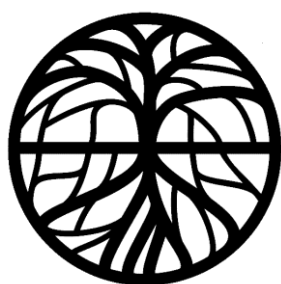


Bottisham Village College



Information Booklet
2026-2028

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Introduction

Dear Students,

You are about to enter the next exciting phase of your educational career: for the first time you will have the opportunity to select some of the subjects that you will study!

We recognise that making these decisions can sometimes be difficult. Some of you will have a clear idea about the career you wish to pursue or the subjects you wish to study, but many of you may be unsure at this stage.

The learning journey through the curriculum that you have followed so far has been carefully sequenced to allow you to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to achieve your best at Key Stage 4. The learning pathways at KS4 will ensure you retain a balanced and varied programme of study to set you up for your future after Bottisham Village College.

This is an important decision, and we will guide you in making the best choices for you. It is important to talk to your form tutor, your class teachers and your parents. Engage with the subject assemblies and PSHE lessons.

This booklet gives you detail about all the courses that we offer at Bottisham. It also tells you what you need to be thinking about, the questions you need to ask, and where you can get the answers to help you make informed decisions.

In our experience, it is important to keep an open mind. This doesn't just mean picking the right subjects, but also picking the right **type** of course, so that you follow a Key Stage 4 curriculum that is **broad and balanced** whilst being directed towards your individual needs. At this important transitional stage, we want you to make good choices, and the key to this is making **informed** choices.

This is your curriculum for the next two years and your pathway to the future.

Mrs Slipper
Assistant Principal



Pathways to the Future Timeline

Pathways to the Future Launch

- Monday 2 February
- Pathways to the future begins with a virtual parents information evening and assembly to students.
- During the events you and your child will be introduced to the Pathways to the Future process and an overview of the subjects and courses that we offer at Key Stage 4.

Subject Information Assemblies

- Monday 2 February - Thursday 12 February
- These assemblies will give students details of the courses that we offer at Key Stage 4.

Guidance Interviews

- Week Beginning: 2 March
- Throughout the process students will have PSHE lessons that support their decision making, if we feel a student would benefit from a 1-2-1 meeting we will invite you to make an appointment with your child to meet a member of the KS4 Options Team.

Deadline

- Tuesday 10 March
- Your options form must be submitted by the deadline.
- Please ensure you have accessed all of the information you need before this deadline in order to make an informed decision.

Our Curriculum

We teach a curriculum that inspires, enriches and cares for our students, helping them to become adults who are compassionate, responsible and thoughtful members of society.

Inspiring

Our curriculum aims to inspire students of all attainment profiles, as they follow an academic curriculum that exposes them to the rich cultural heritage of ages past whilst providing them with the skills and knowledge that they need to thrive in a modern, dynamic global society. Knowledge-rich, the curriculum will enable students to think more deeply, to develop a wide range of skills, to apply knowledge, to problem-solve, to analyse and to be self-disciplined as they reflect on their own learning. Inspired students recognise they are making progress. The careers strategy, which is embedded within our curriculum, gives students an acute awareness of the local and wider world, foster skills of enterprise and creativity and prepare them for life. The curriculum will give them the ability to engage in educated conversations and activities, so they can access a breadth of opportunities in their post-16 choices and later lives. We recognise that inspired students become confident people and enthused students with a lifelong love of learning have greater future opportunities. We will inspire and engage with our community with our adult education programme, remaining true to our village college tradition.

Caring

Whilst we retain academic rigour, we strive for our curriculum to develop students' potential to be truly accomplished people, instilling values of compassion, tolerance and care for others. The curriculum aims to promote fundamental British values: tolerance, resilience, respect and good citizenship, coupled with social, moral and spiritual understanding. We recognise that we must support our students to make strong choices to promote a healthy lifestyle, in order to promote physical and mental wellbeing. Compassionate and empathetic, we want our students to add value to society. Our curriculum cares for all of our students, providing a pathway built for them as individuals and helps them to thrive as part of our healthy, happy community. Reflecting our inclusive creed, our curriculum is ambitious for all, allows access for all and supports those who most need our focus. We are clear: literacy, spoken communication and numeracy must be at the very heart of inclusion.

Enriching

The BVC curriculum aims to give students the opportunities to enhance and extend their educational experience through a wealth of extra-curricular provision, our Extended Schools Programme. Here, students can study beyond the GCSE specification, explore and be curious about new topics and develop new skills. Additionally, the proportion of excursions and trips enrich the experience for students at the college, developing their world view and resilience in a range of contexts. Trips, visits and excursions will be central to our students experience and we shall actively ensure that all of our students can partake and enjoy the benefits of them.

Learning Pathways

At Bottisham Village College there are different Learning Pathways that our students will follow, depending on the style of programme they wish to study. These have been designed to give students the flexibility they need and to provide programmes that are tailored to the needs of individuals.

The two types of qualification are GCSE and Vocational Qualifications, the primary difference between these is their method of assessment. GCSE are predominantly exam-based while Vocational qualifications have larger coursework components. It is important to look at potential post-16 pathways prior to selecting your courses as some stipulate GCSE/Vocational entry requirements.

GCSE

Most subjects offer GCSE qualifications. All courses now follow the reformed 9-1 scale. These subjects are often more theory-based, and assessment is mainly through exams at the end of Year 11.

Vocational Qualifications

The Health and Social Care, Construction, ICT, Performing Arts and Sport Studies courses that we offer are vocational qualifications. They are equivalent to GCSEs but use a different grading system.

Vocational courses give students knowledge and skills that are relevant to the world of work. They involve students learning in an environment that is similar to the workplace. For example, we have a workshop in the Creative Design faculty where much of the Construction course takes place.

The bulk of the content of vocational courses is assessed via tasks and assignments that students complete during the course, this is known as continual assessment as work completed in class contributes to final outcomes. There are exams, but these relate to a smaller section of the content of the course—at least 40%. These exams are not always taken at the end of Year 11 as they can be sat shortly after the completion of the unit to which it relates. Vocational courses, therefore, can help those students who might struggle with the pressure of exams. Vocational courses also provide students with a good contrast to the GCSE courses; students are actively encouraged to combine GCSE and vocational qualifications.

Some vocational learning courses require students to purchase a small amount of specialised equipment.

Supporting Literacy

It is recognised that having strong levels of literacy has an impact on outcomes in all subject areas. To support students at Bottisham Village College who find reading challenging we will be offering them an alternative pathway which allows for greater time developing their literacy skills, in particular reading. This is to enable them to be more successful across their entire curriculum and will involve selecting one fewer GCSE course and instead participating in our Scholarship programme in three lessons per fortnight.

Which Subjects Can I Choose?

Core Subjects

Core subjects refer to those that are compulsory at KS4, these are:

- Maths, English Language, and English Literature (Examined courses)
- Physical Education (non-examined)
- PSHE (non-examined)

Option A

Option A comprises 3 GCSEs. All students must select one of the following options:

Option A1	Option A2
Separate Sciences – three GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics	Combined Science – two GCSEs comprising elements of biology, chemistry and physics. And one of the following: Geography History French German Spanish Computer Science (<i>must be greater depth in Maths to select this subject</i>)

Option B

Option B comprises 3 GCSEs. All students must select **five** subjects in order of preference. 1 being the most preferred. Students will be allocated three GCSEs from Option B.

History*	Art and Design (<i>may not be studied with photography</i>)	Health and Social Care [#]
Geography*	Art and Design: Photography (<i>may not be studied with Art and Design</i>)	ICT [#] (<i>may not be studied with Computer Science</i>)
French*	Business Studies	Music
German*	Construction [#] (<i>may not be studied with Design and Technology</i>)	Performing Arts [#] (<i>may not be studied with Drama</i>)
Spanish*	Design and Technology (<i>may not be studied with Construction</i>)	Examination PE
Computer Science* (<i>must be greater depth in Maths to select this subject</i>) (<i>may not be studied with ICT</i>)	Drama (<i>may not be studied with Performing Arts</i>)	Religious Studies
	Food and Nutrition	

- Subjects that say 'may not be studied with' can both be put in a choice of 5, however a maximum of 1 of these will be allocated.
- * If any of these subjects have been selected in Option A, they cannot be selected again in Option B.
- [#] Vocational Courses

Course Preferences

We will do our very best to ensure that students are able to study their preferred courses. When starting the offer process, we offer all courses that can potentially run next academic year, the final decisions on whether each course can run is based on student uptake, staffing implications and timetabling. As a result, you may be offered a subject you have ranked lower in your preferences or be asked to choose an alternative option. Should we be unable to offer you a complete timetable from the five preferences you make, we will talk to you to discuss the alternative options available to you.

Course Preferences

When making your subject preferences please ensure that you **enter them in order of preference, with option 1 being the subject you want to study to most.** We will do our best to make offers in priority order.

It is essential that you complete your form to include **5 different preferences.** A form with fewer preferences or a repeat preference does not guarantee you being given that course. It does, however, increase the likelihood of your timetable being incomplete and you being asked to select a further course from those with spaces remaining at the end of the timetabling process.

Business Studies and Food and Nutrition have in the past been very popular and could be affected by staffing implications, there is a high chance that lower ranked preferences may have to be considered if selecting one of these subjects, therefore these are subjects to consider carefully, asking yourself if it is the right course for you, and if so, which preference you list it as.

Given historical fluctuations with applicants for some of the performing arts courses (Drama and Performing Arts) it could be the case that we are unable to run both courses. Much depends on student demand and, importantly, staffing. However, at this stage we would like to gauge the interest of students.

What if I change my mind?

When making your preferences it is vital that you have thoroughly explored all of the information available both in this booklet, on the school website, and in conversation with your class teachers. Once your preferences have been confirmed we will only consider requests to change courses under extraordinary circumstances, and certainly no later than the first half term after courses have commenced. This is due to the amount of content that will have been missed by this stage, the impact this will have on individual outcomes throughout the rest of the course, and the limited flexibility of the final timetable.

Bottisham Village College is committed to providing a safe, inclusive learning environment and ensuring equal opportunities for all students. This principle underpins the ethos of the whole school. Our aim is to enable all students to access high-quality educational opportunities that meet their needs. We achieve this by considering their individual abilities, backgrounds, and social dynamics while ensuring fairness and consistency in our approach. To support this commitment, we have planned our provision of courses in Years 10 and 11 with these guiding principles, promoting an environment where every student can thrive.

Completing your Research

It is vital that you are making informed decisions when completing your Options form. Use the following checklist to ensure you have completed thorough research.

- ☐ Read the subject information in this booklet.
- ☐ Listened carefully to the assemblies for each subject.
- ☐ Spoken to your class teachers to find out more or answer any questions you have about a course.
- ☐ Asked yourself the 'Questions to Consider'.
- ☐ Followed the 'What to do and What not to do' advice.
- ☐ If you have plans for post-16 study, check the entry requirements for courses you think you may wish to choose for Year 12.

Questions to Consider

This booklet contains a lot of information. As you read through it, think about these questions, there is space after each question for you to note down your thoughts.

- Which subjects do I **enjoy** at Key Stage 3 and why do I enjoy them?
- Which subjects am I **best** at in Key Stage 3 and why am I good at them?
- Would I benefit from following a vocational course?
- How are the different subjects **assessed** and does this play to my strengths?
- What do I want to do when I **leave Bottisham Village College**? How will my choices help me to do this?
- What are my **career plans**? Which subjects will help me with these plans?
- Can my brothers and sisters, or other older students that I know, give me other information about the courses?

What to do, and What not to do.

Do:

- Ask **lots** of questions: get as much information as possible before making your choices.
- Try to have a mix of options: for example, try to have at least one practical subject.
- Remember that your career plans might change.
- Remember that there is no guarantee that we can give you your first preferences: think really carefully about all 5 of your choices.

Do not:

- Pick a subject because your friends are doing it: you may not be in the same group as they are.
- Pick a subject because you like the teacher: you might not get them next year.
- Pick a subject because you think it is easy: all Key Stage 4 options are challenging in their own way.

Post-16 Considerations

When applying for post-16 study in Year 11 courses will have entry requirements. If you have a clear idea of what you are interested in studying check the current entry requirements. Although entry requirements are subject to change, these are a good guiding principle to help you in selecting and prioritising your preferences to support your future goals.

We would recommend looking at 2 or 3 post-16 providers and their entry requirements as these can vary in the number of GCSEs required, the grades required, and specific GCSEs/BTECs for specific courses.

If you do not have any post-16 plans, it can help to explore the types of courses available to start giving you some ideas, however, this is not essential. Continue to follow the 'Questions to Consider' above and they will help you make selections that are right for you.

If you would like to discuss post-16 ambitions or would like help to explore the entry requirements of any courses, please ask either Ms Cole or Mrs Judge to arrange a Careers meeting for you; Mrs Smith will then help you navigate the post-16 websites and course information.

Assessment Summary

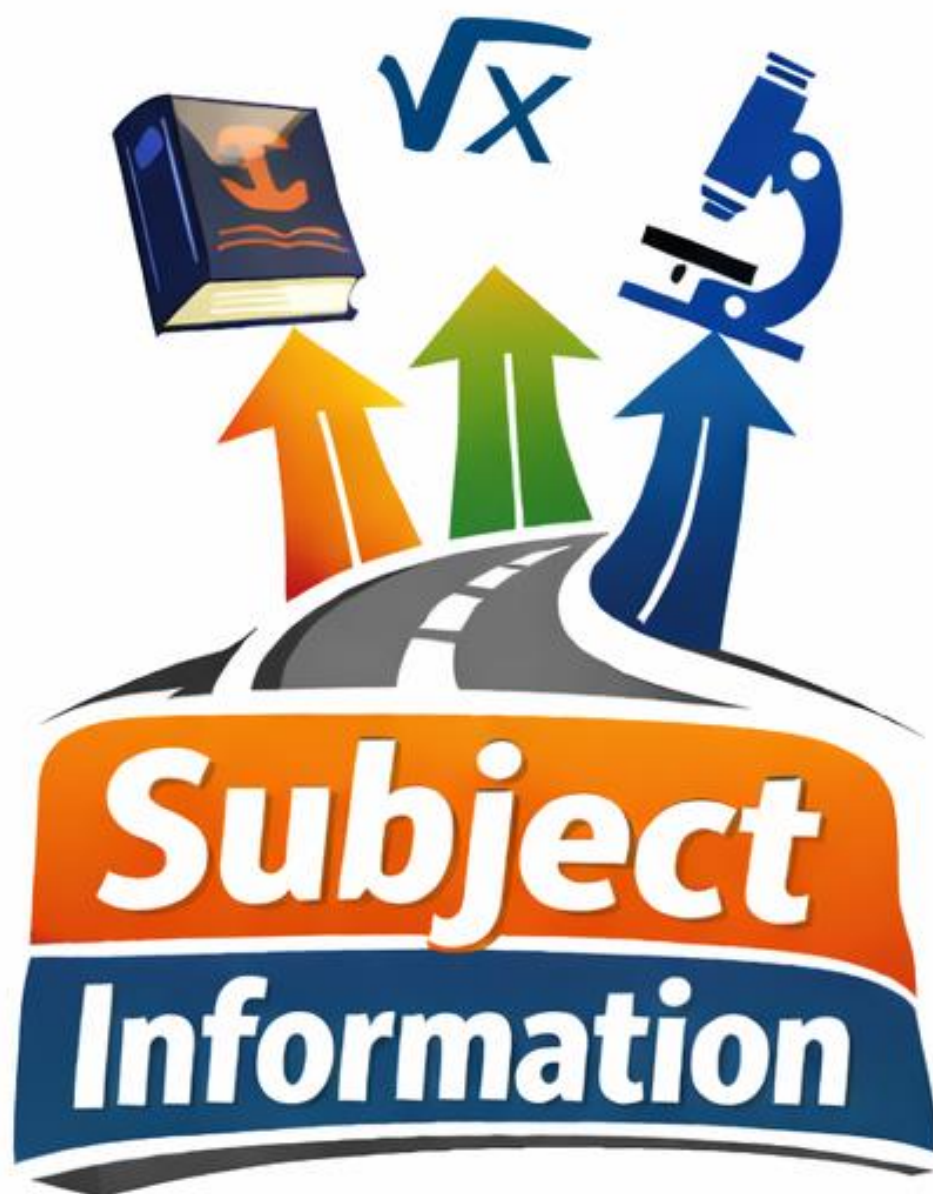
Subject and Qualification	Exams – How many? When are they?	Coursework – How much?
Core Subjects		
English Language AQA GCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Paper 1 Examination: Explorations in creative reading and writing (50%) · Paper 2 Examination: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (50%) Both examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.	No Coursework
English Literature AQA GCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Unit 1 Examination: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (40%) · Unit 2 Examination: Modern texts and poetry (60%) Both examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.	No Coursework
Spoken language non-examination assessment	Separate endorsement. Non-examination: Internally assessed (0% weighting of GCSE)	This unit must be covered in order for students to gain a GCSE in English, but the grade attained does not contribute to the final Language grade.
Maths AQA GCSE	Currently 3 exams, sat at the end of year 11, which are of equal weighting	No Coursework
Option A		
Combined Science AQA GCSE	6 exams in the summer of Year 11	No Coursework
Biology (Separate Sciences) AQA GCSE	2 exams in the summer of Year 11	No Coursework
Chemistry (Separate Sciences) AQA GCSE	2 exams in the summer of Year 11	No Coursework
Physics (Separate Sciences) AQA GCSE	2 exams in the summer of Year 11	No Coursework

Subject and Qualification	Exams – How many? When are they?	Coursework – How much?
Geography AQA GCSE	3 exams, all at the end of year 11. Unit 1 - 1 hour 30 minutes (35%) Unit 2 - 1 hour 30 minutes (35%) Unit 3 - 1 hour 30 minutes (30%)	No Coursework
History OCR GCSE	3 exams, all taken at the end of year 11. · Germany (30%) · Medicine (30%) · Henry VIII and Cold War (40%)	No coursework
French AQA GCSE	4 examinations taken in the summer term of year 11. · Listening (25%) · Speaking (25%) · Reading (25%) · Writing (25%)	No coursework
German AQA GCSE	4 examinations taken in the summer term of year 11. · Listening (25%) · Speaking (25%) · Reading (25%) · Writing (25%)	No coursework
Spanish AQA GCSE	4 examinations taken in the summer term of year 11. · Listening (25%) · Speaking (25%) · Reading (25%) · Writing (25%)	No coursework
Computer Science OCR GCSE	2 x 90-minute exams in year 11 (50% each)	1 x Programming project (Requirement)

Subject and Qualification	Exams – How many? When are they?	Coursework – How much?
Option B		
Art and Design AQA GCSE	Year 11 final exam	Coursework is 60% of the total mark. The coursework begins at the start of year 10 and takes just over 4 terms to complete in lessons and at home.
Art and Design: Photography AQA GCSE	Year 11 final exam	Coursework is 60% of the total mark. The coursework begins at the start of year 10 and takes just over 4 terms to complete in lessons and at home.
Business Studies AQA GCSE	2 Examinations in year 11, worth 50 % each. · Section A of both exams is a mix of multi choice questions and short answers. · Section B of both exams require longer answers and mini essays.	No coursework
Construction and the Build Environment WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award	40% of the final mark is externally assessed via a 90-minute on-screen exam (short and extended answer questions, based around applied situations. Learners may be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions	Students work on assignments and practical tasks in lessons. 60% of the final mark is assessed through a 30-hour controlled assessment. An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC that will include a scenario and several tasks
Design and Technology AQA GCSE	2-hour Exam in Year 11 (50%)	Non-Exam Assessment (50%) A portfolio of research, design development and testing, and a practical outcome based on a contextual challenge. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Subject and Qualification	Exams – How many? When are they?	Coursework – How much?
Drama OCR GCSE	Written exam in year 11 - 40% of final grade.	60% is controlled assessment over the 2 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Devised performance and written portfolio 30% · Presenting and a performing text , with written pro-former 30% All Practical work is completed in exam conditions in the Drama studio.
Food and Nutrition WJEC GCSE	There is a written exam taken at the end of year 11 which contributes 50% of the final mark. This exam is 1hour 45 minutes long.	There are two practical tasks which are done under controlled conditions. Both are completed in Year 11. Together they contribute 50% towards the final mark.
Health and Social Care OCR Level 1/2 Vocational Award	40% of the final grade is externally assessed via an exam of 1 hour 15-minute exam for the unit “Principles of care in health and social care settings”.	Students work on assignments in lessons. These are marked on an ongoing basis, creating a portfolio of assessed work. 60% of the final mark is assessed in this way.
ICT WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award	40% of the final mark is externally assessed via a 90-minute on-screen exam (short and extended answer, questions, based around applied situations. Learners may be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions)	60% of the final mark is assessed through a single unit: ICT in Context. The assignment will be set by the exam board and completed in class.
Music OCR GCSE	Listening exam (40%) in June of Year 11	60% is controlled assessment done over the 2 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 2 performance recordings · 2 compositions
Performing Arts Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award	There are no exams for this option.	100% Coursework Based 30% Performing 30% Creating 40% Performing Arts in Practice

Subject and Qualification	Exams – How many? When are they?	Coursework – How much?
PE OCR GCSE	The Theory of Physical Education is externally assessed through 2 written examination papers, to be taken at the end of year 11. This will contribute a maximum of 60% towards your total marks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 1 controlled Assessment: Analysis of Performance (10%) · Practical performance in 3 activity areas (30%)
Religious Studies: Ethics and Philosophy AQA GCSE	2 exams, all taken at the end of year 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Paper 1: Study of Religions—Beliefs and Practices (50%) · Paper 2 : Thematic Paper (50%) 	No Coursework
Sports Studies OCR Level 1/2 Vocational Award	1 exam. R184: Contemporary issues in sport (75 minutes) Students will sit the exam in the summer exam period of Y11.	2 Units comprising 8 tasks in total.



On the following pages you will find **Subject Information** for all the courses offered at Bottisham Village College.

These have been separated into the following sections:

- Core Subject: The subjects studied by all students
- Option A: The first set of subjects that students must select from.
- Option B: The second set of subjects that students must select from.

Maths GCSE

All students take Maths and follow the AQA specification. This is assessed through three exams, all to be taken at the end of the course.

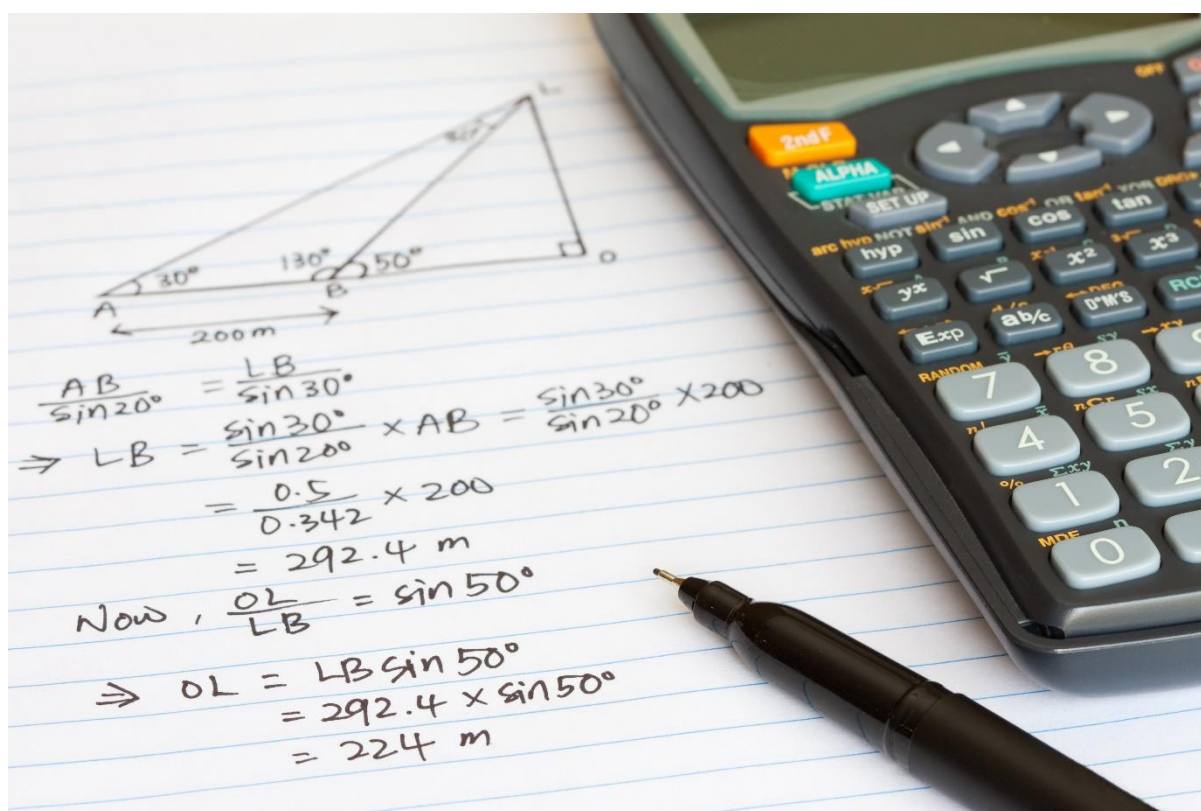
- Paper 1 - 33.3% Calculator NOT allowed
- Paper 2 - 33.3% Calculator allowed
- Paper 3 - 33.3% Calculator allowed

The exams can be taken at either Higher or Foundation level with the final decision on tier of entry taken by the school. The Foundation paper ranges from grades 1-5 and the Higher tier ranges from grades 3-9.

Further Maths

During year 10 some students are selected to study the AQA Level 2 Further Maths qualification in addition to their Maths GCSE. The course involves studying Maths GCSE material to a higher level as well as being introduced to new content such as Matrices and Differentiation. The course offers students an insight to studying maths further and helps to prepare them for A Level Maths.

For more information please follow this link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/further-mathematics-8360>



English Language and Literature GCSEs

The study of English Language and Literature develops skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening and will facilitate and encourage an accurate and imaginative use of language. Through the exploration of a wide range of literary texts, and the use of language in many contexts, we help you to master the essential tools of communication and to learn to think independently. We believe that every student at KS4 should have access to the full curriculum and therefore every student studies and is entered for qualifications in both Literature and Language at GCSE.

Lessons are very similar to KS3 English lessons but include a greater focus on independent learning. You will read and write a range of different texts and have the opportunity to work in groups to discuss and debate writers' intentions, so you are able to develop a range of different interpretations.

English Language

The study of English Language involves reading a range of fiction and literary non-fiction texts. Understanding how to respond to a variety of different types of reading questions. You will also be asked to produce a range of writing tasks which will involve descriptive and narrative writing.

This examination is broken down into two papers taken at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 Examination: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)
- Paper 2 Examination: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)

Spoken language non-examination assessment.

This is a non-examined element of the English Language GCSE and recorded as a separate endorsement appearing on the final GCSE certificate. This involves you delivering a 5-minute speech to the rest of your class which is graded by your class teacher. The grade awarded will be Pass, Merit or Distinction. Currently, it is a requirement to film these.

English Literature

The study of English Literature involves studying a range of fiction texts: Two novels (one modern novel and one 19th century novel), one play by Shakespeare and an anthology of poetry provided by the AQA.

You will study: Lord of the Flies; Macbeth; Power and Conflict poetry (15 poems); and a 19th century novel.



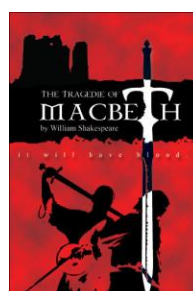
The examination is broken down into two papers taken at the end of Year 11:

- Unit 1 Examination: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (40%)
- Unit 2 Examination: Modern texts and poetry (60%)

Enrichment

We deliver a range of text-based masterclasses.

- Exam revision classes
- Debating club
- Creative Writing
- Theatre productions if relevant



Science GCSEs: Combined Sciences or Separate Sciences

Combined Science

In Science, most students will study Combined Science. This course will continue to develop on the topics studied in year 9, going into greater depth and consolidating understanding of the fundamental concepts that underpin all aspects of science.

By studying Combined Science students will gain 2 Science GCSEs, these will be a combination of the examinations completed across all three science disciplines, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Combined Science qualification is assessed through 6 examinations at the end of Year 11; each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes in length.

The Combined Science qualification will present students with the opportunity of studying any area of science as a discrete specialism at A Level and beyond.

Students will study the following topics:

- **Biology:** Cells; Organ Systems; Enzymes; Infectious diseases and immune responses; Respiration and photosynthesis; Nervous system; Endocrine system; Inheritance; Evolution; Ecology.
- **Chemistry:** Atoms; The periodic table; Chemical bonding; Properties of matter; Chemical calculations; Reactions of metals; Electrolysis; Exothermic and endothermic reactions; Rates of reaction; Organic chemistry; Chromatography; Testing for gases; Atmosphere; Water treatment; Recycling; Industrial processes.
- **Physics:** Energy; Electricity; Solids, liquids and gases; Atoms; Nuclear radiation; Forces and motion; Waves and the electromagnetic spectrum; Magnetism and electromagnetism.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- Where possible current scientific developments are used as examples in the topics studied.
- We offer the chance to complete a Silver CREST award outside of lessons to those interested.

Separate Sciences

Why take Separate Sciences?

Take this subject if:

- You are interested in explaining scientific ideas in detail.
- You want a career firmly rooted in a scientific context.
- You can work independently and enjoy reading about current scientific developments.



What is a typical lesson like?

- You will complete detailed written tasks.
- You will participate in practical experiments.
- You will discuss ideas and concepts and create your own evidence-based hypotheses.
- You will do lots of data manipulation to present your findings numerically and graphically.

What will I study?

You will study the same topics as Combined Science but learn about the most complex and intricate topics in more depth and detail.

In addition to the Combined Science topics, Separate Science students will study:

- **Biology:** Culturing microorganisms; Monoclonal antibodies; Plant disease; The brain; The eye; Homeostatic control of temperature, water and nitrogen; Plant hormones; DNA structure; Cloning; Theories of Evolution; Speciation; Decomposition; Impacts of environmental change; Trophic levels in an ecosystem; Food production methods.
- **Chemistry:** Properties of transition metals; Properties of nanoparticles; Yield and Atom economy of chemical reactions; Concentrations of solutions in mol/dm³; Volumes of gases; Titrations; Chemical cells and fuel cells; Alkenes, alcohols and carboxylic acids; Polymers; Identification of ions by chemical and spectroscopic means; Using materials; The Haber process; NPK fertilisers.
- **Physics:** Static electricity; Pressure in gases; Background radiation; Uses of radioactive emissions; Nuclear fission and fusion; Moments, levers and gears; Pressure in fluids; Graphs for stopping distance; Changes in momentum; Reflection of waves; Sound waves; Waves for detection and exploration; Lenses; Visible light; Black body radiation; Loud speakers; Induced potential, transformers and the National Grid; Space physics (e.g. red shift).

How are the Separate Sciences assessed?

You will be awarded individual GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each GCSE is assessed separately through 2 examinations lasting 1 hour 45 minutes each. This means you will sit 6 exams in total.

What does Separate Sciences lead to?

- This qualification is the starting point for those wanting a job in the science sector. Examples of such jobs are Biochemist, Environmental Scientist and Physicist.
- The course will also help you to develop a range of skills such as evaluating data and applying maths skills in new contexts.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- Where possible current scientific developments are used as examples in the topics studied.
- We offer the chance to complete a Silver CREST award outside of lessons to those interested.





OPTION A

In Option A students select 3 of their GCSEs.

First, students need to decide between studying Combined or Separate Sciences. If they opt for Separate Sciences this is the 3 GCSEs selected for Option A: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

If students opt for Combined Science, this is a total of 2 GCSEs, therefore students need to select one further subject from: Computer Science, French, German, Spanish, Geography and History.

Computer Science GCSE

Why take Computer Science

- If you are interested in studying computational thinking at a higher level.
- If you are interested in working in the computing sector.
- If you want to know more about how computers work and how to program them.

What is a typical lesson like?

- In a typical lesson you will be shown a variety of new skills which you will apply to a specific task, to complete a project.
- Checklists are given so that you know what you need to create.
- We encourage you to be independent learners and problem solvers throughout the course.
- Your homework tasks will be based around understanding the concepts of computing.

What will I study?

Throughout Year 10 and 11 you will learn about computer systems, computational thinking, algorithms and programming, computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software.

How is the course assessed?

There are two papers, one focusing on the theory of Computer Science (50%) and one with a focus on programming and algorithms (50%).

What does Computer Science lead to?

- Many of our students go on to study Computer Science at A-level and some will extend this to university level.
- This qualification can lead to a variety of Computing careers, such as software developer, website creator, programmer, technical supporter, games designer, telesales or Computing teacher!
- Taking this course demonstrates that you have a genuine interest in computers and programming. It gives you a solid foundation for further study in computer science or related courses.
- Many employers are now looking for Computing qualifications, as it demonstrates skills such as problem solving, resilience, organisation and logical thinking.



How is the curriculum enriched?

As well as developing computational thinking skills students will enhance their understanding of a high-level language.

Computer Science GCSE carries the entry requirement of being 'Greater Depth' in Maths. Students must have attained this by the deadline for submission of preferences: 10 March

French GCSE

Why take French?

- To continue making good progress and feeling successful.
- To become more independent in your speaking and writing.
- To improve your communication skills.
- To challenge yourself
- To enrich your personal, social and professional life.



What is a typical lesson like?

· Much like at KS3 we use parallel texts and Knowledge organisers as well as your favourite games to learn. We like to make lessons interactive. We keep you engaged and encourage you to take part. There is an expectation that you will work hard and contribute to lessons. You will be expected to work well with a partner, in groups or independently.

What will I study?

- In Year 10: Technology, Relationships, lifestyle, Education. holidays and travel.
- In Year 11: Global issues, Local area, Work & Employment.

What does French GCSE lead to?

- Some of our students go on to study Languages at A level. French is also useful when combined with other qualifications, such as those in business, tourism, engineering or law.
- French teaches transferable communication skills which employers in the UK are really looking for.
- Having a language at GCSE shows that you are hardworking, committed and a people person.
- Many people who have studied languages work in business and finance, travel and tourism. engineering and media.

How is the curriculum enriched?

We have a trip to Paris for year 10 and are exploring options for a letter exchange.

We have a French language assistant for practice with a native speaker and work in small groups.

We run a weekly after school session for support.

German GCSE

Why take German?

- To meet and talk to people from other countries and cultures.
- To learn about another important European culture and language.
- To improve your communication skills.
- To become more confident and independent.
- To broaden your opportunities in an increasingly international job market.



What is a typical lesson like?

In German lessons there is plenty of variety: you will practise your listening, speaking, and your reading and writing skills. You will develop notetaking, revision and memorisation techniques, working independently and in groups. You will work with video, audio, print, digital media, the internet, and authentic materials. The tasks you do will improve your confidence and independence!

What will I study?

- In Year 10 we study the topics of media and culture, healthy lifestyle, free-time, school, and the environment.
- In Year 11 we study local area, the world of work, technology and social issues such as poverty and homelessness.

What does studying German lead to?

- Even if you don't continue German to AS and A level, you will gain skills and knowledge which will help if you decide to take up other languages later.
- German combines well with other degree courses in the sciences, business, ICT and media.
- There are job opportunities for German speakers in many industries, from business, finance, banking, ICT and engineering, to media, law, travel and the arts.
- Language learning teaches skills that are vital to lots of jobs - communicating clearly in writing and speaking, listening carefully, summarising, paying attention to detail and appreciating other people and cultures.

What's there to help me?

- On our website you can see a selection of resources and links to useful websites.
- We use Quizlet to help you with your independent learning.
- We run regular after-school support sessions to get ready for assessments and examinations.

How is the curriculum enriched?

We run a very successful trip to the Berlin and its Christmas markets and historical landmarks in December.

To opt for German GCSE, you must have been studying it in Year 8 and 9 or have other relevant previous experience of the German language.

Spanish GCSE

Why take Spanish?

- To continue to learn the 3rd most widely spoken language in the world.
- To find out more about the varied Hispanic cultures.
- To become more independent in your speaking and writing.
- To improve your chances of getting a good and interesting job.
- To challenge yourself



What is a typical lesson like?

In a typical languages' lesson, you will build upon what you already know and use parallel texts and knowledge organisers as we have done so far in year 8 and 9. Every lesson will be different and challenging, and you will be expected to be active and involved. The tasks you do will improve your confidence and independence!

What will I study?

- In Year 10 we study the topics of free time, technology, holidays, relationships and healthy lifestyle.
- In Year 11 we study life at school, cities, global issues and the world of work.

What does studying Spanish lead to?

- To move on to AS and then A level in Spanish and/or to combine Spanish with other courses at university.
- To you being more competitive in the international job market; in business, finance, tourism, media, law, and engineering and other sectors candidates with some foreign languages always stand out.
- Language learning teaches skills that are vital to lots of jobs - communicating clearly in writing and speaking, listening carefully, summarising, paying attention to detail and appreciating other people and cultures
- Even if you don't continue to A level, having Spanish GCSE will allow to make the most of your holidays in Spain and Latin America interacting with the locals and meeting new people.

What's there to help me?

- We use Language Gym/ Quizlet to help you with your independent learning.
- We run regular after-school support sessions to get ready for assessments and examinations.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- We have a very successful trip to Barcelona in year 10.
- We have a Spanish language assistant for practice with a native speaker and work in small groups.

To opt for Spanish GCSE, you must have been studying it in Year 8 and 9 or have other relevant previous experience of the Spanish language.

Geography GCSE

Why take Geography?

Geography fascinates and inspires: It enables you to understand our place in an ever-changing world, where complex human and physical processes interact to create the amazing diversity of landscapes and contexts we see around the world. Geography explores many of the challenges facing people today (climate change, food security, energy choices, issues of development), giving you the ability to make sense of what you see happening in the world around you.

What is a typical lesson like?

Your lessons will be enquiry based, finding solutions to challenging issues facing the world today. This will involve answering a range of big questions through the investigation of a wide range of geographical sources, including maps, data, photos, articles, and video clips.

You will be required to recall information from across a range of topics and link them together to generate conclusions about situations and then make decisions based upon this analysis.

A typical lesson will involve knowledge recall, source analysis, aspects of evaluative thinking or decision making, and will often involve some element of extended writing.

What will I study?

Students study the AQA Geography GCSE which includes three units, each with a number of different topics covering physical geography, human geography and geographical skills, including fieldwork and decision-making skills.

What does Geography GCSE lead to?

Geography graduates develop skills that are valued by many employers, including: data handling; analytical thinking; decision making; ability to undertake investigations; ability to make connections and draw conclusions. There are diverse career opportunities for geographers ranging from planning and development, through aid workers, law, environmental consultancy, conservation, cartography and surveying to research and spatial modelling.

The transferable skills which Geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages flexible thinking!

How is the curriculum enriched?

All students are required to undertake two pieces of fieldwork in preparation for the Unit 3 exam. This will involve two field trips, one to the Norfolk coastline and the other to study urban issues.



History GCSE

Why take History?

- If you want to understand the world today, you need to study its past.
- It's all about people and the choices they make—people are fascinating!
- History makes you think analytically and helps you to explain your views persuasively, in debate and on paper.

What is a typical lesson like?

In History there's a lot of variety: you will learn to take effective notes, to perfect your source handling skills, to debate, to re-enact, to analyse ideas and challenge assumptions, to write essays and, most of all, to think.

We encourage you to be independent and self-managing throughout the course.

What will I study?

- We follow the OCR SHP B History GCSE.
- In Year 10, we investigate Life under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945, Viking Expansion c.750-c.1050, and starting Migrants to Britain, c.1250-present
- In Year 11, we continue studying Migrants to Britain, c.1250-present and then move onto the Elizabethans, 1580-1603, finishing with a local history study.

What does History GCSE lead to?

- Lots of our students go on to study History at A level, but history is also useful for lots of other post 16 qualifications, such as psychology or philosophy.
- History also teaches skills that are vital to lots of jobs, such as handling information efficiently, being able to summarise an argument concisely, and being able to see things from an alternative point of view. Because of this, it does not narrow down your options: it keeps them open.
- Lawyers, journalists, teachers, managers and doctors have studied this subject.

How is the curriculum enriched?

As part of our study of Nazi Germany, there is a Year 10 trip to the Holocaust exhibition in the Imperial War museum, London.

We will also visit a local history site.





OPTION B

In Option B students select 3 of their GCSEs.

Students can select from all GCSE courses available, including those in Option A if they have not selected it already.

Art and Design GCSE

Why take Art?

Take art if:

- You want to understand the creative process.
- You want to explore a range of your own ideas in different media.
- You want to improve your technical, creative and thinking skills.
- You want to learn about artists, both living and dead.

What is a typical lesson like?

In Art we discuss and share ideas. Initially everyone works in a sketchbook to develop technical and creative skills. Outcomes are then realised in two- or three-dimensional form.

We encourage you to respond individually to all practical tasks and to express your own thoughts and viewpoints.

What will I study?

- In Year 10 you will create artwork based on a number of themes and workshops.
- In Year 11 you will choose a theme as inspiration for artwork.

What does Art GCSE lead to?

- Lots of our students go on to study Art at Advanced level, but you could also study International Baccalaureate or BTEC Diplomas.
- Art teaches a range of skills that are vital to lots of jobs, for example, advertising, architecture, fashion, illustration, freelance practitioner, hair and beauty, photography and teaching.
- You could also study Art and design for the pure enjoyment of being creative!

How is the curriculum enriched?

You have the opportunity to experience artwork first hand at the V & A Museum, Tate Modern and Curwen Print Studios. The Royal Academy Outreach Programme teaches a day of life drawing activities.



Art and Design (Photography) GCSE

Why take Photography?

Take Photography if:

- You want to understand the creative process.
- You want to explore a range of your own ideas and a wide range of photographic techniques.
- You want to improve your technical, creative and thinking skills through digital means.
- You want to learn about Photographers; the history of photography and contemporary photographers, working in a range of genres and styles.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In Photography we will develop knowledge and understanding of Camera Controls including aperture, shutter speed and composition through a 'hands-on' approach.
- Initially students will develop technical understanding alongside creative skills. Mini projects will introduce students to different photographic genres and outcomes will be refined through editing and manipulation using Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop and other relevant software packages.
- We encourage students to respond to all set tasks in an individual and personal manner to express their own thoughts and viewpoints.

What will I study?

- In Year 10 you will create digital photographs and presentations based on a range of themes and processes.
- In Year 11 you will choose a theme as inspiration for photographic work, complete your portfolio and exam.

What does Photography GCSE lead to?

- Lots of our students go on to study Photography at Advanced level, but you could also study International Baccalaureate or BTEC Diplomas.
- Photography teaches a range of skills that are vital to lots of jobs, for example, advertising, architecture, fashion, illustration, Photojournalism
- Fine art practitioner, photography and teaching.
- You could also study photography for the pure enjoyment of being creative!

How is the curriculum enriched?

You have the opportunity to experience photography first hand through trips and other experiences.

Business Studies GCSE

Why take Business Studies?

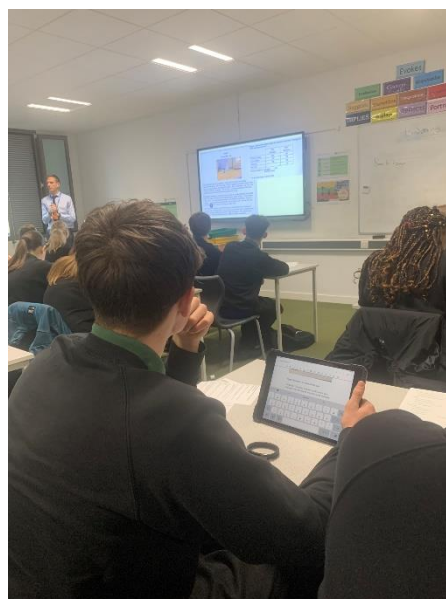
If you enjoy...

- Communicating and explaining your ideas
- Thinking creatively and making decisions about contemporary business problems
- Interpreting and analysing data to solve problems
- Learning about the world of business through case studies, research as well as through practical tasks

...then GCSE Business is for you!

What is a typical lesson like?

- You will work using a variety of resources including textbooks, worksheets, sample papers and computers. We will look at case studies notes of small businesses.
- When appropriate and subject to availability, speakers from the business community will be invited to our lessons.
- You will use teacher-designed activities and homework will be used to support your learning in class.



What does Business Studies GCSE lead to?

- A Levels in Business Studies or Economics or a Level 3 Diploma in Business.
- Provides you with an understanding of how large businesses organise themselves and provides you with the starting point for a career in Finance, Marketing or Operations.
- Not everyone wants to run a global corporation. A lot of people prefer small businesses offering individual service or set up their own business, working for themselves. This course provides the overview of the functional areas of a business, an ideal beginning for a start-up entrepreneur.
- Either way, working for a large or small business, you still need to know about business e.g. how to get your products to market, how to price them, how to promote them and how to get paid!

What will I study?

- There are six compulsory units across two years. Topics include business activity in the real world, the influences on businesses, business operations, human resources, marketing and finance
- Assessment will be through two examinations, worth 50% each. On both papers, questions start with multiple choice and work through to case study questions which require longer answers. Mini essays will be required for the latter questions on both papers.

How will the curriculum be enriched?

Through the school's links with business, it is hoped that real life stories, their successes and failures, will consolidate our theoretical learning in the classroom. Whenever possible, real life business stories from the news are used to demonstrate relevant points in our course.

Constructing and the Built Environment Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Take this subject if you want to:

- Be practical and hardworking
- Enjoy learning practical skills relevant to the construction industry
- Develop your own independent learning style
- Understand construction systems, processes and operations

What is a typical lesson like?

- You will be given lots of practical tasks developing your understanding of materials and processes including carpentry, bricklaying painting, decorating and plumbing.
- You will have the chance to develop your understanding of a range of construction industry processes and how to apply them to specific construction tasks.
- You will study health, safety and security, and develop your understanding about funding, planning and managing in the construction industry.
- You will develop the skills required for independent learning and development to become an effective problem solver.

What will I study?

- Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment
- Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment

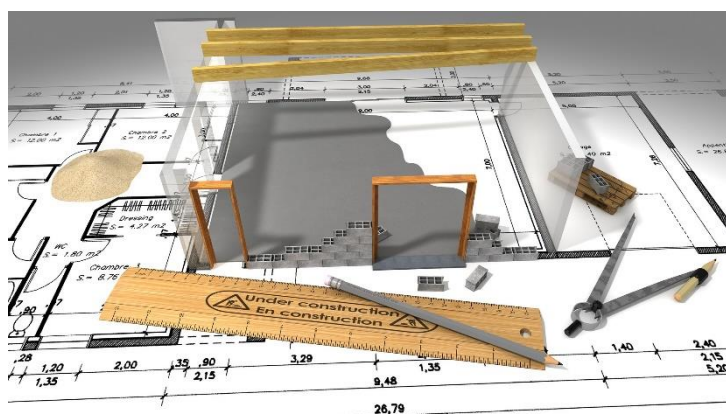
What does Construction lead to?

Students who follow this course can:

- Use their making skills to apply for apprenticeships and CRC.
- Use their independent learning skills to problem solve effectively.
- Follow careers in the construction industry (carpentry, bricklaying, plumbing etc.)
- Use a wide range of practical skills effectively.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- After school workshops and activities.
- There will ideally be site visits and visiting professionals/trades people to extend learning and engagement.



Design and Technology GCSE

Take this subject if you want to:

- Be creative and original
- Have fun designing and making your own ideas
- Develop your own independent learning style
- Understand how and why products are produced.

What is a typical lesson like?

- You will be given lots of practical tasks involving designing and making in a variety of materials.
- You will study products and designers and the way they shape and influence the world in which we live.
- You will have the chance to use computers to design and make your ideas using CAD and CAM programs.
- You will be given plenty of opportunity to show originality.

What will I study?

Core and specialist principles include:

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy generation and storage
- Forces and stresses
- Developments in new materials
- Systems approach to designing
- Mechanical devices
- Materials and their working properties



What does Design and Technology GCSE lead to?

Students who follow this course can:

- Use their designing and making skills in a range of courses at sixth form colleges and CRC.
- Use their independent learning skills to problem solve effectively and think more creatively.
- Follow careers in architecture, CAD design, product design, graphic illustration, advertising, media and engineering.
- Use a wide range of practical skills effectively.

How is the curriculum enriched?

After school workshops are available. There may be a visit to a Design show and opportunities to enter national competitions.

Drama GCSE

Why take Drama?

Take Drama if:

- You want to work collaboratively with other students.
- You want to develop your skills in performance, design and directing.
- You enjoy critically analysing creative work.

What is a typical lesson like?

- Lessons may start with a theory knowledge test or practical warm up activity.
- Main tasks will focus on a specific area of study such as performance styles, genres and practitioners and various ways of creating drama. The learning will be through both **theory** and **practical** tasks.
- Activities that help develop analysis and evaluation skills—reflecting in order to improve.
- Working individually, pairs and groups on a range of both theory and practical tasks to develop your skills in performance, devising, designing (stage, lighting, costume) and directing theatre.

What will I Study?

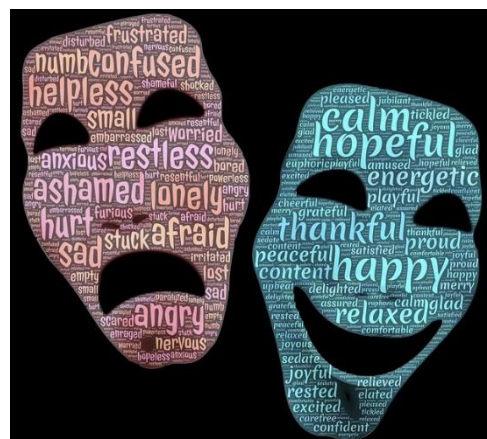
- How to create and design drama using a range of methods and analyse how audience might respond to drama.
- Explore performance texts from professional companies, recreating your own versions through performance or design.
- Critically explain your decision making.
- How to work collaboratively to generate and communicate ideas.
- How to work independent, using initiative and contribute as an individual.
- Reflect and evaluate the work of others.
- In **year 11** you will be able to specialise in performing or designing.

What does Drama GCSE lead to?

GCSE Drama prepares learners for the further study of Drama or Performing Arts courses as well as developing transferable skills desired by further education, higher education and employers in all sectors of industry. GCSE Drama will help create independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision makers – all personal attributes that can make them stand out as they progress through their education and into employment.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- Theatre trips.
- Workshops and performances.
- Open studio time.
- Professional work shared through Google classroom.
- Interventions through after school sessions.
- Drama leader opportunity to run Year 7 & 8 Drama club.



Food and Nutrition GCSE

This GCSE has a focus on the principles of food science, where your food comes from and practical cookery.

Why take Food and Nutrition GCSE?

- If you like being creative and enjoy practical cookery skills, then this could be the option for you.
- Food and Nutrition is an applied learning subject - everything you do will be linked to the world of Hospitality and Catering at work.
- Food and Nutrition students learn by doing. You will develop skills in practical classes.

What is a typical lesson like?

- Practical lessons provide a realistic working environment in which you will produce dishes for different types of occasions. You will be expected to provide ingredients for all lessons.
- Theory lessons cover a range of topics and prepare students for the final written paper.

What does Food and Nutrition GCSE lead to?

- This is an excellent choice for students who are interested in a career in the Food Service or Hospitality industry.
- You can also take Food and Nutrition as a practical complement to other subjects.

What will I study?

The main areas of study are cooking skills and techniques, nutritional content, functional properties and chemical characteristics of food, healthy eating, environmental issues, ethical and cultural influences on food choice, food safety

Assessment is by a mixture of practical exam, written coursework and a written theory paper.



Health and Social Care Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Why take Health & Social Care?

Take this subject if:

- You are interested in working with people.
- You want a career in either Health care or Social care.
- You can work independently and enjoy researching and producing written assignments.

What is a typical lesson like?

- There is no typical lesson.
- We discuss and we listen.
- We research topics and produce evidence supporting the research.
- We have visiting speakers and use documentaries.

What will I study?

- In Year 10 you will study the 5 life stages of human development looking at how people grow and develop from aged 4 onwards, at each life stage and the impact of life events.
- You will study creative and therapeutic activities, what they are, their benefits and plan and deliver your own, evaluating its effectiveness.
- You will have an external assessment in year 11 which is based on principles of care in health and social care settings.

What does Health & Social Care lead to?

- This qualification is the starting point for those wanting a job in the caring sector. Examples of such jobs are Nursing, Social Work, being a care assistant and working with children.
- Health and Social Care can also be studied at a more advanced level when you leave Bottisham.
- The course also will help you to develop a range of skills such as collecting, interpreting and presenting data. These skills are valued by most employers.



How is the curriculum enriched?

- We use real-life examples from a range of organisations who operate in the caring sector
- Current affairs are discussed and looked at through relevant documentaries
- We may go to a local nursery, a residential home and a local centre for adults with disabilities
- You will carry out interviews with family, friends, and neighbours to find out how the theory has impacted their lives.

ICT Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Why take ICT

- If you are interested in studying ICT but in a less mathematically intensive way to the Computer Science GCSE course.
- If you are interested in learning how to use computer software rather than programming. (There is no programming element to this course)
- If you are interested in a future career that will rely on using a computer to produce documents or keep records.

What is a typical lesson like?

- In a typical lesson you will be shown a variety of new skills which you will apply to a specific task, in order to complete a project.
- We encourage you to be independent learners and creative in your use of the different types of software.
- Your homework tasks will be based around consolidating knowledge and preparing for the assessed elements of the course.

What will I study?

This Vocational Award offers a more 'hands on' approach of using software to create solutions for use in a business context, such as:

- Creating and using databases
- Planning and operating spreadsheets
- IT services in business
- Legal, moral, ethical and cultural impacts of IT
- Automated documents (such as mail merge)
- Image creation and manipulation



How is the course assessed?

- Unit 1 – ICT in Society: Assessed by on-screen exam, 40%
- Unit 2 ICT in Context: Controlled assessment set by the exam board, completed in class, and marked by the class teacher.

What does the ICT award lead to?

- This qualification can lead to a variety of careers in a range of business settings including administrative roles, data entry specialists, customer relations, and digital content creators.
- This course opens up opportunities to continue studying ICT in greater depth or more specialised areas such as advanced office productivity, graphic design and business analysis tools.
- The skills developed can support entrepreneurship opportunities in areas of starting a business or provide training services.
- Many employers are now looking for ICT qualifications, as many roles often rely on the use of computers and different types of software.

Music GCSE

Why take Music?

You will enjoy the subject if:

- You like listening to a range of music from pop and orchestral music to samba, bhangra and film music.
- You want to develop your creative skills further and work on ensemble and solo performances and writing your own music.
- You enjoy practical work, playing and composing your own music.
- You enjoy using technology to develop and record your musical ideas.



What is a typical lesson like?

- Lessons have a mix of practical work, history, theory and listening work.
- Year 10 particularly focuses on developing composition skills, and you will compose (create music) in a wide range of styles using music technology including iPads and Logic.
- You will be free to choose the music you perform, which will inspire your composition work.
- You will analyse and discuss the key features of many different styles of music (see below).

What does Music GCSE lead to?

- Many students go on to study Music at A level or Music Technology A Level.
- GCSE music teaches creative skills that are highly valued in lots of careers. It will help you to be confident when communicating your ideas to others, will develop your ability to learn independently, and will enhance your ability to work as part of a team.
- All universities accept Music as an academic subject and lots of journalists, teachers and doctors have studied it.
- You will also acquire skills that will change the way you appreciate and understand music for the rest of your life.

What will I study?

- Film and video game music—Clichés and conventions that help tell a story
- Popular Music from 1955– Present Day
- Rhythms of the World - Samba, Bhangra, Calypso and beyond
- Music for the orchestra through time
- Composing and Performing using your instrument, voice or with Music Tech

How is the curriculum enriched?

Extended school activities; opportunities to perform in concerts, shows or assemblies; visits to concerts and shows; opportunities to use Garageband, Logic and Sibelius.

Frequently asked questions:

- Do I need to be able to read music? *No, we will be developing this skill in class.*
- Do I need to have taken grade exams? *No, this is not a requirement, although you will need to submit 2 performances as part of your coursework which can be instrumental, vocal, or even created using music technology if you are a keen musician but not a strong performer.*

It is recommended, but not a requirement, that you already play a musical instrument or sing and are undertaking music lessons if you intend to study music GCSE.

PE GCSE and Sport Studies Level 1/2 Vocational Award

In PE there are two qualification pathways: GCSE and Vocational Award. These two qualifications differ in the way they are assessed and whether emphasis is placed on practical skills, Sports Science, or the broader roles within the field of sport. Both qualifications offer pathways into further study of sport and sporting careers; and both qualifications will be considered for progression onto A Level PE and other Sports qualifications.

PE GCSE has a higher practical skill requirement and emphasis on sports science. Sport Studies is more vocational and therefore has greater focus on the broader role of sport in society, for example coaching, officiating and the media. It has less emphasis on practical skills in high-level competition and includes a greater proportion of coursework.

In your GCSE Options you will be able to select 'Examination PE', you will then be guided onto the course that will best suit your skills set (more detail on the next page)

Why take 'Examination PE'?

Take Examination PE if:

- You have a keen interest in sport and always look forward to your PE lessons.
- You want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- You want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding through both practical and theoretical involvement in sport.
- You want the opportunity to improve your own performance.

What is a typical lesson like?

- Most lessons are classroom based, involving discussion, extended writing, small group and whole class activities.
- Some lessons involve applying theory work to a practical environment.
- Some lessons are practical. Students work in the sports hall, the gym, the Bodytone fitness suite, on the field or on the astroturf. They develop skills and understanding in a variety of activities.

What does Examination PE lead to?

- Lots of our students go on to study A level Physical Education or vocational Sports courses, and from there many progress to studying related degree courses at university.
- The course develops transferable skills and that employers look for. It can lead to a variety of employment opportunities such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating and teaching.



What will I study in Examination PE?

PE GCSE	Sport Studies Vocational Award
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The human body; the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance.• Identifying ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.• Socio-cultural issues in the world of sport, such as commercialisation and drugs.• The effects of sports psychology on performance.• How to improve practical performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contemporary Issues in Sport, big-picture, real-world sport topics that impact sports at all levels.• Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities, Key components of performance in sport and planning and organising sports activity sessions.• Sport and the Media, focuses on the influence and role of media in sport.

How will my course pathway be selected?

When allocating you to a PE course, this will be done on a student-by-student basis. Along with knowledge of each individual students' attitude to learning and participation in Core PE lessons, the following will be taken into consideration:

- **Level of Competitive Sport.** Most students taking GCSE PE need to be participating in one team sport and one individual sport outside of PE lessons. This is due to the higher practical skills requirement in GCSE PE. Students who have a keen interest in participating in sports and take part well in core PE lessons but do not have high levels of competitive sport outside lessons are likely to be better suited to Sports Studies.
- **Science Grade.** Most student taking GCSE PE will be Secure or above in science, due to the greater focus on Sport Science (anatomy and physiology) compared to the Sports Studies course.

If you have questions about the PE courses, make sure you speak to Mr Perry or Mr Brennan before the deadline to submit your options forms.



Performing Arts Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Why take this award?

- You prefer a **coursework**-based course.
- You want to develop your performance skills in dance.
- You want to create an original piece of theatre in dance theatre lighting, costume design or make up.
- You want to experience planning and creating a piece of theatre from a business and management perspective.

What is a typical lesson like?

- Lessons may start with or practical warm up activity or knowledge revision.
- Main tasks will focus on an area of performance skill such as acting, singing, dancing or musical theatre.
- Theory activities—helping us understand mood/style/genres in theatre and how the industry works.
- **Independent working**— (individually/ pairs/ groups) to work on a project brief, like those you may see in the professional creative industry. For example, A producer may want you to pitch for a new theatre production and you are required to plan and present your ideas.

What will I Study?

- You will explore different genres of dance, developing your technique as a dancer, focusing on communicating a character or a mood through characterisation.
- How to design lighting, costume and set.
- How to create original pieces of choreography.
- How to work collaboratively to generate, communicate and present ideas.
- Learn how to work independently, using initiative and contribute to a group.
- Reflection and evaluation skills in order to refine and improve.

What does a Vocational Award in Performing Arts lead to?

The Vocational Award prepares learners for the further study of Performing Arts courses as well as developing the transferable skills desired by further education and employers in all sectors of industry. The VA in Performing Arts will help you be an independent learner, reflective thinker and effective decision maker – all personal attributes that can make you stand out as you progress through education and into employment.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- Theatre trips.
- Opportunities to participate in workshops and performances.
- Open studio time at lunch times and after school.
- Professional work shared through Google classroom.
- Interventions through after school sessions.
- Leader opportunity to run Performing Arts Clubs.



Religious Studies GCSE

Why take Religious Studies?

- To learn how to create reasoned arguments using critical analysis and evaluative skills.
- To become better at using logic and ethics when making your choices.
- To consider 'ultimate' questions, such as Does God exist? and Why is there evil in the world?
- To be more reflective and more receptive to the views of others.

What is a typical lesson like?

- The course is 'issue based.' You will discuss of philosophical questions and ethical issues from varying perspectives.
- You will be involved in group and independent work including laptop/textbook based research.
- You will be introduced to exam technique including how to structure responses.

What will I study?

There are 2 papers. The first paper will include the study of 2 world religions Sikhism and Christianity focussing specifically on beliefs, practices and teachings. The second paper will include the thematic study of different religious themes including Crime and Punishment, Religion and Life, Relationships and Families and Religion, Peace and Conflict

What does a Religious Studies GCSE lead to?

- A Level Religious Studies and Philosophy courses build on the work done in the GCSE course.
- Skills acquired by the GCSE are transferrable to other subjects including English and History.
- The issues covered by the GCSE are relevant to those wanting to enter the caring professions, where they will need to be good listeners. Those interested in following a career in medicine, social care and teaching often enjoy the RS course, as it gives them an insight into ethical issues of life and death, understanding people and their views and also understanding the world around them.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- Outside speakers visit, sharing different perspectives on issues.
- Revision classes are held prior to exams to help build confidence with exam technique.



Notes