classes are used as tutorial, practical workshops in addition there will be gallery and museum visits. In previous years we have visited the National Portrait Gallery, Tate Galleries and Kew Gardens and organised workshops from the Royal Academy and Bow arts. This course is suitable for anyone who enjoys learning through practical practice and for those who enjoy working with a visual language. The Art & Design course focuses on drawing, mixed media, painting, printing, photography, ceramics and 3D design.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

If you like a challenge, enjoy thinking, analysing and making art and design, this is the course for you. It is demanding, but rewarding. You will also have the opportunity of showcasing your work in exhibitions.

The course is ideal for any student considering a career in the creative industry or a student who would like a balance to their other content driven GCSE's subjects. In this option the students submit their coursework and are not reliant on a performance in a final exam.

WHAT ABOUT ASSESSMENT?

The GCSE specification consists of 2 components:

- The Art & Design Portfolio 60%.
- The Art & Design ESA Task 40%.

There is no written examination.

The course gives you the opportunity of keeping your creative focus broad and varied, this will allow you, at a later stage to specialise in one aspect of Art and Design when you are more aware of your particular strengths and talents.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNT BEFORE?

GCSE Art & Design follows on from the basic foundation of Art & Design skills you have covered at Key Stage 3. You will be shown how to refine your skills and techniques and be introduced to new processes too. It is a practical subject with lots of 'hand on' work, so be prepared to experiment, to explore and try new ideas out.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

Not only will you acquire skills and techniques to produce creative and exciting Art and Design work but you will also develop skills of analysing, evaluating, researching and taking risks. Gain knowledge of the arts, crafts people and designers and apply the relevant processes and applications to inspire your work. The confidence to take risks, problem solve, communicate ideas and develop independent thinking.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

Art & Design is a good subject to study and acquire as a qualification for most careers, in particular, any careers demanding creative and innovative thinking, interpersonal skills and research.

The course gives you outstanding opportunities to develop skills suitable for careers in Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture Design, Computer Related Design, Illustration, Visual Merchandising, Fashion Design, Textiles, Graphic Design, Animation, Advertising, Teaching, Art Administration, Film and Television, Furniture Design, Garden Design, Theatre Design (costume and set), Make-up Artist and Jewelry Design, Ceramicist, Publicity, Sculptor, Painter, Printmaker, Museums and Gallery work, Archaeology, Art Therapy, Marketing, Painting or Artefact Restoration, Art C.

BTEC BUSINESS (ENTERPRISE)



Examination Board: Edexcel/Pearson
Syllabus Number: 603/7063/4

If you would like further information, please contact Miss Shamsuddin

WHAT IS BTEC BUSINESS (ENTERPRISE) ALL ABOUT?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise (603/7063/4) is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and practices through vocational contexts by studying enterprises, entrepreneurs, customers, competitors, the external environment, business planning and presenting, marketing and finance.

Learners will have:

- knowledge that underpins an effective use of skills, such as the activities, skills and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs, and the internal and external factors that can affect the success of an enterprise; in addition, the process of developing a business plan and using and applying marketing and finance knowledge.
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in planning an enterprise idea, including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you are interested in the 'world of work'; and if you are curious about how micro, small, medium businesses operate; and wish to start up your own barber, pet setting business and so forth.



HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

For many of you this will be your first experience of Business, as it is only studied in Years 10 to 13. BTEC Business involves a lot of numeracy as you are required to carry out calculations such as profit. Literacy is also important as you are required to write in a formal structure when being assessed.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

Component 1 Exploring Enterprises - 30% Internally assessed

Component 2 Planning and Presenting a Micro-Enterprise Idea - 30% Internally assessed

Component 3 Marketing and Finance for Enterprise - 40% Externally assessed

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

You will be asked to make presentations on areas of work studied, so team-working skills will be developed. You will be expected to read newspapers, and watch business news programmes so that you are aware of the external pressures businesses face. You will develop information retrieval skills, and report writing skill.

GCSE BUSINESS



Examination Board: Edexcel
Syllabus Number: 1BS0

If you would like further information, please contact Miss Shamsuddin

WHAT IS GCSE Business ALL ABOUT?

Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

- Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
- Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
- Topic 1.4 Making the business effective
- Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

- Topic 2.1 Growing the business
- Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions
- Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions
- Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions
- Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you are interested in the 'world of work'; and if you are curious about how business like Nike, barbers, The Body Shop operate.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

For many of you this will be your first experience of Business, as it is only studied in Years 10 to 13. GCSE Business involves a lot of numeracy as you are required to carry out calculations such as profit. Literacy is also important as you are required to write in a formal structure when being assessed.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

Theme 1: Investigating small business 1 hour and 45 minutes 50%

Theme 2: Building a business 1 hour and 45 minutes 50%

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

You will be asked to make presentations on areas of work studied, so team-working skills will be developed. You will be expected to read newspapers and watch business news programmes so that you are aware of the external pressures businesses face. You will develop information retrieval skills, and report writing skill.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE



Head of Department: Mr. Rahman | Examination Board: OCR

WHAT IS GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE ALL ABOUT?

It must be emphasised that Computer Science is completely different from ICT. While ICT will teach you how to use software effectively, Computer Science looks at the science of computers. This course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Learners will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, the course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many learners find captivating.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Component 1: Computer systems assessed by written examination– (50%)	Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming assessed by written examination - (50%)	Practical programming
Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.	Students will develop skills and understanding in computational thinking, algorithms, programming techniques, producing working programs and develop their understanding of writing software. Students will also be learning and applying computational logic and develop an understanding of computer circuits and translators.	Students will undertake programming tasks during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

This course is directed at students who enjoy problem solving and mathematics. Students will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming. For many learners, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills and persuade them to create their own applications. It must be noted that this course is not about building computers.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

In Year 7 you learned the basics of programming by using Scratch to create a game. In Year 8 you studied Boolean Logic to learn how computers carry out calculations. In Year 9 you have studied programming with Python. With this course you will develop your programming skills in Python by applying them to a variety of problems. A lot of the course content, such as learning about how computers work, will be new to most learners. There are strong links to Mathematics and logical thinking skills you have acquired will be utilised for this GCSE. Students who enjoy algebra will definitely be suited for this course.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS AND COURSEWORK?

There are two examinations which will be taken at the end of Year 11, being 100% towards your final grade (50% each). Programming will be assessed as part of the second written examination. Grades will be awarded to students from 9 to 1.

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IT



WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

This course gives learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It provides excellent preparation, higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. It will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.

WHAT USEFUL RESOURCES MIGHT I NEED FOR THIS COURSE?

It is beneficial for students to have access to a computer or laptop with internet access at home.

Head of Department: Mr. Rahman | Subject lead in IT: Mr. Ahmed | Examination Board: OCR

WHAT IS THE CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS in IT ALL ABOUT?

The Cambridge National in IT will encourage students to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of IT, including the use of IT in the digital world, Internet of Everything, data manipulation and Augmented Reality. learners will apply and use IT appropriately and effectively for the purpose and client and develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

COURSE OVERVIEW

R050: IT in the Digital World– (40%)	R060: Data Manipulation using Spreadsheets–(30%)	R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information – (30%)
This is assessed by taking an exam. In this unit students will learn about design and testing concepts for creating an IT solution or product, and the uses of IT in the digital world. Topics include: Design Tools, Human Computer Interface (HCI) in everyday life, Data and testing, Cyber-security and legislation, Digital Communications and The Internet of Everything (IoE).	This is assessed by completing a set assignment. In this unit students will learn how to plan, design, create, test and evaluate a data manipulation spreadsheet solution to meet client requirements. They will be able to evaluate a solution based on the user requirements. Topics include: Planning and designing the spreadsheet solution, Creating the spreadsheet solution, Testing the spreadsheet solution and Evaluating the spreadsheet solution.	This is assessed by completing a set assignment. In this unit students will learn how to design, create, test and review an Augmented Reality model prototype to meet a client's requirements. Topics include: Augmented Reality (AR), Designing an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype, Creating an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype and Testing and reviewing.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

This course is directed at students who enjoy problem solving and mathematics. Students will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

In Year 7 through to year 9 you have been using software applications to create various documents and products. With this course you will develop your application skills in creating projects which are key steps to industry standards. A lot of the course content, will have skills similar to other subjects such as, mind mapping and flowcharting. There are strong links to Mathematics and logical thinking skills you have acquired and will be utilised for this course.

GCSE DRAMA



WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS AND COURSEWORK?

There is one examination which will be taken at the end of Year 11, being 40% towards your final grade. Students will be expected to complete two coursework projects within controlled conditions in order to apply and demonstrate their IT skills. Grades are awarded on a Pass, Merit and Distinction Basis, with the opportunity to obtain a Distinction Star (D*)

WHAT IS GCSE DRAMA ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Drama is all about exploring and understanding the world that we live in, through drama and performance. You will put yourselves in the shoes of many different characters and situations, which will broaden your mind and life experience. You will have the opportunity to create your own original performances as well as perform professional plays. You will go on various theatre trips and experience live performance!

The GCSE Drama course is in three parts:

1. Devising your own performance in a group and then performing it for examination.
2. Performing two extracts from a professional play to an external examiner e.g. DNA, The Container.
3. Studying the play *Blood Brothers* practically and in written form. You will also complete a written exam on this in Year 11. This will include an evaluation of a live theatre piece.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

YES! 100%! If you want to study a subject that is both practical, deep, creative and fun. You will enjoy working in groups sharing and experimenting with ideas. Drama is an exciting and inspirational subject, that you may enjoy as a hobby or you might want to make a career out of it!

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE Drama follows on from drama work that you will have done in Years 7,8 and 9. You will develop your acting skills and directing skills to a higher level. You will look at plays in more detail and at different ways of bringing a script from the page to the stage. You will be working with a small group of students that have all chosen drama, want to be there and work hard to produce high quality performances.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as acquiring the skills involved in creating and performing drama, you will also be able to acquire skills in team work, problem solving and communication. You will also find that drama will help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations and people. All of the above will set your CV apart from the rest! Drama is a subject that develops many skills that employers in all sectors want – confidence, creative thinking, discipline and initiative.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

Exam One: The first exam is a devised performance that you create in a group and perform to a professional standard. You will be given a stimulus as a starting point for this performance and spend about 6 weeks preparing for the final exam performance.

Exam Two: You will perform two extracts from a play in front of an audience and the examiner will be present at the performance.

Exam Three: You will have a 1 hour 45-minute examination based on a play that you will study in Year 11 e.g. *Blood Brothers*. The exam also requires you to evaluate a piece of live theatre.

If you would like further information, please contact Miss Robinson or Miss Bird.

GCSE ENGLISH



Examination Board: AQA

If you would like further information, please contact Ms Keaveney

In KS4, you will be studying for two separate GCSEs – English Literature and English Language.

English Literature

In KS4, you will be studying for two separate GCSEs – English Literature and English Language. English Literature is the study of books and you will read and analyse poignant texts such as *An Inspector Calls*, *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol*. English Literature requires you to think to consider what the writer is commenting on in society. All of the texts are still relevant today and we often have debates within English to consider how the texts can comment on our own society.

English Language

English Language is a course that will build on a lot of your skills from KS3. For Paper 1, you will create your own story (it can even be a version of your gothic story you completed this year!) and you will answer questions on an unseen fictional text. For Paper 2, you will have the chance to write your own opinion piece and then answer questions on a non-fiction text.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

There is something for everyone to enjoy within the English Literature and Language GCSE. You have the chance to explore modern or canonical texts that are staples within our society. You will have the chance to be a real-writer and create a short story. You will even have the chance to study a new poetry unit and you will be the first cohort to do this! The poems are engaging, modern and diverse and as an English Department, we are very excited to begin teaching them.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

Everything you have been taught for the past three years is connected to GCSE English. When you read *Animal Farm* and *The Bone Sparrow*, you explored the writer's message – this is exactly what you need to do for GCSE. You have also been writing short stories for the past two years – gothic and 'iridescent adolescence.' Both of these units will support you with your GCSE next year. Finally, your recent poetry unit will support you with the diverse comparative poetry unit that we will begin studying next year.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

There are four examinations – two exams for English Literature and two exams for English Language.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

No, coursework has been replaced with examinations in the current GCSE syllabus. **However**, all students must complete a spoken language component of their GCSE language. Although it does not go towards your final grade, the assessment is a mandatory part of the qualification and must be achieved (whether distinction, merit or pass).

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

You will learn how to exercise self-discipline, to summarise your ideas (aloud and on paper), to think about why a writer has constructed a text in a particular way in order to have an effect on the audience. You will develop skills for responding creatively to a variety of texts and stimuli. Most of all, you will have a foundation qualification that will take you on to college or a future career.

GCSE FOOD



Examination Board: WJEC/ Eduqas – GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

If you would like further information, please contact Ms Moodie

WHAT IS FOOD ALL ABOUT?

By studying Food learners will:

Find this is an exciting and creative course which focuses on a mix of practical cooking skills, nutrition, food provenance and the science of food.

Design and cook healthy dishes from around the world

Understand how ingredients work

Learn higher level practical technical skills; filleting fish, jointing chicken, pasta making, food styling

Preparing and making baked goods from scratch; pastries, cakes, desserts, sauces, bread

Food growing.

WILL I ENJOY THE COURSE?

Food is an enjoyable course if you are interested in developing skills in cooking, how the ingredients work within the food we make and knowledge of the food industry. There will be some practical work and some opportunities to develop cooking skills. There will also be theory work that will link in with the practical and you must be prepared to carry out research, planning and evaluation work to support this. There are opportunities for you to present your work using ICT. There will also be opportunities to learn outside the classroom through food visits and events.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition follows on from work that you have completed at Key Stage 3 although you will have more time to further your knowledge and understanding of the subject.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXAMINATION?

50% Written Exam

2 sections of compulsory questions:

Section A: questions based on stimuli material

Section B: structured short and extended response questions.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

This GCSE has two coursework tasks called Non- Examination Assessments (NEA)

NEA 1 = 15% marks

A scientific food investigation task set by the exam board on the function and chemical properties of ingredients

NEA 2 =35% - Food Practical Assessment

The Food Practical assessment task is set by the exam board which is a 3- hour practical exam- preparing, cooking and presenting a menu of 3 dishes.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as developing your skills in food preparation and nutrition, you will develop your communication, mathematical and ICT skills, learning to work with others when problem solving and evaluating.

Careers: Molecular Gastronomist, Food Stylist, Food Technologist, Sports Nutritionist, Dietician, Chef, Farmer, Food Scientist,

GCSE FRENCH



If you would like further information, please contact Miss Ranalli and Miss Dupuy

WHAT IS GCSE FRENCH ALL ABOUT?

GCSE in French is about learning how to communicate with and understand speakers of this language. It will give you the opportunity to not only learn the language, but to also learn about life in French speaking countries; their cultures, festivals, customs, music, and more. You will put yourself in their place by acting out scenes based in the French speaking country, and you will learn how to express your own wishes, plans and opinions in French. In doing all this you will also extend your understanding of how languages work and your understanding of English will be enhanced.

WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO?

- You will practise speaking French in role-plays, conversations and by preparing speeches and presentations to be delivered in a conversation
- You will get practice in giving information and opinions and in finding out what other people have to say
- You will get frequent practice in listening to all sorts of French speakers, young, old, male and female, so that you understand the language when you hear it spoken at normal speed
- You will read a variety of texts in French, ranging from notices and signs to advertisements, leaflets, letters and magazine or newspaper articles. These will cover a range of subjects from tourist information to fashion, sport, cuisine and other areas of general interest
- You will practise writing correct French from short notes and messages, formal and informal letters, to more extended stories and descriptions. Sometimes you will be given a precise plan to write to, at other times you will be able to use your imagination to produce pieces of your own composition
- You will practise translating from and into French

DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE French follows on directly from the content you have studied in KS3. When embarking on the GCSE course will be building and developing your understanding of topics covered during KS3 and also adding new topics that you haven't studied before. You will use lesson time to learn the new vocabulary and practise the four skills, as well as translations.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

You will be assessed in four language elements: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each element counts as 25% of the final grade. You will take the GCSE examination at either Foundation or Higher Level. Foundation papers give access to grades 1 – 5; Higher to 3 – 9.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

A GCSE in a language offers a unique opportunity to learn how to communicate effectively. Through learning to communicate in French, you will be enhancing your communication skills in general, along with your problem solving and listening skills. Your cultural understanding will also develop as you will learn about and appreciate many different cultures in our world. Universities seek these skills in their future students and value a GCSE in a language

GCSE GEOGRAPHY



Examination Board: Edexcel B

WHAT IS GCSE GEOGRAPHY ALL ABOUT?

You live in the world – why not find out more about the **challenges** and **opportunities** it offers, and how to get **involved**? Discover how people are using different **environments**, both your own and those in other parts of the world. How have different **landscapes** developed – what are the great natural forces involved? Investigate issues of **sustainability** – will the earth be able to provide us with all the **resources** we take for granted now?

The GCSE Geography course is **linear** and is divided into three parts:

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues: Topic 1: Hazardous Earth Topic 2: Development dynamics Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues

Section A: The UK's evolving physical landscape Section B: The UK's evolving human landscape Section C: Geographical investigations

Component 3: People and Environment Issues

Topic 7: People and the biosphere Topic 8: Forests under threat Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Is relevant to the world you live in and the **future**
- Encourages you to discuss **current affairs** and issues
- Focuses on the **environment**
- Involves **practical** work **outdoors**
- Is studied through an "issue based" **enquiry** approach

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

There will 3 exams in year 11:

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues- 1 hour 30 minutes

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues- 1 hour 30 minutes

Component 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions- 1 hour 30 minutes

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

Geography is an ideal subject for developing a wide range of skills:

- Researching information from a variety of sources
- Presenting information in a variety of ways
- Manipulating data including statistics and ICT software
- Working and co-operating with others when carrying out field work

WHAT COULD I DO NEXT WITH GEOGRAPHY?

A GCSE in Geography is a stepping stone to a whole range of future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in further studies and employment.

GCSE HISTORY



Examination Board: Edexcel

If you would like further information, please contact Ms Cobbson.

WHAT IS GCSE HISTORY ALL ABOUT?

History is an exciting, investigative part of our studies. Anyone who finds people, cultures or beliefs fascinating will find the study of History eye-opening. It will add to your own understanding of what has been, is, and is to come. You will study a wide range of countries and people with a focus on modern history and will develop skills in researching, explaining and analysing the past.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

Students who currently enjoy History and want to add to their knowledge of the present, as well as the past, will enjoy GCSE History. History also appeals to students who enjoy extended writing, reading, researching and investigating.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE History builds on the skills and knowledge you have developed since Year 7. It will allow you to examine sources, investigate why events happened, use ICT, and present your views in writing and debate in class.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

Three exam papers are worth 100% of the marks

The topics examined include:

- Paper 3 USA: Conflict at home and abroad (30%)
- Paper 2 Superpower relations – The Cold War (20%)
- Paper 2 (B4) Early Elizabethan England (20%)
- Paper 1 Medicine through time 1000-Present and British War front (30%)

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

This GCSE is 100% examination based, with 3 exams being sat at the end of Year 11.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as acquiring the skills of analysis, evaluation, oral and written presentation of your ideas and interpretations of events, you will also be able to acquire skills in working with others through group activities. The knowledge and understanding you develop of the wider world will allow you to play a part as an active citizen locally, nationally and internationally.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS WITH HISTORY?

History is a good subject to study and acquire as a qualification for most careers, in particular, any careers demanding research, written reports, the ability to debate and present arguments, especially Law.

GCSE MATHEMATICS



If you would like further information, please contact Mr McGarr

WHAT IS GCSE MATHEMATICS ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Mathematics builds on the work you will have done at Key Stage 3 and the skills and knowledge support many other subjects. The work that you do will depend upon your level of ability in the subject. We continue with five main areas:

Number: Whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, standard form, boundary values, approximations, estimating, powers and roots of numbers, proportional change, and irrational numbers.

Algebra: We start by substituting numbers into formulae, which you will also use in science. Then we progress to more complex formulae, changing the subject, and working out formulae to describe sequences of numbers. We learn how to expand brackets and to factorise, to solve equations and to draw graphs. At the highest level you will learn how to construct a proof.

Shape, Space and Measures: You will learn how to draw 3-D objects, and about the properties of polygons, particularly triangles and quadrilaterals. You will discover the rule that Pythagoras discovered. You will also learn how to calculate areas and volumes of a variety of geometrical shapes. At higher levels you will study trigonometry, including large angles, and drawing graphs of trigonometric functions, and geometric proof.

Handling Data: You will develop your skills of collecting and analysing data, and drawing helpful diagrams. You will calculate averages and measures of spread, including mean, median range and interquartile range. At the highest level you will need to be able to construct and interpret histograms.

Using and Applying Mathematics: In all of these, there is a strong emphasis on using and applying the skills that you learn, and you should be able to transfer these skills into other subjects. Many of the examples that we use relate to real-life situations.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

If you have enjoyed mathematics so far, you will probably continue to enjoy it. If not, then it is our intention to help you to enjoy it! In this subject, satisfaction comes from understanding new concepts and getting correct answers to questions.

How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

In mathematics you are always building on what you have learnt previously, so the move from Year 9 to Year 10 will be seamless.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

The course is split into two tiers for examination: Foundation and Higher Tiers. You will follow the examination course that gives you the best chance of achieving your potential.

You need to realise that, if you don't reach the lowest grade available at your tier of entry you will be ungraded, so it is very important to be entered at the right level. Examination papers will be with and without calculator. There will be three examinations at the end of the two year course – one non-calculator and two calculator.

WHAT ABOUT COURSEWORK?

There is no coursework

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

This course will help you to develop problem-solving strategies that can be used in any context. You will begin to develop your ability to break down a complex problem into smaller parts. We hope that you will come to appreciate the power of mathematics and the need for it across a wide spectrum of life, and maybe you will enjoy it purely for its own intrinsic value.

GCSE MUSIC

Examination Board: Eduqas

If you would like further information, please contact Mr Tarbard



WHAT IS GCSE MUSIC ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Music is about performing, composing and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles under four areas of study – Musical Forms & Devices (set work), Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music (set work). There are opportunities to use music technology such as sequencing and recording.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that

- Involves performing
- Involves listening to all kinds of music
- Involves composing and arranging music
- Gives you the opportunity to play music with others
- Gives you the opportunity to learn more about and use music technology

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE Music follows on from work that you have done at Key Stage 3. You will improve your skills in performing, composing and appraising different types of music. You will listen to and analyse a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and/or performed.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMS?

There is one final listening exam. You will listen to extracts of music and answer questions on pieces from the four Areas of Study. This examination is worth 40% of the marks.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

You will perform (play or sing) two pieces. One of the pieces will be a solo in any style and on any instrument. The other performance will be with other players (ensemble). Music will be recorded and marked by your classroom teacher. This is worth 30% of the overall mark.

You will also compose two pieces; one in response to a brief set by Eduqas, and the other a free composition set by you. The combined duration of the compositions must be of at least three minutes. This is also worth 30% of the overall mark. This will be completed using Logic Pro X on the iMacs (which we have used in Key Stage 3 lessons in Year 8 and in Year 9).

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as covering Music at GCSE level, the course will enable you to develop Key Skills in Communication and Information Technology, which could be useful to you in whatever you do afterwards. In particular, GCSE Music offers opportunities to develop the wider key skill of working with others (e.g. taking part in rehearsals, performing).

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students will have 2 additional lessons of PE with a mix of theory and practical lessons per week.



Course options to study PE / Sport:

- GCSE PE (AQA)
- Level 2 BTEC Sport Tech Award (Pearson)

WHAT IS COVERED IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

Students will have 2 lessons per week. This builds on knowledge and skills developed from Key Stage 3. KS4 Core PE / Games aims to;

- Keep students physically active.
- Improve students physical, mental & emotional well-being. Promote participation in extra-curricular clubs.
- Encourage a life long love and participation in physical activity.

WHAT IS GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION ABOUT?

Examination Board: AQA

Specification Number: 8582

There are 3 parts to GCSE PE;

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport (1hr 15min exam at the end of year 11)

- 1.1- Applied anatomy and physiology
- 1.2- Movement analysis
- 1.3- Physical Training
- 1.4- Use of data

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport (1hr 15min exam at the end of year 11)

- 2.1- Socio-cultural influences
- 2.2- Sports psychology
- 2.3- Health, fitness and well-being
- 2.4 - Use of data

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

3.1- Performance of **three** activities taken from an approved list

One from the 'individual' sport list

One from the 'team' sport list

One other from either list

3.2- Analysing and evaluating performance.

WILL I ENJOY THE COURSE?

This course combines Physical activity, learning about the human body, Sociology and Psychology through sport. If you love your PE lessons and take an active interest in sport outside of school. This course is a must for you!

HOW DOES THE COURSE FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

Skills that you have developed in your practical KS3 lessons are now assessed against the GCSE PE practical skills list. Theory content that has been taught verbally so far, is now delivered in classroom lessons. If you have been representing the school in numerous sporting activities and/or you regularly take part in sport outside of school, you should be considering GCSE PE.

BTEC SPORT



WHAT IS LEVEL 2 BTEC SPORT TECH AWARD?

Students must complete three components:

- **Component 1:** Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity (5hr coursework / 60 marks).
- **Component 2:** Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance (4hrs coursework / 60 marks)
- **Component 3:** Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity (1.5hrs / 60 marks)

All results are awarded on the following scale:

Level 2 – Distinction* (*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)

Level 1 – Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)

WHAT OTHER SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Sport is an excellent way of developing organisational skills, communication skills and learning to work effectively as part of a team. The course will also help you develop leadership skills, teaching and coaching skills and problem solving techniques. You will find that by learning such skills you will be become more confident and be able to deal with many 'real-life' situations.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

GCSE in Physical Education can lead to a career in many different professions. There are the obvious ones such as a Sports Leader, a Sports Coach, a Physiotherapist, A Psychologist, a Teacher, or a Sports Development Officer, but there are also many others that people don't realise.

These include a career as a Journalist, Technical Analyst, Media Analyst, Doctor, Official, Leisure Manager, Business Manager, Administration Manager, Marketing Manager, and Sports Media and Film Producer. There are also many opportunities to follow a career in the Armed Forces and Public Services. Sport remains one of the largest growing industries not only in the UK, but also globally.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

There will be three examinations.

Paper 1 - Anatomy and Physiology 30%

Paper 2 - Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology 30%

Non exam assessment (NEA): Analysing and evaluating performance / Practical assessment 40%

Any further information required please see Mr Chilton.



GCSE SCIENCE



The Science department runs two courses at Key Stage 4 Science with equal emphasis on Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

Science is a core subject, so all students must follow one of these two following courses:

➤ **COMBINED SCIENCE**

Students study Science for nine lessons a fortnight when they follow this route. This course is a Double Award GCSE course. This means students will receive two grades in Combined Science when they receive their results. This course puts a great deal of emphasis on key scientific theories as well as the role of science in society.

➤ **SEPARATE GCSES IN BIOLOGY, PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY (Triple Science)**

Our highest attaining students will be chosen to enter the separate science course according to their ability.

Whilst it is not essential that students study the Separate Science GCSEs at GCSE, in order to be able to study sciences at A Level, it is strongly recommended. The extended content in the separate science course provides students with a significant head start at science A Level, but is not a requirement. This course is weighted as 3 GCSE's so students receive 3 grades.

Biology	Physics	Chemistry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology • <i>Key ideas Triple only</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Electricity • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure • Forces • Waves • Magnetism and electromagnetism • <i>Space physics Triple only</i>

All the Science GCSE AQA syllabuses are entirely assessed with external exams taken at the end of year 11.

We encourage our pupils to enrich their school experience by gaining extracurricular STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) experience outside the classroom. These students stand out among others and are more desirable to university admissions and employers and adds depth to their character. We offer many extracurricular STEM clubs at Langdon Park.

Independent work:

We provide numerous recommendations for online resources, sell discounted revision guides and workbooks for the course and provide exam practice interventions and one-to-one support, as well as help with organising allocated time for personal home study.

Attributes Required in KS4 Science	Skills Developed	Career Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good communicator • Resilient • Dedication and motivation • Independent learner • Good use of mathematics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • The ability to collaborate with others • Analysing data • Evaluation • Mathematical skills • Practical skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing • Teaching (primary/secondary) • Engineering • Sport Science • Biotechnology • Psychology • Doctor

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Examination Board: AQA

If you would like further information, please contact Ms Chowdhury

WHAT IS GCSE RE ALL ABOUT?

RE is an exciting part of our studies, it is about exploring different religions, their beliefs, and ethical issues. It helps you to understand diverse cultures and promotes tolerance. You'll study religious texts, moral dilemmas, and the role of religion in society. It encourages critical thinking and respect for different religious beliefs.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

Students who currently enjoy RE and want to add to their knowledge of different cultures, beliefs and perspectives will enjoy GCSE RE. RE also appeals to students who enjoy extended writing, reading, debating, researching and investigating.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE RE builds on the skills and knowledge you have developed since Year 7. It will allow you to examine sources, investigate how religious beliefs influences people, and present your views in writing and debate in class.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

Two examinations

Paper 1 Beliefs and practices 50%

Paper 2: Thematic studies 50% exams include:

- Paper 1: Islam and Christianity (Beliefs and practices)
- Paper 2: Thematic Studies (Islam, Christianity and Humanist perspective) Theme A – Marriage and Family Theme B: Religion and Life. Theme D: Religion and War Theme E: Religion and Crime.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

This GCSE is 100% examination based, with 2 exams being sat at the end of Year 11.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as acquiring the skills of analysis, evaluation, oral and written presentation of your ideas and interpretations of religious views, you will also be able to acquire skills in working with others through group activities. The knowledge and understanding you develop of the wider world will allow you to play a part as an active citizen locally, nationally and internationally.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS WITH HISTORY?

RE is a good subject to study and acquire as a qualification for most careers, in particular, any careers the ability to debate and present arguments, especially Law, Peer worker, Teacher, Youth Worker, Data Scientist and many more.

GCSE SOCIOLOGY



Examination Board: AQA

If you would like further information, please contact Ms Akter

WHAT IS GCSE SOCIOLOGY ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance, and social stratification.

Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

Explores relevant social issues in society
Looks into social patterns and trends and how these develop over time
Allows you to take away transferable skills
Allows you to articulate and debate your opinions in a structured manner
Enables you to analyse and critique key information

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE sociology builds on the skills and knowledge you have developed since Year 7. It will allow you to examine sources, investigate why events happened in society, what can be done to prevent it and looking at social policies that would help social issues.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

Two examination papers are worth 100% of the marks
The topics examined include:

Paper 1: Sociology of Family and Education

Paper 2: Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

There is no coursework.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

Sociology enables critical and analytical thinking, enhanced writing ability, cultural and social competence, and self-awareness and many more.

WHAT COULD I DO NEXT WITH SOCIOLOGY?

There are many different career paths that sociology can lead to, these are some but not exhausted to this list:

- Public relations, journalism and communications.
- Media and marketing.
- Law firms and the criminal justice system.
- Teaching and education.
- Police and probation services
- Researcher
- Local and central government.
- Charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations

GCSE SPANISH

If you would like further information, please contact Miss Ranalli and Miss Dupuy



WHAT IS GCSE SPANISH ALL ABOUT?

GCSE in Spanish is about learning how to communicate with and understand speakers of this language. It will give you the opportunity to not only learn the language, but to also learn about life in Spanish speaking countries; their cultures, festivals, customs, music, and more. You will put yourself in their place by acting out scenes based in the Spanish speaking country, and you will learn how to express your own wishes, plans and opinions in Spanish. In doing all this you will also extend your understanding of how languages work and your understanding of English will be enhanced.

WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO?

- You will practise speaking Spanish in role-plays, conversations and by preparing speeches and presentations to be delivered in a conversation
- You will get practice in giving information and opinions and in finding out what other people have to say
- You will get frequent practice in listening to all sorts of Spanish speakers, young, old, male and female, so that you understand the language when you hear it spoken at normal speed
- You will read a variety of texts in Spanish, ranging from notices and signs to advertisements, leaflets, letters and magazine or newspaper articles. These will cover a range of subjects from tourist information to fashion, sport, cuisine and other areas of general interest
- You will practise writing correct Spanish from short notes and messages, formal and informal letters, to more extended stories and descriptions. Sometimes you will be given a precise plan to write to, at other times you will be able to use your imagination to produce pieces of your own composition
- You will practise translating from and into Spanish

DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE Spanish follows on directly from the content you have studied in KS3. When embarking on the GCSE course will be building and developing your understanding of topics covered during KS3 and also adding new topics that you haven't studied before. You will use lesson time to learn the new vocabulary and practise the four skills, as well as translations.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

You will be assessed in four language elements: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each element counts as 25% of the final grade. You will take the GCSE examination at either Foundation or Higher Level. Foundation papers give access to grades 1 – 5; Higher to 3 – 9.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

A GCSE in a language offers a unique opportunity to learn how to communicate effectively. Through learning to communicate in Spanish, you will be enhancing your communication skills in general, along with your problem solving and listening skills. Your cultural understanding will also develop as you will learn about and appreciate many different cultures in our world. Universities seek these skills in their future students and value a GCSE in a language