

Year 9 Options KS4 Pathways 2026

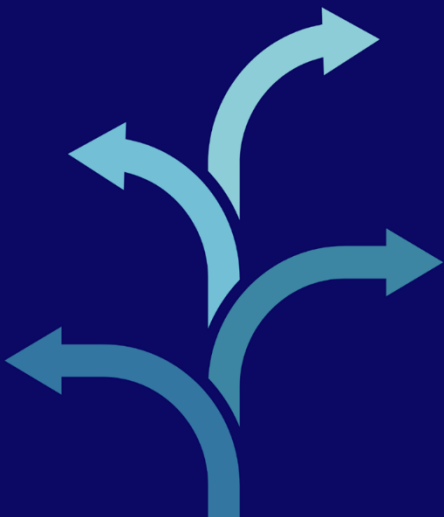


Key dates:

3rd February 2026- Y9 Options evening

9th February 2026- Y9 Parents/carer consultation evening

23rd February 2026- The deadline for submitting the options form



A message from the Principal.

As Principal, I am pleased to introduce this Year 9 Options Booklet, which marks an important stage in your child's secondary education. As students move towards Key Stage 4, they are required to make subject choices that will shape their learning over the next two years and help prepare them for future opportunities.

This booklet has been produced to support students and their families in making well-informed decisions. It outlines the range of subjects available, the content of each course, how students will be assessed and the pathways that these courses can lead to. I strongly encourage parents and carers to read through the information carefully with their child and to discuss which subjects best reflect their interests, strengths and aspirations.

Choosing GCSE and vocational options is an important decision and should be approached thoughtfully. While it is vital that students are motivated by their choices, it is equally important that they consider guidance from teachers and tutors and aim for a broad and balanced curriculum. Some subjects may have limited places, and final option allocations will be confirmed following the completion of the options process.

To further support families, we will be holding a **Year 9 Options Evening**, where you will have the opportunity to meet subject staff and senior leaders, ask questions and gain further guidance. I would strongly encourage both parents and students to attend this event, as it plays an important role in helping students make confident and appropriate choices.

If you require any additional advice or are unable to attend the Options Evening, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are committed to working closely with parents and carers to ensure that every student is supported to make the right choices and to succeed in the next stage of their education.

Mrs C Wilson

An introduction to the options process:

It is an exciting time for Y9 students. We ask that parents/carers and students go through the information contained in this booklet together so you and your child will be able to discuss the courses that will be studied.

The deadline for completing the pathway choices is Monday 23rd February.

How do GCSEs work?

In 2020 the Government introduced a programme of GCSE reform, and all KS4 courses offered at Swinton Academy follow the 1-9 format. Key features of the reformed GCSEs are:

- All GCSE exams will be studied in a linear format and be taken in the **Summer of Y11**
- There will be greater emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar
- All courses will be more rigorous, demanding and challenging
- There will be tiered exam papers in Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages
- The grade scale for these new GCSEs now range from **9 to 1**, with 9 being the highest.
-

There are two main types of qualification, '**GCSE**' and '**Technical**'.

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is a primarily exam-based qualification, which may include some coursework or practical work, depending on the nature of the subject.

Technical qualifications result in a Level 2 qualification, which is equivalent to a 'GCSE'. The final qualification is mainly based on coursework that takes place throughout the course but all Technical courses also feature an examined element.

The new GCSE grading system:

New GCSE Grade	Equivalent Traditional Grade
9	A* (Top 3% nationally)
8	A*
7	A
6	Top grade B
5	B/C
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F/G

The new Technical grading system:

Old Grade	New Grade
Level 2 Distinction	8
Level 2 Merit	6
Level 2 Pass	4
Level 1 Distinction	3
Level 1 Merit	2
Level 1 Pass	1
Unclassified	0

KS4 Curriculum:

Our KS4 curriculum offers a wide range of subjects which provides you with a variety of academic and vocational courses to choose from. It is important to read about the subjects mentioned in this booklet carefully as it will help you understand what is expected of you next year. **After September of the year you start your GCSEs you will not be able to change courses so please select carefully.**

Core Subjects:

There are some subjects that you have to study; these are compulsory subjects:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined)
- PE/Sport – 1 hour practical, non-examined.

How to choose:

Please choose subjects you:

- Like and ones which excite, motivate and interest you
- Feel might help you in the general career area that you are interested in, such as 'working with people' or 'using practical skills'.
- Find out exactly what each course involves by reading this booklet
- Ask your teachers for advice and support about courses that would be best for you

Can I change my mind later?

The subjects you choose are for the next two years. Therefore, it is very important that the right choice is made at the outset. **It is only in exceptional circumstances that students are permitted to change their courses but not after September of Y10.**

Below is an outline of the option blocks and choices students need to make. Please complete the online form with your preferred choices by Monday 23rd February. Your teachers can offer you lots of support and advice in making your choices so please make sure you discuss any questions you have with them. If you would prefer to complete the options process on paper, please see your year team.

Compulsory Subjects:

GCSE Mathematics	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature	GCSE Combined Science (Equivalent to 2 GCSEs)	Core Practical PE
4 hours in Y10 4 hours in Y11	4 hours in Y10 4 hours in Y11	5 hours in Y10 5 hours in Y11	1 hour in Y10 1 hour in Y11

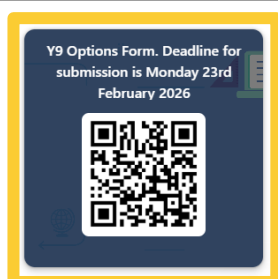
Option Choices:

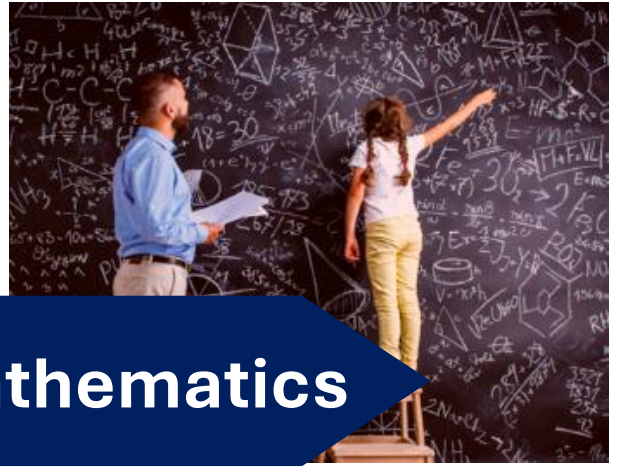
Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Students MUST choose one of these subjects.	Students MUST choose a 1st and 2nd choice of subjects from this option block.	Students MUST choose a 1st and 2nd choice of subjects from this option block.	Students MUST choose a 1st and 2nd choice of subjects from this option block.
<i>GCSE Geography</i>	GCSE Religious Studies	Triple Science	Triple Science
GCSE History	Travel and Tourism	French	French
	Child Development	Art	Art
3 hours in Y10 / 3 hours in Y11	Sport Science	Child Development	Child Development
	2 hours in Y10 / 2 hours in Y11	Construction	Construction
		Drama	Drama
		GCSE Computing	GCSE Computing
		Geography (only choose this if you have selected History in Option block 1)	Geography (only choose this if you have selected History in Option block 1)
		Hospitality & Catering	Hospitality & Catering
		Music	Music
		Sports Studies	Sports Studies
		Travel and Tourism	Travel and Tourism
		Vocational Enterprise & Marketing	Vocational Enterprise & Marketing
		Vocational Health & Social Care	Vocational Health & Social Care
		Vocational iMedia	Vocational iMedia
		3 hours in Y10 / 3 hours in Y11	3 hours in Y10 / 3 hours in Y11

Do not duplicate your option choices. If you select a subject in one option choice, do not select it again in another. This will not increase your chances of getting that subject.

Please note, some subjects may not run if we do not have enough students opting for that subject to make it viable. On this occasion, we will try to give students their second choice subject. Students and parents/carers will be spoken to.

On the online form, we have combined Options 3 and 4 into one and ask that you choose a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th choice. Students will be allocated two of these subjects.





Core subject GCSE Mathematics

The subject introduction:

Mathematics is a skill that is fully encompassed in everybody's everyday life whether it's adding up your weekly shopping bill or working out your annual tax returns. Mathematics explains the world around us and provides solutions to everyday problems for everyday people every single day.

In this subject you will study:

Everyday calculations with integers, decimals, fractions and percentages. Ratio and proportion along with their everyday application. Geometry and constructions in context along with 2D and 3D shapes. Standard index form, indices and their application in the sciences. Algebra, the fundamental base of all mathematics and its use in computers and logical decision making.

Useful skills to support learning:

Independent investigation and discussion. There is no better way to support your understanding of the world around you than to question and interrogate the facts. This means using maths and discussing your hypothesis and conclusions with others.

The examination for this subject:

The final external exam consists of 3 OCR exam papers set in the summer of Y11. However, assessments take place once in each term. The assessment is in the format you will be expected to sit at the end of Y11 and graded accordingly. This informs future learning and facilitates accurate progress mapping for each student.

There is also 1 submitted piece of work for each half term which is teacher assessed.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Mathematics at grade 4 or above is now an essential part of the acceptance criteria for all Post 16 education providers. In the work place most employers now insist on a grade 4 and some even a grade 5. Beyond a shadow of a doubt Mathematics is a door opener to both a world of further education and employment.

Notes from the options evening:

“At Swinton Academy, we will make a difference”





Core subject English Language

The subject introduction:

In English Language you will read and write a variety of texts, considering the impact of language choices made by each writer, including yourself and your peers. You will explore a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts and be sure to find the style of writing that you enjoy most. You will develop your analytical skills and creative writing giving you plenty of chances to interpret the world around you.

In this subject you will study:

- Fiction Reading
- Fiction Writing
- Non-fiction Reading
- Non-fiction Writing
- Spoken Language: a presentation/speech on a topic of your choice. (this must be completed to be awarded your GCSE qualification)

Useful skills to support learning:

- Extended writing
- Reading a variety of texts
- Debating/Discussion
- Empathetic response
- Confidence and creativity
- Creative writing

The examination for this subject:

- 100% written examination – Eduqas exam board
- Component 1 (1 hour and 45 minutes): Fiction Reading and Writing
- Component 2 (2 hours): Non-fiction Reading and Writing

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

If you do not pass this GCSE course by the end of Year 11 (Grade 4), you will be required to study the qualification and re-sit the examination.

A Levels in English Language and English Literature, as are A Levels or further study in MFL, Film and Media, Business, and Performing Arts are supported by this subject.

Sectors such as Law, Business, Education, Media, and Public Relations are all areas you could explore more easily with a GCSE Language grade.

Notes from the options evening:

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Core subject English Literature

The subject introduction:

In English Literature, you will study a variety of different texts and forms of media related to them, explore the backgrounds of writers and poets, and think about how these texts and performances affect you and other readers. There are opportunities for drama-based activities, performing, reading aloud, and debating ideas in groups or as a class, alongside essay writing where you can present your ideas in a formal and creative manner.

In this subject you will study:

- Shakespearean drama: 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare
- 19th century prose: 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
- Modern drama: 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell
- Poetry Anthology
- Unseen Poetry

Useful skills to support learning:

- Extended writing
- Note-making
- Debating/Discussion
- Empathetic response
- Research skills
- Confidence and creativity

The examination for this subject:

- 100% written examination – Eduqas exam board
- Component 1 (2 hours): 'Macbeth' and Poetry
- Component 2 (2 hours and 30 minutes): 'Blood Brothers' and 'A Christmas Carol' and Unseen Poetry

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

A Levels in English Language and English Literature, as are A Levels or further study in MFL, Film and Media, Business, and Performing Arts are supported by this subject.

Sectors such as Law, Business, Education, Media, and Public Relations are all areas you could explore more easily with a GCSE Literature grade.

Notes from the options evening:

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Core subject GCSE Combined Science

The subject introduction:

Studying Combined science will result in two GCSE grades.

GCSE study in Combined Science provides the foundations for understanding the physical, living and material world.

Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all students should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

In this subject you will study:

- Examples of key learning within Biology- Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response
- Examples of key learning within Chemistry- Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Examples of key learning within Physics- Energy; Electricity; Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism.

Useful skills to support learning:

Students will develop knowledge and understanding in science through opportunities for working scientifically completing a minimum of 21 required practicals throughout the GCSE course.

The examination for this subject:

- There are six papers for GCSE Combined science at the end of Y11.
- Each of the six papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas from a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (weighting 16.7% per paper).
- Each exam is a written paper lasting 1hr 15 minutes.
- Questions are a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Further study at A level, this includes Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Applied science. Astronomer, Aviation, Chemist, Teacher, Electrician, Food Scientist, Forensic Scientist, Physicist, Physiotherapist, Pilot, Sound Engineer, Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist, Dentist, Marine Biologist, Veterinarian, Veterinary Nurse, Optician, Chemical Engineer, an endless list!

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Core subject Core Practical PE

The subject introduction:

In Year 10 Core PE we support students to make informed decisions about the Sporting Pathways they can take to lead healthy and active lifestyles beyond school. Students will be given the opportunity to select the sports that most interest them.

In this subject you will study:

Invasion Games

- Football
- Netball
- Rugby
- Handball
- Dodgeball

Health and Fitness

- Boxercise
- Fitness Circuits

Outdoor Adventurous Activities

- Orienteering
- Problem Solving

Net and Wall

- Badminton
- Tennis

Dance

Useful skills to support learning:

- Leadership
- Character
- Knowledge of a range of different activities
- Understanding how to lead an active lifestyle
- Understand the importance of a balanced diet
- Links to sports clubs

The examination for this subject:

There is no examination in the subject.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

- OCR Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity
- OCR Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care
- Sports Coach
- Physiotherapy
- Sports scientist
- Journalist

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Option subject History

The subject introduction:

History is a fascinating and engaging subject that allows you to investigate how key historical events and figures have shaped our world today. You will develop a range of skills including written and verbal communication in addition to expanding your vocabulary with a wealth of new key terms and concepts.

In this subject you will study:

- Medicine in Britain, c1000-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-88.
- Superpower relations or the Cold War, 1941-91.
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.

Useful skills to support learning:

- Extended writing
- Source evaluation
- Interpretation analysis
- Debating
- Group work

The examination for this subject:

- At the end of Year 11 you will sit 3 exam papers.
- Each exam paper lasts between 1 hour 15 minutes and 1 hour 50 minutes.
- The exam papers will test your knowledge, source skills and interpretation analysis.
- There is **no** coursework.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

History is a versatile and academic qualification as it teaches a range of skills which are valued both by universities and employers. Students who have studied History in the past have gone on to become solicitors, teachers, accountants, publishers, doctors, social workers, librarians and journalists amongst many other things!

Notes from the options evening:

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Option subject Geography

The subject introduction:

Geography is an extremely interesting and enjoyable subject to study as it is about what is happening in the world today. You will become more aware of the things that will influence your life in the future. Geography also involves getting out of the classroom and experiencing these for yourself; as part of this course you will complete fieldwork in Castleton and at Burbage Brook

In this subject you will study:

- Physical Geography units include:
The challenge of natural hazards, Physical landscapes in the UK (Coastal and river landscapes), The living world
- Human Geography units include:
Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world, The challenge of resource management
- Fieldwork:
Castleton and Burbage Brook

Useful skills to support learning:

- Decision making
- Fieldwork
- Critical analysis
- Problem solving
- Investigation
- Interpretation: photos, graphs
- Mathematical skills

The examination for this subject:

There are 3 exams:
Paper 1 (Physical) – 1 hour 30 min. Paper 2 (Human) – 1 hour 30 min. Paper 3 (skills) – 1 hour 30 min.
The exam papers will assess your knowledge, understanding and ability to analyse and interpret Geographical information.

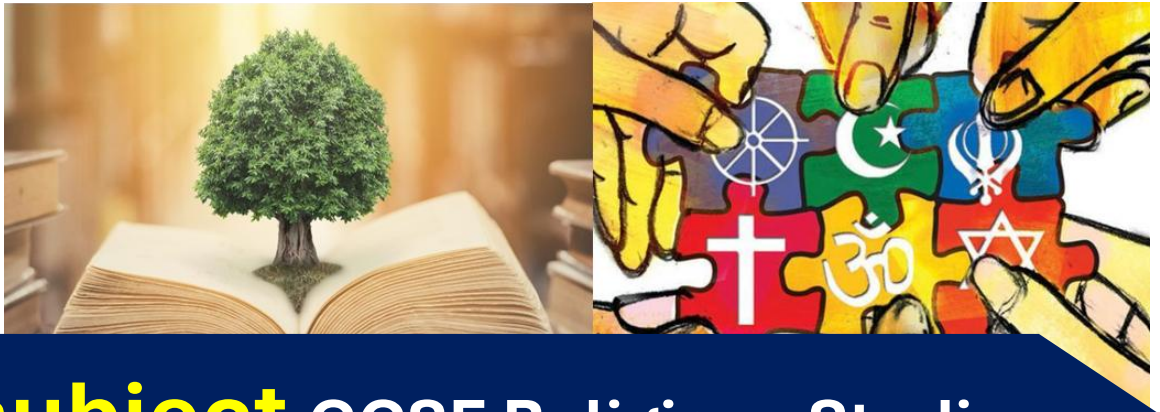
Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Students who study Geography access a wide range of careers such as; Surveyor, Meteorologist – weather forecaster, School teacher, Accountancy, Law, ICT and software development, Armed services and Police.

Notes from the options evening:

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Option subject GCSE Religious Studies

The subject introduction:

Religious Studies plays a key role in promoting social cohesion and the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. GCSE Religious Studies provides a broad understanding of the beliefs and practices of both Christianity and Islam, as well as the contemplation of ultimate questions.

In this subject you will study:

Paper 1. The Study of Religions

Christianity: beliefs, teachings, and practices

Islam: beliefs, teachings, and practices

Paper 2. Thematic Studies

Relationships and Families

Religion and Life

Peace and Conflict

Crime and Punishment

Useful skills to support learning:

- Critical thinking skills and the ability to interpret information, formulate questions and solve problems.
- Ability to think philosophically and evaluate faith and culture.
- Organisational and time management skills.
- Team-working and communication skills.

The examination for this subject:

- 2 written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Each worth 50% of GCSE

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

A GCSE in Religious Studies can lead to A Levels in Religious Studies or Philosophy. It can also be useful in careers such as; education, the armed forces, health care, social work, public services, journalism, and the law.

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Option subject **Travel and Tourism**

The subject introduction:

This qualification is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSEs that will offer them a practical introduction to life and work in the dynamic travel and tourism industry, allowing them to make an informed decision about their future learning and career.

In this subject you will study:

Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations- Coursework (30%)

Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism –Coursework (30%)

Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism – External Exam (40%)

Useful skills to support learning:

The qualification enables learners to develop their transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements.

The examination for this subject:

The exam is worth 40% of the final grade with 60% based on 2 coursework units worth 30% each. The exam is 2 hours long.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

1. BTEC Level 3 Travel & Tourism/ Apprenticeships
2. Hospitality & Accommodation / Airline & Airport Careers
3. Visitor Attractions
4. Travel Agencies / Holiday & Cruise companies

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Option subject Child Development

The subject introduction:

The Cambridge National in Child Development provides an exciting and practical insight into the early years sector, focusing on the development, care, and wellbeing of children from conception to five years old. This course is ideal for students who are interested in understanding how young children grow, learn, and develop. Throughout the qualification, students gain valuable knowledge about the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of young children.

In this subject you will study:

1. R057 – Health and Well-Being for Child Development
2. R058 – Create a Safe Environment and Understand the Nutritional Needs of Children from Birth to Five Years
3. R059 – Understand the Development of a Child from One to Five Years

Useful skills to support learning:

1. Research Skills
2. Communication Skills
3. Practical and Hands-On Skills
4. Observation Skills
5. Analytical and Problem-Solving Skills
6. Planning and Organisation Skill
7. Creativity and Initiative

The examination for this subject:

Unit R057: Health and Well-Being for Child Development.

The exam lasts 1 hour 15 minutes. The exam makes up 40% of the final grade for the qualification.

You can expect:

Short-answer questions. Medium-length questions. Longer, extended-responses.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

- Midwife
- Nursery Nurse
- Childminder
- Pre-school or Nursery School Assistant

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Option subject Sport Science

The subject introduction:

Cambridge National Sport Science gives students an exciting opportunity to explore how the human body works in sport, how athletes train, and how we can prevent injuries and improve performance. The course blends theory with practical application, helping students understand the science behind sport through real-life examples, testing, and hands-on activities.

In this subject you will study:

- R183: Nutrition and sports performance – Coursework 20%
- R181: Applying the principles of training: fitness & how it affects skill performance – Coursework 40%
- R180: Reducing the risk of sports injuries & common medical conditions – Exam 40%

Useful skills to support learning:

- Computer skills to write up assignments on word or PowerPoint
- Internet research
- Applying theory to practical examples
- Planning, analysing and evaluation

The examination for this subject:

R180: Reducing the risk of sports injuries & common medical conditions – Exam 40%
1 hr 30mins

Covers a mix of short answer questions such multiple choice and command words such as state, identify and name. Some medium answer questions such as describe and apply to sport.

1 long answer question work 8 marks.

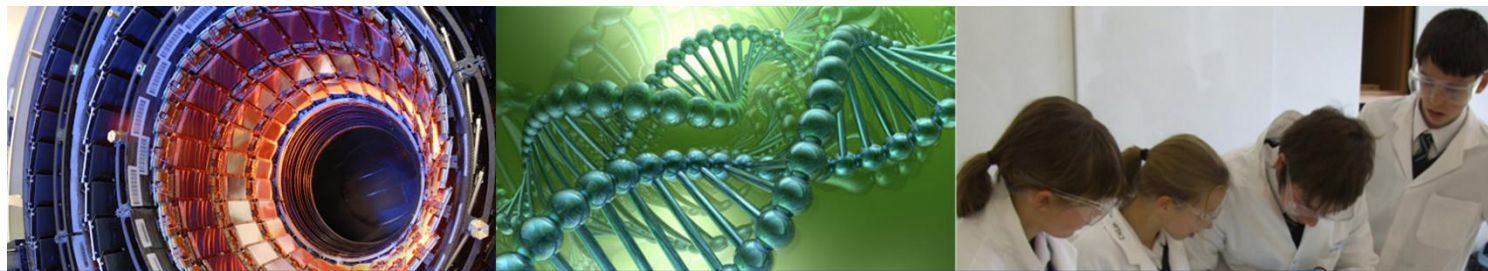
Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

- Sport Scientist
- Performance Analyst
- Personal trainer
- Sports Therapist / Physio

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Option subject Triple Award Science

The subject introduction: Studying the Triple award will result in three GCSE grades.

GCSE study in Biology provides the foundations for understanding the living world, GCSE Chemistry the foundations for understanding the material world and GCSE Physics provides the foundations for understanding the physical and material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all students should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

Following the separate sciences route provides a firm foundation for A levels and further study in science.

In this subject you will study:

Biology: Organisation; Infection, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology

Chemistry: Atomic structure, periodic table; Bonding; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; The rate of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis

Physics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism and solar system and the universe.

Useful skills to support learning:

Students will develop knowledge and understanding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics through opportunities for working scientifically completing a minimum of 10 required practicals for each individual subject throughout the GCSE course. Students will not only develop practical skills but also work as a group, apply mathematical skills, develop their extended writing and explore ethical issues.

The examination for this subject:

There are two papers each for GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics.

Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas (weighting 50% per paper)

Each exam is a written paper lasting 1 hr 45 minutes.

Questions are a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Further study at A level, this includes Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Applied science. Astronomer, Technician, Aviation, Chemist, Teacher, Electrician, Film and Video Editor, Food Tester, Food Scientist, Forensic Scientist, Nuclear Technician, Occupational Health Specialist, Physicist, Physiotherapist, Pilot, Ship Captain, Sound Engineer, Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist, Dentist, Veterinarian, Veterinary Nurse, Optician, Chemical Engineer, Marine Biologist, an endless list!

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Option subject French

The subject introduction:

GCSE French equips students with a range of skills to support their future ambitions. Learning another language increases future employability by 10-15% in an increasingly global market, enhances memory, problem-solving and communication skills whilst also empowering students with a real sense of achievement. Learning one language opens the door to exciting opportunities in the future such as travelling or working abroad and you won't become one of those adults who say 'I wish I could speak a foreign language!'

In this subject you will study:

The GCSE specification will require you to understand and use language across a range of both historic & contemporary topics, appropriate to your age and interests. You will learn about and discover a range of topics framed within the context of the Francophone world with famous festivals in the Francophone world, popular holiday destinations, future careers, technology in the Francophone world being just some of the topics studied. Authentic literary texts, such as extracts from poems, letters, short stories, essays, novels or plays from contemporary and historical sources, will be used in teaching. This will enhance your intercultural understanding.

Useful skills to support learning:

- Willingness to make oral contributions in lessons
- Good listening skills
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork & resilience
- Appreciation of other cultures

The examination for this subject:

Students will be complete examinations at the end of Year 11 in the four skill areas of **Reading, Listening, Speaking & Writing** with each component equally weighted, each accounting for 25% of the final grade. Students will be entered at foundation level (with access up to grade 5) or higher (with access from grade 4 - 9) but must sit the same tier for all elements of the exam.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Many higher education courses include a language element (e.g. business studies, engineering, IT) and offer the opportunity to study abroad as part of your degree. Many companies are looking for employees with foreign language qualifications to work in positions in the UK and abroad. Career sectors which demand a high level of language skills include translation and interpreting, aviation industry, education, journalism, tourism, marketing and videogame localisation.

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Option subject Art

The subject introduction:

AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design will allow you to explore your creative and expressive side whilst working on your skill level in producing high quality artistic pieces. You will be able to engage with multiple different 2D and 3D media throughout the course to investigate and craft original ideas with personal exploration and outcomes.

In this subject you will study:

Through the two years you will explore many different creative art techniques including drawing skills, multiple media prints, various painting styles and manipulation of imagery. These skills will support your journey whilst using artist research to inspire unique and imaginative experiments and outcomes for personal journeys within the art projects.

Useful skills to support learning:

Through the course you will need to use research skills to inspire unique ideas as well as find factual information on artists, styles and movements. Alongside this, good organisation and time management will help you complete high quality outcomes, whilst working on your artistic skill with drawing, making and use of multiple different media.

The examination for this subject:

You will have two coursework units to study during your final year in Art, your major project with a school-based theme worth 60% of your grade, and your exam project with theme options set by the exam board worth 40%. Both projects consist of four assessed areas; Development of ideas; Refinement of ideas; Recording of ideas and observations; Personal and meaningful response. Your final outcomes for the projects will be completed in exams run in class for sustained times of 10 hours offering opportunity for un-interrupted work time to showcase skills and creativity.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

- Level 1-3 UAL Diploma
- A-Levels (Art, Design, Photography, Craft, Graphic Design)
- Specialised Higher level courses such as Costume and Set Design, Animation and Interior Design

Notes from the options evening:

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Option subject Construction

The subject introduction:

Would you love the opportunity to transform the world around you? Are you looking to learn about new technologies, materials and processes that are involved in construction projects? Do you want to develop a good foundation for a successful career in construction? If so, it's time to – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

In this subject you will study:

You will have the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment.

You will explore a range of professional and trade roles and explore some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment.

Useful skills to support learning:

- Communication skills
- Critical thinking
- Independent learning
- Research
- Time management

The examination for this subject:

You will have one exam for Unit 1 which will be worth 40% of your qualification. The exam will last 1 hour and 30 minutes, and it will be made up of short and extended response questions.

Unit 3 will be assessed via project work (no exam), which is worth 60% of your qualification. Here you will be asked to prepare and complete three trade-based tasks e.g. creating a simple lighting circuit, building a brick structure and making a wooden planter.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

The construction industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities, from tradesperson to leading large scale construction projects, and from an architect to renovator of our historic built environment.

Notes from the options evening:

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Option subject Drama

The subject introduction:

You must enjoy working with a group and giving your ideas. 40% is performance and acting so, you must have confidence to perform in front of peers and an examiner. You must have a focused and positive attitude, so others want to work with you. You must be prepared to do the written element of the course, be organised to meet the deadlines so you don't fall behind and get swamped.

In this subject you will study:

As well as essential performance skills, you will study a play and explore through performance, the decisions that playwrights, directors, actors and other theatrical professionals make. You will learn to write about this through analysis and evaluation. You will learn to act in different theatrical styles, perform your devised and scripted pieces to audiences; both in lessons and after school.

Useful skills to support learning:

GCSE Drama is not just about acting. The course inevitably covers all sorts of transferable skills that will be useful throughout life: communication, presentation/public speaking, group/team and leadership skills, problem solving, time management, initiative and the ability to work to a deadline and get it right first time (there are no re-runs!)

The examination for this subject:

Component 1- An open book written exam of 1 hour & 45 minutes – 40%

Component 2- A devised drama performance with coursework analysing and evaluating students' choices of stimuli and the planning, rehearsing and performance of the piece. - 40%. This component will be marked by your teacher and moderated by an AQA examiner.

Component 3- A performance of two extracts from one play -20%. This component will be marked by an external AQA examiner.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Studying Drama will boost your confidence so will help you in any job that requires public speaking or entails communication skills. As well as career choices that require empathy, drama encourages critical thinking skills, which are useful in careers in management, law, and teaching, nursing as well of course - if you want a job in the entertainment industry, in front of an audience or behind the scenes!

Notes from the options evening:

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```
)) .on("hidden.bs.select", function() {
  setTimeout(function() {
    m.closest(".ub_select_el").ub_filter("closest")
  }, 0), console.log("hidden")
}) .on("shown.bs.select", function() {
  setTimeout(function() {
    n.addClass("shown")
  }, 100)
})
```



Option subject GCSE Computing

The subject introduction:

GCSE Computer Science is an engaging and practical course that encourages creativity and problem solving. Students learn to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems and devise creative solutions by designing computer programs. GCSE Computer Science develops skills that lead to further education and computing careers; however, these skills are relevant to the majority of career pathways and skills that are attractive to employers.

In this subject you will study:

Computer systems and architecture, networking, security systems, ethical and legal issues, programming and problem solving, computational thinking skills.

Useful skills to support learning:

- Strong mathematical skills
- Computer programming
- Extended writing skills
- Group work and debate
- Attention to detail

The examination for this subject:

The qualification is divided into 2 written examinations, both 1 hour and 30 minutes and 50% each towards the final grade. The two examinations are worth 80 marks each. Questions vary from short answer questions to extended writing tasks and writing algorithms.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Careers in Computing are broad. Examples include: Sports Data Analyst, Software Developer, Database Administrator, Tech reviewer and journalist, Website and App designer, Hardware engineer, Data Security Engineer & Network / Cloud architect.

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Option subject Hospitality and Catering

The subject introduction:

WJEC/eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering enables learners to gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the hospitality and catering sector. In this qualification, learners will have the opportunity to develop food preparation and cooking skills, as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

In this subject you will study:

The course comprises of two key units of study:

- Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry
- Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action

Whilst working towards to completion of both units, students will be given the opportunity to research, plan, prepare and develop their own dishes.

Useful skills to support learning:

Although practical making skills are an asset on this course, successful students will also be able to apply their time management and problem-solving skills to practical and theoretical scenarios.

The examination for this subject:

Assessment for this course is covered across 2 units. This comprises of a practical assessment which gives students the opportunity to research, plan and make dishes for a Hospitality and Catering scenario. Students will also sit a 90 min theory exam which covers a wide range of elements of the Hospitality and Catering industry.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

This course could lead onto further study including;

- WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition (certificate and diploma)
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery
- Level 3 Advanced Diploma in Food Preparation and Cookery Supervision

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Option subject Music

The subject introduction:

GCSE Music aims to develop performing, composing and appraising skills. It will encourage you to broaden your musical experience, develop imagination and foster creativity. Studies include music from across a diverse range of styles and genres, including the use of music technology.

In this subject you will study:

Component 1: Performing 30% of the GCSE

A minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration. The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble. One of the pieces performed must link to an area of study of the learner's choice.

Component 2: Composing 30% of the GCSE

Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by EDUQAS. Learners will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The briefs will be released during the first week of September in Year 11. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

The examination for this subject:

Examination - Component 3 Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes (approximately) 40% of the GCSE

This component is assessed via a listening examination. It is a paper with eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study:

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 4: Popular Music

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

There are a vast array of career choices available within the music and entertainment industry, from performing to production, radio and live sound, it is an ever-growing sector.

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Option subject Sports

The subject introduction:

Cambridge National Sport Studies develops confident, knowledgeable learners through practical performance, sports leadership, and understanding of contemporary issues in sport. The course blends theory and hands-on experience to build skills in analysis, teamwork, and communication, preparing students for further study and careers in the sporting sector.

In this subject you will study:

- R184 Contemporary issues in sport exam
- R185 Performance and leadership in sports activities - coursework
- R187 Increasing awareness of OAA - coursework

Useful skills to support learning:

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Organisation
- Confidence
- Resilience

The examination for this subject:

R184 – Contemporary Issues in Sport (Exam Unit)

1 hour 15 minutes

Worth 40% of the final grade

Mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and longer written questions

Tests knowledge of participation barriers, values in sport, major events, and sporting organisations

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Sport Coach, Performance Analyst, Outdoor Activity Leader, Sports Therapist / Physio

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Option subject Vocational Enterprise & Marketing

The subject introduction:

OCR Enterprise & Marketing allows students to select different ideas in business-related scenarios to efficiently setup and run their own business/organisation, developing many skills that can really aid all students frequently throughout their career and future aspects. Within business you will learn about factors which can affect businesses, such as Finance, Marketing and Human Resources aspects.

In this subject you will study:

- Enterprise and Marketing concepts
- Design a business proposal
- Market and pitch a business proposal

Students will learn about:

- How to advertise, price and raise awareness of products.
- Setup up a business, selling products and setting certain pricing strategies.

Useful skills to support learning:

- Innovative and creative skills
- Good attention to detail
- Ability to assess graphs/charts
- Basic mathematic skills
- Organisation skills

The examination for this subject:

The qualification is divided into 3 units, two units assessed by coursework and one unit assessed by an external examination.

The two coursework units are both worth 25%, totally 50% of the final grade (both out of 60 marks) while the examination unit is worth 50%, the total marks being 80; therefore, this is beneficial for those who are effective at coursework.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Business can lead into careers such as game development, becoming a director in many fields, go on to run a successful business themselves. At university, students can study courses such as Business Management, Business & IT, Business and Game Design and many more.

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health
and social
care



Option subject Vocational Health and Social

The subject introduction:

This level two Cambridge National course aims for students to develop their knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used within the health and social care sector.

In this subject you will study:

Three Units:

1. R031 Principles of care in health and social care – This unit will be assessed by an exam. Students will learn what is important when caring for and protecting people within health and social care.
2. R033 Supporting individuals through life events – This unit will be assessed by set assignment. This unit is about growth and development through life stages.
3. R035 Health promotion campaigns – This unit will be assessed by set assignment. This unit allows students to research health promotion campaigns and learn about their benefit to society.

Useful skills to support learning:

- Reading of information, understanding and interpreting and being able to summarise relevant information.
- Applying knowledge and understanding to health and social care settings.
- Working independently using the internet to complete further research to enhance learning and understanding.

The examination for this subject:

The grading system is for vocational subjects:

Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass, Distinction L1 Merit L1 Pass L1

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

Career pathways have included students moving onto Higher Education and Degrees within the health and social care setting. Typical careers this can lead to are social worker, primary teacher, secondary teacher, nurse, paramedic, probation officer and nursery nurse.

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Option subject Vocational iMedia

The subject introduction:

OCR Creative iMedia lets students gain knowledge in a number of key areas in the exploring of digital components & designs, to collecting and presenting data to different gaming designs. The qualification offers a hands-on approach to learning. The OCR Creative iMedia will also provide opportunities to develop useful transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, along with developing attributes such as working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. A vast array of software packages will be used throughout the qualification.

In this subject you will study:

The modules offered include:

- RO93 Creative iMedia in the media industry
- RO94 Visual Identity and digital graphics
- RO97 Interactive digital media

Useful skills to support learning:

- Organisation skills
- Innovative and creative skills
- IT skills although most of these skills are developed through the course
- Attention to detail
- Ability to be flexible and adaptable

The examination for this subject:

60% of the qualification is tested by internal assessments (Ro94 & RO97) that's set and marked by the class teacher. The coursework involves students to plan and create. The remaining 40% is an external synoptic assessment (RO93). These three assessments are added together to really maximise the potential of the final grade you could achieve.

Career links and Post 16 studies linked to this subject:

There are a range of courses students can move onto such as study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as OCR IT Level 3. Students have gone on to university to study Game Development, Games Design, IT with Business Studies, IT Management and so on.

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