



SMITHILLS SCHOOL
SUCCESS FOR ALL

YEAR 9

OPTIONS

2025



PHOTOGRAPHY



ART



SPORTS STUDIES



SMITHILLS SCHOOL
SUCCESS FOR ALL



SEPARATE SCIENCE



RE



COMPUTER SCIENCE

CONTENTS



YEAR 9 OPTIONS EXPLAINED	Pg 3
GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Pg 4
GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE	Pg 5
GCSE MATHS	Pg 6
GCSE SCIENCE	Pg 7
GCSE ART & DESIGN	Pg 8
GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE	Pg 9
BTEC TECH AWARD IN DANCE	Pg 10
GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS)	Pg 11
BTEC TECH AWARD IN ENTERPRISE	Pg 12
GCSE FRENCH	Pg 13
GCSE GEOGRAPHY	Pg 14
VTCT LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN THE STUDY OF HAIR AND BEAUTY	Pg 15
BTEC TECH AWARD IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	Pg 16
GCSE HISTORY	Pg 17
WJEC LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING	Pg 18
GCSE MUSIC	Pg 19
BTEC TECH AWARD IN DRAMA	Pg 20
GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY	Pg 21
GCSE RE	Pg 22
GCSE SPANISH	Pg 23
SPORTS STUDIES	Pg 24
GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCE (TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE)	Pg 25
GCSE URDU	Pg 26
CAREERS	Pg 27
NOTES	Pg 28



YEAR 9 OPTIONS EXPLAINED



Pupils must choose 3 options from the list below.

This MUST include: GEOGRAPHY or HISTORY.

Pupils must complete their options form and submit it to student services by **FRIDAY 4TH APRIL 2025**

All pupils must choose...

GCSE GEOGRAPHY OR GCSE HISTORY

All pupils must choose 1 option from each column and 1 reserve...

OPTION 1

FRENCH

SPANISH

URDU

ART

SPORTS STUDIES

DRAMA

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

PHOTOGRAPHY

ENTERPRISE

RE

COMPUTER SCIENCE



OPTION 2

ART

SPORTS STUDIES

COMPUTER SCIENCE

DANCE

HAIR AND BEAUTY

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

MUSIC

RE

SEPARATE SCIENCE

URDU

ENTERPRISE

IMPORTANT

No course is guaranteed to run - but if a viable number choose it we will run it. Once you start a course you cannot change it to something else.





GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Everyone will study both English Language and English Literature. Throughout your time here, you have been developing the skills for English Language GCSE – reading a range of fiction and non-fiction texts but also learning how to write accurately and fluently: you will focus on English Language during year 11.

COURSE CONTENT

For English Language, you will study:

- How to read, think about and respond to fiction and non-fiction texts
- How to write your own fiction and non-fiction texts

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- One literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- Descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- Writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The skills you acquire and learn in English Language are essential for your everyday life and future success: you will gather the tools to succeed in many future college and university courses and professions, including journalism, teaching, writing, publishing, but also for occupations such as law and politics.





GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LITERATURE

Everyone will study both English Language and English Literature.

You will begin studying your English Literature texts in year 9, to prepare you for sitting your GCSE English Literature at the end of year 10.

COURSE CONTENT

For English Literature, you will study:

- Macbeth
- A Christmas Carol
- Blood Brothers
- An anthology of poetry
- How to analyse unseen poems

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

- Shakespeare
- The 19th-century novel

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Shakespeare.
Section B The 19th-century novel

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

- Modern texts
- Poetry
- Unseen poetry

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Question

Section A Modern Texts
Section B Poetry
Section C Unseen Poetry

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

English Literature is excellent preparation for many degree courses, because it teaches you how to read widely and absorb information from a wide range of sources, interpreting and thinking about what you read. It is also directly relevant to a range of careers, such as those connected to History, the Humanities in general, Law, Sociology and Politics, as well as the more obvious Literature-based careers such as teaching, writing, journalism, advertising and media studies.





GCSE MATHEMATICS



INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICS

At Key Stage 4, we will prepare you for a GCSE Mathematics Qualification from the Edexcel examination board, with Grades 1 to 9. You should expect to put into practice the skills and facts you have learned at Key Stage 3. The aim is to enable you to meet the rigours of the new Mathematics Specification, equipping you to succeed in using Maths in other subjects such as Science, Geography, PE, Technology, as well as at home, and later college, university and work life.

COURSE CONTENT

Topic Area	Foundation Tier (%)	Higher Tier (%)
Number	25%	15%
Algebra	20%	30%
Ratio and Proportion	25%	20%
Geometry	15%	20%
Probability and Statistics	15%	15%

ASSESSMENT

It is a two tier entry, higher and foundation. You will sit three exams at the end of year 11, one non calculator and two calculator papers.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Mathematics is an excellent qualification and a key component of many further and higher education courses and careers. It is vital if you wish to study Architecture, Engineering, or Mathematics and advisable for Economics, Business, Banking, Accountancy, Design, Electronics, Statistics, Psychology, Geography, Computing, IT and Sciences. If you study Mathematics your skills will also be welcomed for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Teaching, Technology and Genetics. Recent research suggests that people with GCSE and A-level Mathematics can earn 10% more than colleagues with similar qualifications.





GCSE SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE

Look around you at your environment and all the ways we live our everyday lives. Many of the items and technologies we use have been developed by the advancements and discoveries made in Science. For example, without Science we would not have electricity, mobile phones, the internet or social media. We would not have cars to drive about in, television to entertain us or fridges to keep our food fresh. Our world would be a very different place without Science. An understanding of Science also helps us to make sense of the world around us and plan for its future development.

COURSE CONTENT

The course consists of Biology, Chemistry and Physics components. In Biology you will study topics such as cells, infection, homeostasis, inheritance and ecology. In Chemistry you will learn about atoms, bonding, the periodic table, chemical changes and analysis. Physics topics include forces, energy, waves, electricity and magnetism.

This is a practical based subject which links subject knowledge to many everyday applications. You will be required to use a variety of skills in lessons which include listening, speaking, writing, reading, numeracy, ICT, as well as experimenting using scientific apparatus. Although there will be regular practical group activities, there will also be independent learning aspects to the lesson.

ASSESSMENT

You will sit six papers in total – two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Science will open up a variety of options for you, equipping you with many skills which will make you very employable.

You could decide to continue with a post-16 scientific qualification such as an A level in Biology, Chemistry or Physics or a more vocational qualification such as BTEC Applied Science. On completion of your course there are many exciting careers available including: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Engineering, Optometry, Biochemistry, Genetics, Architecture, Acoustics and Environmental Health.





GCSE ART & DESIGN

INTRODUCTION TO ART & DESIGN

Art is a subject that develops creativity and provides pupils with the ability to express themselves. It is a skills based subject which requires independent investigation into ideas and techniques. An interest in art helps you to develop your appreciation of good design including colour combinations and aesthetic form.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will provide you with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore interests in Art & Design. You explore a range of art disciplines including illustration, 3D, graphics, printmaking and textiles through themes that have self-negotiated outcomes.

You are taught a range of different techniques and skills, using a range of media, allowing them to experiment as well as develop their own ideas. Final responses will be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate artistic skill and an understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

ASSESSMENT

60% Coursework (NEA)	40% Exam
Portfolio of work	10hr Practical exam
Selected work from throughout the course	Assignment based, standalone unit of work

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Many employers seek to recruit people who are lateral thinkers and creative problem solvers, qualities that are natural to artists and designers. Jobs that directly relate include: art therapist, teacher, community arts worker, journalist, graphic designer, fashion/gallery/museum management, architect, interior designer, jewellery, theatre, TV, set design/production, art directing, art technician or practicing artist.





GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer science is part of just about everything that touches our lives from the cars we drive, to the movies we watch, to the ways businesses and governments communicate. Understanding different aspects of computer science is part of the necessary skill set for any young person in the 21st century.

COURSE CONTENT

Computer systems

- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms *
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

ASSESSMENT

Computer Systems Exam – Written Paper, 1 hour 30 mins, 50% GCSE

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming – Written Paper, 1 hour 30 mins, 50% GCSE

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

This course gives a great foundation for further study at A-Level and Degree so that you can be involved in this ever-changing industry. Whether you want to be a games developer, web designer, cyber security expert or develop the latest killer app, studying computer science will provide you with the valuable knowledge required to do this.





OPTIONAL SUBJECT

BTEC TECH AWARD IN DANCE



INTRODUCTION TO BTEC TECH AWARD IN DANCE

This exciting, vocational and innovative dance course is appropriate for all routes and those who have a keen interest in the world of dance, choreography and dance performance. Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject.

Assessment

The BTEC Tech Award in Dance is made up of three components, two are internally assessed and externally moderated and the other is externally assessed. The three-block structure; explore, develop and apply has been developed to allow you to build on and embed knowledge, allowing you to grow in confidence throughout the components and put into practice what you have learnt.

Course Content

Component 1: Exploring Dance within the Performing Arts (30%)

To develop your understanding of dance, you will need a broad and balanced understanding of different dance works, dance styles and their influences. This component will help you to understand the requirements of being a dancer and choreographer across three different dance and performance styles. You will practically explore how the dance works are created and apply relevant dance skills and techniques.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in Dance (30%)

You will communicate intentions to an audience through a chosen dance style and dance repertoire, taking part in dance workshops and classes (internal and external) where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative dance skills through the rehearsal and dance performance process. This is the perfect component to learn professional choreography from famous artists such as Beyoncé, Justin Timberlake, Shawn Mendes, Lady Gaga and Usher.

Component 3: Responding to a Dance Brief (40%)

Learners will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a dance workshop performance to a given brief and stimulus. This external component builds on knowledge, understanding and skills acquired throughout the course. Learners will capture their ideas on planning, development and effectiveness of the dance and choreographic process in a written log and an evaluation report.

Future Opportunities

This course can lead to a post 16 study of A Level dance/Performing Arts, BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) or other dance/performing arts related courses. This may lead to the study of dance/performing arts related course at many professional colleges/universities and progression towards a variety of careers, including; professional dancer on stage and/or on television, dancer in a professional dance companies, physiotherapy, dance management, dance fitness instructor, teaching, dance dietician or nutritionist, healthcare professional and many more.





OPTIONAL SUBJECT



GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS)

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Design & Technology is a subject that develops creativity and provides pupils with the ability to express themselves. It enables you to design and make products with creativity and originality. It is a skills based subject which requires independent investigation into ideas and techniques offering a unique opportunity to identify and solve real problems through design. An interest in Design & Technology helps you to develop your appreciation of good design and aesthetic form.

COURSE CONTENT

This GCSE course will enable you to explore your interests in design and work in a range of creative, exciting and stimulating areas. You will explore a range of disciplines including computer aided design & computer Aided Manufacture (CAD/CAM), computer based graphic design, illustration, printmaking and photography through a range of different assignment briefs

You will be taught a range of different techniques and skills, using a range of media, allowing you to experiment as well as develop your own ideas. Final responses will be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate design skills.

ASSESSMENT

60% Coursework (NEA)	40% Exam
Portfolio of work	10hr Practical exam
Selected work from throughout the course	Assignment based, standalone unit of work

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The courses will provide you with great preparation for studying design based subjects at KS5, AS and A-level. On completion of your courses there are many exciting careers available including: Product/Brand Manager, Cartographer, Illustrator, Web Designer, Typographer, Graphic Crafts Maker, Brand Designer, Creative Director, Technical Illustrator, Packaging Designer and Editor.

SUCCESS FOR ALL





BTEC TECH AWARD IN ENTERPRISE

INTRODUCTION TO BTEC ENTERPRISE

BTEC ENTERPRISE is a vocational qualification, where you develop knowledge and understanding by applying your learning and skills in a work-related context.

These are popular because they allow you to take responsibility for your own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. It will give you a hands on experience of the world of business and provide you with many of the skills you can transfer into a future business related career.

COURSE CONTENT

BTEC Enterprise consists of 3 units:

- Exploring enterprises
- Planning for and pitching an enterprise activity
- Promotion and finance for enterprise

ASSESSMENT

One unit (Finance for Business) is assessed by an external exam. All other units are internally assessed.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Studying BTEC Enterprise will give you the opportunity to:

- gain a broad understanding and knowledge of a vocational sector
- investigate areas of specific interest
- develop essential skills and attributes prized by employers, further education colleges and higher education institutions.

This qualification provides opportunities for you to progress to either academic or more specialised vocational pathways.

The knowledge and skills you will acquire support progression to a broad range of level 3 study, whether academic or vocational. For example, a BTEC National in Business or a BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, A Level Business or A Level Economics.





GCSE FRENCH



INTRODUCTION TO GCSE FRENCH

In an increasingly multilingual and multicultural world, English is not enough! Not only does learning a language improve your communication skills, it can help you develop key life skills such as problem solving, creativity and social interaction. In addition to learning French we promote cultural understanding and a GCSE in a language can open up a world of opportunities. Are you thinking of studying business? Combining a language with business opens up a whole new diverse world for you! This combination of options will give you a head start in the international job market in a world where employers are looking for skilled linguists.

Course Content

GCSE French builds on your previous learning and develops the skills necessary to understand and communicate. You will study a range of topics while developing the four skill areas of speaking, writing, reading and listening.

Examples of topics covered during the course include:

- Identity and culture
- Relationships
- Social media and technology
- Customs and festivals in French speaking countries
- The environment
- Current and future study

Assessment

The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are assessed in end of course exams.

Future Opportunities

Studying a language is considered a very impressive achievement and improves your employability; people with a language qualification often earn more money for their skills. A French GCSE can lead to work in international business, law, management, marketing, journalism and much more. It is also useful for living and/or working abroad within the travel and tourism sector. GCSE French counts towards the Baccalaureate and universities look favourably on those with a language qualification. A language can be combined with a wide range of degree courses to support future careers and will open up the chance to live and work abroad as you study.





GCSE GEOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY

Geography is the study of human and physical environments and the interaction between them. The emphasis is on the study of causes, effects and management of these environments, which is becoming increasingly important in our everyday lives. Living in a sustainable way into the future is becoming increasingly important as the effects of human development leave a lasting mark on our planet.

Geography equips you to explore the complex web of processes and interactions between our physical and human environment which is core to our wellbeing and prosperity.

COURSE CONTENT

GCSE Geography consists of 7 examined units:

- Distinctive UK landscapes such as river and coastal landforms
- Rural – urban links in the UK and the wider world
- Tectonic landscapes and the hazards they present
- Weather, climate and ecosystems
- Worldwide development and resources management
- Issues in the developing world
- Fieldwork surveys in two contrasting environments

ASSESSMENT

All exams will be sat at the end of Year 11. All students will sit 3 exams, all of which will be 1hr 30 mins.

All papers require extended answers.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Studying Geography develops your analytical and communication skills and your ability to evaluate data, all strengths that are in demand in the workplace. Geographers may be particularly drawn to areas such as environmental planning, health, politics and international relations. Working in town planning, conservation and waste management, transport and tourism, energy production and surveying are also common career paths.





VTCT Level 1/2 Technical Award in the Study of Hair and Beauty

INTRODUCTION TO HAIR & BEAUTY

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to mix their academic skills and practical skills together to gain a qualification in Hair & Beauty Therapy. Pupils will gain an insight into different businesses by gathering market research, producing surveys and creating projects linked to the hair and beauty industries. Pupils will also discover the different types of products, treatments and services available and practically demonstrate their skills in lesson. The course enables pupils to develop employability skills for future employment, working on presentation and appearance, organisation and communication skills.

COURSE CONTENT

The Award consists of three mandatory units:

1. Business and entrepreneurship in the Hair and Beauty sector
2. Anatomy, physiology and cosmetic science
3. Design in the Hair and Beauty sector.

Learners will explore design skills and techniques used within the hair and beauty sector to develop their skills in planning, carrying out research and presenting design brief ideas. They will also explore the business aspect of the hair and beauty sector and have the opportunity to investigate the principles of marketing and how entrepreneurship supports the hair and beauty sector, including how to select and design promotional activities and materials.

ASSESSMENT

Learners will need to achieve a pass in both an external written exam and a synoptic written assignment – the marks for these will be added together and the total mark will determine the level and grade of achievement.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The qualification will prepare learners to progress onto qualifications related to the hair and beauty sector, such as the T Level in Hair, Beauty and Aesthetics. Students who successfully complete the course can enter apprenticeships or college courses directly related to the hair and beauty industry including; hairdressing, barbering, beauty therapist, beauty consultant, salon manager, make-up artist, nail technician, spa/holistic therapist, media make-up artist, photographic stylist. The course enables students to develop employability skills for future employment, working on confidence, presentation, appearance, organisation and communication skills which are all transferable.





OPTIONAL SUBJECT



BTEC TECH AWARD IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Following the Health and Social Care course gives you the exciting opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding that you will need in the world of work within the health or social care sectors. At the end of the two-year course, you will be awarded with a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1 (30%):

Learners will explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. They will explore the different events that can impact on individuals' physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development and how individuals cope with and are supported through changes caused by life events. In this component, you will study how people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to adulthood, this includes PIES development and the different factors that may affect this. An individual's development can be affected by major life events, such as marriage, parenthood or moving to a new house and you will learn about how people adapt to these changes, as well as the types and sources of support that can help them.

Component 2 (30%):

Learners will explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. They will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care. At some point in life everyone will need health care. It is likely that you have already had an appointment with a doctor in your lifetime, in which case you would be described as a service user. This means that you have been given health care from a person who was trained to give you care – they are called 'service providers'. Providing good health and social care services is important and service providers need to have the appropriate skills, attributes and values to meet the needs of service users. These skills, attributes and values are important because they enable people who use health and social care services to get the care they need and to be protected from different sorts of harm.

Component 3 (40%):

Learners will explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person-centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individual's health and wellbeing. In this component, you will explore the factors that can have a positive or negative influence on a person's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators and what they mean for a person's state of health. You will learn how this information is used to recommend appropriate actions for improving a person's health and wellbeing. Additionally, you will explore the difficulties an individual may face when trying to make these changes.

ASSESSMENT

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. The non-exam internal assessment for these components has been designed to demonstrate application of the conceptual knowledge underpinning the sector through realistic tasks and activities. Non-exam internal assessment is delivered through Pearson-set Assignments. These assignments are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. Component 3 is an external assessment and builds directly on Components 1 and 2 enabling learning to be brought together and applied to realistic contexts. The design of this external assessment ensures that there is sufficient stretch and challenge, enabling the assessment of knowledge and understanding at the end of the learning period.





GCSE HISTORY

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY

GCSE History builds on the skills and topics developed at KS3. As part of the GCSE syllabus you will revisit topics such as the rise of Adolf Hitler, conditions in the trenches of World War One, the Position of Black Americans and Civil Rights in the 20th Century and America's involvement in the Cold War. You will also study new topics such as Changes in Health and Medicine through time.

Learning about History is important in helping you gain the ability to think for yourself, develop empathy, structure an argument and communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.

COURSE CONTENT

GCSE History consists of 4 examined units:

Unit 1 – Germany 1919-1939

Unit 2 – The Elizabethan Age 1558-1603

Unit 3 – Changes in Health and Medicine 500 - to the Present Day

Unit 4 – The USA 1930-2000

ASSESSMENT

All exams will be sat at the end of Year 11. You will sit 4 exams in two sittings (each sitting being 2 hours).

All papers require extended answers.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

History is highly regarded by Universities and GCSE History can help to progress towards many courses at A level and degree level.

There are many careers that require the skills that the study of History can bring, for example, the Police, journalism, law, accountancy, teaching, medicine, business finance and marketing.





WJEC LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

INTRODUCTION TO HOSPITALITY & CATERING

This exciting course offers a unique opportunity for you to develop your knowledge and extend your skills within food preparation. The award has been designed to support those who want to learn about this vocational sector as well as develop your knowledge, understanding and practical food preparation skills.

COURSE CONTENT

This qualification is made up of 2 units,

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering industry

You will:

- Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry.
- Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action

- Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value.
- Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively.

ASSESSMENT

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment.

Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification.

In Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The hospitality industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities which includes:

Chef de partie, Commis chef, Concierge, Executive chef, Front of house manager, Head waiter, Housekeeper, Maître d'hôte, Pastry chef, Receptionist, Sous chef.





GCSE MUSIC

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC

Music is a powerful, expressive subject where you will be actively engaged in developing your creative, emotional and intellectual capacity whatever experience you have. The course is made up of three components – Performing, Composing which are internally assessed and Appraising which is externally assessed at the end of the course.

Course Content

You will have the opportunity to develop performance skills individually and as part of an ensemble and to develop composing skills organising musical ideas through the use of appropriate resources. You will explore a wide variety of musical genres alongside two set study pieces giving you the opportunity to develop different approaches to performing and composing. Throughout the course you will make use of music technology to develop and present your performance and composition pieces.

Assessment

The majority of the work that you will complete is coursework based contributing to 60% of the overall grade

Practical 60%

Performing 30% (72 marks) You select at least one ensemble and one solo piece.

Composing 30% (72 marks) You compose two pieces one of which is from a given brief

Appraising 40%

The remaining 40% (96 marks) of the course will be externally assessed through an appraising examination. The exam is set and marked by Eduqas. This exam will be based upon the four areas of study - Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music along with two set works, one short classical piece and one popular song.

Future Opportunities

The study of Music can lead to a post 16 study of A Level Music/Music Technology, BTEC Performing Arts (Music), BTEC Music level 3 or other music/performing arts related college courses either academic or professional studied qualifications. This may lead to the study of music/performing arts related course at many professional colleges/universities and progression towards a variety of careers, including; professional musician, music therapy, teaching, music producer, songwriter, record producer/engineer, composer, conductor, music director, session musician





BTEC TECH AWARD IN DRAMA



INTRODUCTION TO BTEC TECH AWARD IN DRAMA

This exciting, vocational and innovative drama course is appropriate for all routes and those who have a keen interest in the world of drama. Drama encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject.

Assessment

The BTEC Tech Award in Drama is made up of three components, two are internally assessed and externally moderated and the other is externally assessed. The three-block structure, explore, develop and apply has been developed to allow you to build on and embed knowledge, allowing you to grow in confidence throughout the components and put into practice what you have learnt.

Course Content

Component 1: Exploring Drama within the Performing Arts (30%)

To develop your understanding of drama, you will need a broad and balanced understanding of different drama works and their influences. This component will help you to understand the requirements of being an actor and performer across three different drama works. You will practically explore how the drama works are created and apply relevant drama skills and techniques.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in Drama (30%)

You will communicate intentions to an audience through a chosen piece of drama text, taking part in drama workshops and classes (internal and external) where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative drama skills through the rehearsal and drama performance process.

Component 3: Responding to a Drama Brief (40%)

Learners will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a drama workshop performance to a given brief and stimulus. This external component builds on knowledge, understanding and skills acquired throughout the course. Learners will capture their ideas on planning, development and effectiveness of the drama and rehearsal process in a written log and an evaluation report.

Future Opportunities

This course can lead to a post 16 study of A Level drama/Performing Arts, BTEC Performing Arts (Drama) or other drama/performing arts related courses. This may lead to the study of drama/performing arts related course at many professional colleges/universities and progression towards a variety of careers, including; professional actor on stage and/or on television, actor in a professional drama company, teaching and many more.





GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is a subject that develops your creativity and ability to express yourself.

It is a practical subject which requires independent investigation into ideas and other photographers. An interest in photography will help you to develop an appreciation and look more closely at the world and your surroundings.

COURSE CONTENT

This course provides you with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore your interests in photography. You will learn a range of research, photographic, lighting and photo editing skills throughout the course. You will explore relevant images relating to a range of photography from the past and from recent times. You will be encouraged to experiment and try new techniques whilst investigating and developing ideas. Final responses will be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate photographic and editing skills and an understanding of different processes and terminology.

ASSESSMENT

60% Coursework (NEA)	40% Exam
Portfolio of work	10hr Practical exam
Selected work from throughout the course	Assignment based, standalone unit of work

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

This course will prepare you for continuation into A-Level. Many employers seek to recruit people who are lateral thinkers and creative problem solvers, qualities that are natural to artists and photographers. Jobs that directly relate include: advertising and media based jobs, graphics, illustration, photography, animation, CAD, fashion, textiles, journalism, theatre, TV, production.





INTRODUCTION TO GCSE RE

RE attempts to ask and answer some of life's big questions such as, why do we suffer? Can peace ever be achieved? Is there life after death? Should everyone have children?

Alongside this, we debate a range of views on controversial issues such as abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment to promote and develop pupils' knowledge on real world issues enabling them to make informed decisions in today's challenging and ever changing world.

In addition to this, we study two world faiths, Christianity and Islam in detail, understanding their key beliefs, practises and attitudes towards these big questions.

Course Content

The GCSE covers a range of different views from Christianity, Islam, humanism and atheism. As well as scientific and legal approaches on a wide range of moral, ethical and religious issues from marriage and family life to crime and punishment, peace and conflict and end of life issues. Pupils will also study the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam and how these affect the lives of followers.

Assessment

Using the skills you have already been developing, you will complete two GCSE papers. Each paper will last one and a half hours and contain one four part question on each topic you study.

Paper 1 Christian belief, Marriage and family life (differing views), Living the Christian Life and Matters of life and death (differing views)

Paper 2 Muslim belief, Peace and Conflict (differing views), Living the Muslim Life and Crime and Punishment (differing views)

Future Opportunities

RE makes a key and unique contribution to understanding British heritage, plurality, values and futures because in this subject, pupils learn to respect themselves and understand their own identity, to respect others, and to understand their own and others' rights and responsibilities. RE helps you to learn how to think critically, listen empathetically, speak thoughtfully, and write clearly. These are all skills that will be of great use no matter what you go on to do in life. It will also help you to better live and work in our increasingly diverse society and global world. Students of RE go on to careers in a wide variety of fields including teaching, the armed forces, police, medicine, social service, law, journalism, international business, diplomacy, and, of course, religious professions of various kinds.

The study of RE is a good foundation for the study of Religious Studies A-Level and will complement other related subjects such as History and English Literature.





GCSE SPANISH

INTRODUCTION TO GCSE SPANISH

In an increasingly multilingual and multicultural world, English is not enough! Not only does learning a language improve your communication skills, it can help you develop key life skills such as problem solving, creativity and social interaction. In addition to learning Spanish we promote cultural understanding and a GCSE in a language can open up a world of opportunities.

Are you thinking of studying business? Combining a language with business opens up a whole new diverse world for you! This combination of options will give you a head start in the international job market in a world where employers are looking for skilled linguists.

Course Content

GCSE Spanish builds on your previous learning and develops the skills necessary to understand and communicate. You will study a range of topics while developing the four skill areas of speaking, writing, reading and listening.

Examples of topics covered during the course include:

- Identity and culture
- Relationships
- Social media and technology
- Customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries
- The environment
- Current and future study

Assessment

The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are assessed in end of course exams.

Future Opportunities

Studying a language is considered a very impressive achievement and improves your employability; people with a language qualification often earn more money for their skills. A Spanish GCSE can lead to work in international business, law, management, marketing, journalism and much more. It is also useful for living and/or working abroad within the travel and tourism sector. GCSE Spanish counts towards the Baccalaureate and universities look favourably on those with a language qualification. A language can be combined with a wide range of degree courses to support future careers and will open up the chance to live and work abroad as you study.





SPORTS STUDIES

INTRODUCTION TO CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN SPORTS STUDIES

The Cambridge National in Sport Studies takes on a more sector based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes. Learners have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. This qualification offers learners the opportunity to develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and how this shapes the sports industry.

Course Content

This course provides an engaging and relevant introduction to the study of sport. Lessons are designed to explore the principle and concepts of sport in both a practical and theoretical context. You will have an opportunity to plan and lead a sporting session, undertake a personal fitness program, as well as an analysis of performance in chosen activities.

Learners will complete the following 3 Units;

Unit R184: Contemporary issues in sport – external examination paper (1 hour 15 minutes)

Unit R185: Performance and Leadership in sports activities (externally moderated coursework)

Unit R187: Increasing awareness of Outdoor Adventurous Activities (externally moderated coursework)

Assessment

The majority of the work that you complete will be coursework based through completing a series of assignment briefs which will be internally assessed and externally moderated. These Units are R185, Performance and leadership which is 40% of the total mark and R187, Increasing awareness of Outdoor Adventurous Activities which is 20% of the final mark. Combined, these Units Total up at 60% of the final mark. The remaining unit is R184 Contemporary issues in sport which is an external exam paper which equates to the remaining 40% of the total marks available. This external exam will take place in May of Year 11.

Future Opportunities

The OCR Cambridge National Sport Studies qualification can lead to post 16 study of sports related courses at level 3 or other sports college courses. This may lead to the study of sport related courses at many universities and progress towards a variety of careers, including: physiotherapy, sports management, fitness instructing, coaching, teaching/education, dietician, nutritionist, sports psychologist, biomechanics, performance analyst, healthcare professional and many more.





OPTIONAL SUBJECT

GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCE (TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE)



INTRODUCTION TO GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCE : GCSE BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

All students take combined science at GCSE and obtain two GCSEs.

Separate science is an option where you will gain 3 separate GCSEs one in biology, chemistry and Physics. Science helps our understanding of the world around us. Everything we know about the universe, from how trees reproduce to what an atom is made up of, is the result of scientific research and experiment.

Human progress throughout history has largely rested on advances in science. From our knowledge of gravity to cutting-edge medicines, students of science have shaped our modern world.

Course Content

The course consists of Biology, chemistry and Physics and will run aside you combined science studies. You will complete extra topic in each of the Sciences. For example, in Biology you will study the brain, eye and the kidneys. In chemistry you will study more chemical analysis techniques and further organic chemistry. In Physics you will study about static electricity and Space physics. This is a practical based subject which links subject knowledge to many everyday applications. You will require a variety of skills in lessons which include listening, speaking, writing, reading, numeracy, as well as experimenting using scientific apparatus.

Assessment

You will sit six science papers at the end of year 11 (these are 30 minutes longer than the combined papers).

Two for each Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Future Opportunities

Separate Science will open up a variety of options for you, equipping you many skills which will make you very employable. It provides an excellent choice if you are intending to study Science at advanced levels. For example, A Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

It will provide the basis for future study of sciences at degree level and extensive employment opportunities. If you are interested in Stem careers like Medical and Engineering progressions separate science is the option you should consider.





OPTIONAL SUBJECT

GCSE URDU



INTRODUCTION TO URDU

In an increasingly multilingual and multicultural world, English is not enough! Not only does learning a language improve your communication skills, it can help you develop key life skills such as problem solving, creativity and social interaction. In addition to learning Urdu we promote cultural understanding and a GCSE in a language can open up a world of opportunities.

Are you thinking of studying business? Combining a language with business opens up a whole new diverse world for you! This combination of options will give you a head start in the international job market in a world where employers are looking for skilled linguists.

Course Content

GCSE Urdu builds on your previous learning and develops the skills necessary to understand and communicate. You will study a range of topics while developing the four skill areas of speaking, writing, reading and listening.

Examples of topics covered during the course include:

- Identity and culture
- Relationships
- Social media and technology
- Customs and festivals in Urdu speaking countries
- The environment
- Current and future study

Assessment

The four skills (speaking, writing, reading and listening) are all assessed individually and all have an equal weighting of 25%. The listening and reading exams contain questions in both English and Urdu, as well as some translation. The writing exam will contain a choice of topics for you to write about. The speaking exam will take place in year 11 and involves a short discussion with your teacher about a photo card, a role play and a conversation.

Future Opportunities

Studying a language is considered a very impressive achievement and improves your employability; people with a language qualification often earn more money for their skills. A Urdu GCSE can lead to work in international business, law, management, marketing, journalism and much more. It is also useful for living and/or working abroad within the travel and tourism sector. GCSE Urdu counts towards the Baccalaureate and universities look favourably on those with a language qualification. A language can be combined with a wide range of degree courses to support future careers and will open up the chance to live and work abroad as you study.





Apprenticeship facts

An apprenticeship will help you build your skills and knowledge and confidence to start your career. Apprenticeship have many advantages;

- Learn hands on from industry professionals whilst studying for your technical qualification
- 80% of your time will be spent at work, with the remainder of time in college
- Earn a wage and enjoy paid holidays
- No debt for a degree apprenticeship
- Support and guidance from your employer and assessor

T levels

The two year course has been developed with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares you for the world of work.

Four days attending college and one day a week with an employer.

T levels are technical qualifications and are equivalent to three A levels.

T levels allow you to apply what you learn in the classroom to a sector -specific Industry Placement, accounting for 20% of your course and 80% in the classroom. Also an opening the door into skilled employment, degree education Higher Apprenticeships. You will need to have obtained 5 - 5s in your GCSE examinations.

BTEC

The course is a two year programme which is vocational assessed through coursework which takes the form of assignments, a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your skills and practical observation assessments and some exam modules and a work experience opportunity. Some pupils can re sit their GCSE in maths or English along side a main programme of study. Most vocational programme require 5 GCSEs including Mathematics and English Language.

Level 3 - is equivalent to 3 A levels.

A levels

You can study three or four A levels and this is a two year course.

All students follow a full time programme, consisting of Assessment is predominantly by examination and you have a work experience opportunity, tutorials, academic skills enhancement, enrichment and honours programme.

A minimum of 2 GCSE at grade 6 and 3 GCSEs at grade 4/5 including English language and Mathematics at grade 5/4 or above or eight GCSEs at a minimum of grade 5.

Foundation programme

This programme is designed for young people who need an extra year to find their chosen vocational career path and have studied GCSE level. This programme is designed for students who need extra support and time to develop life and study skills. There is no formal qualification required to apply for this course.



NOTES



SUCCESS FOR ALL

