



Year 9
Options Choices
2026

WELCOME TO YOUR OPTIONS CHOICES

Dear Student

You're now at an important point in your school journey – it's time to decide which subjects you'd like to study for the rest of your time at Esher High School. These choices will set the foundation for what you might want to do after Year 11, whether that's further study or starting a career.

We offer lots of exciting subjects, so you'll have the chance to pick ones you enjoy and are good at. When choosing your options, it's a good idea to think about your future plans, like Sixth Form, College, or Apprenticeships, and check which subjects might be useful. If you're not sure what you want to do yet, keep your options open by picking a range of subjects you like the most.

All students will have an allocated pathway that will shape the options selections. There are 2 pathways EBACC and Open each with **three** options.

The choices you make now will shape the next two years of your education, so it's important to pick subjects that interest *you*. Don't choose something just because your friends are doing it or because you like a certain teacher – friendships can change, and we can't guarantee you'll have the same teachers for the whole time.

Once you've made your decisions, it's hard to make changes after the deadline, so take your time to read the options booklet, talk to your teachers and parents, and get advice to help you decide. The application process is online, do not rush your decision making, being the first to pick a subject will not increase the likelihood of you getting into a certain class.

Good luck with this exciting next step! If you're unsure about anything or need help, I'm always here to talk about your GCSE options.

Yours faithfully



Ms J Turner

Assistant Headteacher

SUBJECT SELECTION

GCSE Subject Policy

It is our aim to make as many subjects as possible available to our students. Students are guided into the most appropriate courses through our pathways process so that they have the best opportunity to succeed. We will always try to offer students their first choice of subjects; however, sometimes this may not be possible.

This booklet contains everything that you need to know about the courses that we offer at Esher C of E High School.

When you are in the process of choosing your subjects, you should carefully read the information and keep the following advice in mind:



Choose subjects you enjoy **and** where you have experienced some success.



Be prepared to **work hard** and **open your mind** to new and exciting ways of learning.



Check which subjects you need for your **next steps** (A-Levels, level 3 subjects, apprenticeships and careers)



Seek advice and find out as much about the course as possible. Speak to parents, teachers, current students. Attend taster sessions.



Take **responsibility** for your decisions. **YOU** will be on the one studying the course and it will need your commitment.

KEY DATES

Options information shared on our website	Thursday 13 th February
Option selection link emailed to parents and students	Tuesday 24 rd February
Deadline for Choices to be submitted via online form	Tuesday 24th March
Provisional GCSE subject choices communicated home	Summer Term

CORE CURRICULUM

At Esher High School, each student is assigned a pathway. This is based on their academic performance and progress. **All students study a core curriculum, and their pathway guides them towards option choices.**

The CORE Curriculum is:

English Language GCSE	English Literature GCSE	Maths GCSE	Combined Science Or Separate Science GCSE	*PE	RE GCSE Including PSHCE
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*All students will study Physical Education and PSHCE as a core entitlement.

OPTIONS – PICK YOUR PASSION!

In addition to your CORE curriculum, you will follow a personalised pathway. You will have received a message telling you which pathway you are on.

If you wish to switch from Open Pathway to EBACC please contact Ms Turner: jturner@esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk

EBACC Pathway: (English Baccalaureate / EBacc)

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
French or Spanish	Geography or History	Open Choice

Open Pathway:

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
French, Spanish, Geography or History	Open Choice	Open Choice

OPEN CHOICE SUBJECTS:

Art & Design: 3D Design GCSE	Creative Media L1/L2 BTEC	Health and Social Care BTEC
Art & Design: Fine Art GCSE	Dance GCSE	History GCSE
Art & Design: Photography GCSE	Drama GCSE	Hospitality & Catering L1/L2
Business GCSE	Food Prep. & Nutrition GCSE	Creative Media BTEC
Citizenship GCSE	French GCSE	Music GCSE
Computer Science GCSE	Geography GCSE	Physical Education GCSE
Construction L1/L2 Cert.	Health and Fitness L1/L2 Vcert	Spanish GCSE

** Btec/NCFE (Vcert)/Level 1/2 Vocational options = GCSE equivalent

Only one of these subjects can be chosen.

Only one of these subjects can be chosen.

LANGUAGES INCLUDED IN THE EBACC:

There are many languages which can be used as part of the EBacc. They need to be studied and passed at GCSE Grade 5 to be counted towards the EBacc.

Please be aware that you need to be proficient in both speaking and writing to sit the language as an extra GCSE. You may also be asked to contribute to the costs for entries for these subjects. This extra GCSE will not be part of your school timetable, and you will need to study independently for it. Please do let us know if you already have any of these as a first language.

More information and FAQs for studying home languages at Esher High can be found here: <https://www.esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6585&type=pdf>

Arabic	Russian	Dutch
French	Urdu	Persian
German	Polish	Portuguese
Italian	Chinese	Turkish
Japanese	Bengali	Greek
Modern Greek	Modern Hebrew	
Spanish	Punjabi	

GLOSSARY:

GCSE (Level 2)	<p>Qualifications that allow you to achieve a grade 9-1. Assessment of these</p> <p>Courses are usually based on an end of course examination. As a level 2 course, students can progress from this on to an A Level (Level 3) course.</p>
Level 2 BTEC or NCFE V-CERT	<p>A vocational course that will allow you to gain a qualification that is equivalent to a GCSE grade. Assessment is mainly coursework based with usually just one unit assessed as an exam. As a level 2 course, students can progress from this on to Level 3 BTEC courses at college and some A Level (Level 3) courses.</p>
EBacc (English Baccalaureate)	<p>The English Baccalaureate defines a group of 5 subject types and is gained if students achieve a 9-4 grade in one of each of the following:</p> <p>English Maths 2 Sciences Humanity (Geography or History) An approved Modern Foreign Language</p>
Examination %	<p>This is how much your final grade comes from the written exam.</p>
Controlled Coursework %	<p>This is how much your final grade comes from the controlled coursework completed over the whole course. In the new GCSEs far fewer subjects</p> <p>have a coursework element. The vast majority are 100% examination.</p>
Grading	<p>All GCSEs are now graded 9 – 1, with grade 9 being the highest.</p>

Subject / Course Descriptions

GCSE FINE ART



Subject lead: Mrs Coll

Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In GCSE Fine Art, you'll explore creative ways to express your ideas and emotions. You'll learn about:

- **Drawing:** Using pencils, charcoal, and other tools to create detailed sketches.
- **Painting:** Experimenting with watercolours, acrylics, and oils.
- **Sculpture:** Making 3D art with clay, wire, or other materials.
- **Mixed Media:** Combining materials like paint, fabric, or collage in unique ways.
- **Printmaking:** Creating designs using techniques like lino cutting or screen printing.

You'll also study different artists and styles, learning how art has changed over time and in different cultures.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

This course is perfect for you if you love being creative and making art, want to develop your artistic skills and techniques, enjoy learning about artists and how they create their work, and want to express your ideas and tell stories through your artwork.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course has two parts:

1. **Portfolio / Unit 1 (60% of your grade):** Over the course, you'll build a collection of your best work, including a project that shows your journey from initial ideas to a final piece.
2. **Externally Set Assignment / Unit 2 (40% of your grade):** In January of your final year, you'll choose a theme from a set of questions. After a preparation period, you'll create your final piece during a 10-hour supervised exam.

WHAT SKILLS ARE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

To do well in Fine Art, you should:

- Enjoy drawing, painting, and working with your hands.
- Be open to experimenting with materials and techniques.
- Be interested in learning about artists and their work.
- Be self-motivated and able to manage your time effectively.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

Studying Fine Art can lead to exciting careers such as an artist or illustrator, art teacher, gallery curator, set or costume designer, or art therapist. It's also a great starting point for further education in art, design, or creative industries.

GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY



Subject lead: Mrs Coll

Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you'll explore the exciting world of photography. You'll learn how to:

- **Use a Camera:** Understand how to operate a camera to take great photos.
- **Edit Photos:** Use Photoshop to improve and change your images.
- **Explore Different Styles:** Try out various types of photography, like portraits, landscapes, and action shots. Use mixed media to create interesting effects.
- **Study Photographers:** Learn about leading photographers and what makes their work special.
- **Create Your Own Projects:** Develop your ideas and make unique photo projects.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

Choose this course if you enjoy taking pictures and want to get better at it, are interested in using technology to create art, want to express your ideas and tell stories through images, and like learning about different styles and techniques in photography.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course has two main parts:

1. **Portfolio (60% of your grade):** Throughout the course, you'll collect your best photos and projects to show your progress and skills.
2. **Externally Set Assignment (40% of your grade):** In your final year, you'll choose a theme from a set of options. After some preparation time, you'll have 10 hours to create a final piece based on your chosen theme.

WHAT SKILLS ARE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

To do well in this course, you should:

- Have an interest in taking and editing photos.
- Be willing to learn how to use cameras and computer programs.
- Be creative and open to trying new ideas and techniques.
- Be able to work independently and manage your time well.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

Studying photography can lead to various careers, such as a professional photographer, photojournalist, graphic designer, film or video editor, or advertising and marketing professional. This course also provides a good foundation for further studies in art, design, and media.

GCSE BUSINESS



Head of Department: Mr Elliott

Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

You will learn how businesses work in the real world. This includes topics like how businesses start, what makes them grow, and how they make decisions about money, employees, products, and marketing. You'll also explore the impact of technology, the economy, and laws on businesses. Topics include:

- Business in the real world
- Marketing
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Operations

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

This course is perfect if you want to understand how businesses work and develop skills for the future. Whether you're interested in starting your own business or working for a company, this course provides the knowledge and skills to succeed. It's also a good foundation for studying business further.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through two exams at the end of Year 11:

- **Paper 1:** Covers business operations and human resources (1 hour 45 minutes).
- **Paper 2:** Focuses on marketing and finance (1 hour 45 minutes).

Both papers include multiple-choice, short answers, and case-study questions and are worth 50% of your final grade each.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

- An interest in how businesses work.
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Confidence in basic maths for working with business calculations.
- Clear communication for writing about business ideas.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course links to many careers, including marketing, finance, human resources, retail management, and entrepreneurship. It also prepares you for further studies like A-levels or vocational qualifications in business or economics.

GCSE CITIZENSHIP



Subject Lead: Mr Elliott

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

This course helps you explore key topics like democracy, human rights, laws, and how the UK works. You will learn about issues such as fairness, equality, and the role of the UK in the world. You will also take part in a project to make a positive change in your community or beyond.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS COURSE?

If you're interested in making a difference, learning about your rights, how the law works, the economy and understanding how society works, this course is perfect for you. It's great for students who enjoy debating, working in teams, and tackling real-world issues.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through two exams, each lasting **1 hour and 45 minutes**, making up 50% of your grade each:

1. **Paper 1:** Theme A - Living in the UK, Theme B - Democracy in the UK, Theme C - Law and Justice
2. **Paper 2:** Theme D - Power and Influence, Theme E - Citizenship Action Project

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You should enjoy:

- Exploring real-life and relatable issues.
- Working with others on projects.
- Asking questions and solving problems.
- Sharing ideas and debating topics.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can lead to careers in law, politics, teaching, journalism, social work, and many others where communication, teamwork, and understanding society are important.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE



Head of Department: Mrs Visser

Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In the AQA GCSE Computer Science course, you'll explore:

- **Algorithms:** Step-by-step methods to solve problems.
- **Programming:** Writing code to create software.
- **Data Representation:** Understanding how computers use numbers, text, images, and sound.
- **Computer Systems:** Learning about hardware and software components.
- **Networks:** How computers connect and share information.
- **Cyber Security:** Protecting data from online threats.
- **Databases and SQL:** Organizing data and using SQL to manage it.
- **Ethical, Legal, and Environmental Issues:** Consider the impact of technology on society.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

Choose this course if you're curious about how computers work and want to develop problem-solving skills, learn to code and create programs, and understand the digital world around you. It's a great choice if you're interested in preparing for further studies or careers in technology, as it provides essential skills and knowledge to help you succeed in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

- **Paper 1:** Computational Thinking and Programming Skills – 2-hour exam worth 50% of your GCSE, covering programming and problem-solving through multiple-choice, short, and long questions.
- **Paper 2:** Computing Concepts – 1 hour 45-minute exam worth 50% of your GCSE, featuring multiple-choice, short, long, and extended response questions on theory and SQL programming.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

- **Logical Thinking:** Ability to approach problems methodically.
- **Attention to Detail:** Careful with details, especially in coding.
- **Basic Math Skills:** Comfortable with numbers and simple calculations.
- **Eagerness to Learn:** Open to new concepts and technologies.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course opens doors to exciting careers in the tech industry, such as software development, cyber security, data analysis, network engineering, and IT consulting. Whether you want to create programs, protect systems from cyber threats, or help businesses with technology solutions, this course provides a strong foundation for further education and career opportunities in the growing tech sector.

GCSE DRAMA



Head of Department: Mrs Bennett

Exam Board: OCR

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In GCSE Drama, you'll learn how to create, perform, and respond to dramatic pieces. You'll study plays to understand their historical and cultural backgrounds and explore different ways to bring scripts to life. You'll create your own performances based on themes or ideas, perform scenes from a play, and evaluate live theatre.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

This course is perfect for creative students who enjoy acting or working behind the scenes. It builds confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Drama is also great if you're considering careers in the arts, media, or any job requiring communication and collaboration.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is split into three parts:

1. **Devising Drama (30%)** – Create a performance from a given theme, with a portfolio of your ideas and an evaluation of your work.
2. **Presenting and Performing Texts (30%)** – Perform two scenes from a play, assessed by a visiting examiner.
3. **Performance and Response (40%)** – A 1-hour 30-minute written exam where you analyse a play and review a live theatre performance.

WHAT SKILLS ARE NEEDED?

- Creativity
- Commitment
- Teamwork
- Good attendance (often working in groups)
- Confidence to perform or contribute ideas

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

Drama helps you develop transferable skills valued in many jobs, such as public speaking, teamwork, and creative thinking. It's particularly useful for careers in acting, directing, teaching, media, or event management.

Note: Be prepared to perform live and attend extra rehearsals outside school hours!

GCSE ART & DESIGN: 3D DESIGN



Head of Department: Mrs Coll

Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you will learn how to design and create 3D objects using different materials and techniques. You will explore areas like woodwork, sculpture, architecture, textiles, graphics and model making. The course will help you understand how to develop ideas, use tools and materials safely, and express your creative ideas in sketchbook form bringing everything together in 3D work.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

If you enjoy DT and art working with your hands, being creative, and making 3D objects, this course is a great choice! It allows you to experiment with different materials and develop skills that can lead to exciting careers in design and construction. This course is perfect if you like problem-solving and enjoy seeing your ideas turn into real objects.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is assessed in two parts:

- **Portfolio (60%):** You will work in a sketchbook completing different projects and modelling 3D objects showing your ideas and design process from start to finish
- **Externally Set Task (40%):** In year 11 You will be set 7 options for your set exam and will have a 10-hour exam to finish your final 3D outcome

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You don't need any special skills to start, but it helps if you:

- Enjoy being creative and working with different materials.
- Are good at problem-solving and thinking in 3D.
- Have patience and attention to detail.
- Can work independently and manage your time well

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can lead to exciting careers in fields such as product design, architecture, set design for theatre and film, furniture design, and industrial design, interior design, textile design and fashion design. It provides a strong foundation for those interested in turning creative ideas into real-world objects and developing practical solutions for everyday problems. Whether you want to create innovative products, design buildings, or work in the creative industries, this course offers valuable skills that can help you progress to further study at college or university and open up a variety of career opportunities.

LEVEL 1/2 CONSTRUCTION



Head of Department: Mrs Coll

Exam Board: Eduqas

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you will learn all about construction and the built environment. You'll explore different types of buildings, materials used in construction, and how buildings are designed and built. You'll also learn about health and safety, sustainability, and the different jobs available in the construction industry.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

If you are interested in how buildings and structures are created, enjoy practical work, or want to explore a career in construction, this course is for you! It gives you hands-on experience into Carpentry, Electrical, and Plumbing; teaching you useful skills that are needed in the construction industry.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is assessed in two ways:

- **Unit 1:** A computer-based exam (1 hour 30 minutes), which is worth 40% of your final grade.
- **Unit 2 or Unit 3:** Coursework-based tasks, which make up 60% of your final grade. These take about 30 hours to complete and include practical work and written assignments.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You don't need any special qualifications to take this course, but it helps if you:

- Are good at working independently.
- Can solve problems and think creatively.
- Have core skills in reading, writing, working with measurements, and layout.
- Enjoy practical, hands-on activities.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can open doors to a variety of careers in the construction industry, including roles in surveying, architecture, bricklaying, plumbing, carpentry and joinery, electrical work, and construction site management. It also provides a solid foundation for those interested in pursuing engineering within the built environment sector. Additionally, completing this course can help you continue your studies in construction at college or start an apprenticeship, gaining hands-on experience and further developing your skills for a successful career in the industry.

GCSE FOOD PREP AND NUTRITION



Head of Department: Miss Jansen

Exam Board: Eduqas

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you will learn how to prepare and cook a variety of foods safely and creatively. You will explore nutrition, healthy eating, and the science behind food preparation. The course covers topics such as different food groups, meal planning, food safety, and cooking techniques. You will also learn about where food comes from and how to make informed choices about diet and health.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

If you enjoy cooking and want to understand how to make healthy and delicious meals, this course is perfect for you! It helps you develop important life skills, such as planning meals and understanding nutrition, which will benefit you now and in the future. It's also a great option if you're thinking about a career in food, catering, or health-related fields.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is assessed in two parts:

1. **Component 1:** A written exam (1 hour 45 minutes) worth 50% of your final grade. The exam includes short and long-answer questions on food preparation and nutrition.
2. **Component 2:** A practical assessment worth 50% of your final grade. This includes two tasks:
 - A **Food Investigation Task** (8 hours), where you'll experiment with food to understand how it works.
 - A **Food Preparation Task** (12 hours), where you'll plan, prepare, cook, and present a meal.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You don't need any special qualifications to take this course, but it helps if you:

- Enjoy cooking and working with food.
- Have an interest in health and nutrition.
- Are organized and good at following instructions.
- Can work independently and as part of a team.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can lead to careers in catering and hospitality, such as working as a chef or in food service, as well as roles in nutrition, dietetics, and food science. It also provides a foundation for careers in health and wellbeing, event planning, and food management. Additionally, it offers a great starting point for further study at college or apprenticeships in the food industry.

LEVEL 1/2 HOSPITALITY & CATERING



Head of Department: Miss Jansen

Exam Board: WJEC/ Eduqas

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you will learn all about the hospitality and catering industry, including how restaurants, hotels, and food businesses operate. You'll study food safety, health and safety rules, and how to plan nutritious meals. You will also learn practical skills in preparing, cooking, and presenting food to a high standard.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

If you enjoy cooking, working with people, and are interested in a career in hospitality or catering, this course is a great choice! It offers a mix of practical and theory lessons, giving you the skills you need to work in this exciting industry.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is split into two parts:

1. **Unit 1:** A written exam (1 hour 20 minutes), worth 40% of your final grade.
2. **Unit 2:** A practical assessment (around 12 hours), worth 60% of your final grade. You'll complete tasks such as planning and preparing meals based on real-world scenarios.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You don't need any special qualifications, but it helps if you:

- Enjoy working in a team and learning new skills.
- Have good organization and time management.
- Are interested in food, health, and customer service.
- Are willing to follow instructions carefully and work safely.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can lead to a variety of exciting careers in the hospitality and catering industry. You could work as a chef or kitchen assistant, helping to prepare delicious meals in restaurants, hotels, or catering companies. If you enjoy working with people, roles in hotel and restaurant management or front-of-house services, such as being a receptionist or concierge, might be a great fit for you.

The course also provides a strong foundation for careers in event planning, food safety, and nutrition, ensuring food is prepared and served safely to customers. Additionally, it opens the door to further study in college or apprenticeships, where you can develop your skills and gain more hands-on experience in the industry.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY



Subject Lead: Mrs Heugh-Lait

Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you'll learn about the world around you, including:

- **Climate change:** Natural and human causes of climate change. The evidence for our changing climate. How we can mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.
- **Natural hazards:** Global distribution of tectonic and weather hazards. Theory of plate tectonics and global atmospheric circulation. How the effects of natural hazards can be managed.
- **Ecosystems:** Global biomes, factors shaping rainforests and deserts, and life in extreme environments.
- **Rivers and coastal landscapes:** How the geology of our physical landscapes influences its shape and the key processes. How to manage our rivers and coastal landscapes sustainably.
- **Poverty and deprivation:** Understanding why some places are poorer than others. The role of aid, international agreements and sustainability in reducing the poverty gap.
- **Global economic shifts and Sustainable resource use:** How the world's economy is changing. How we can use resources without harming the planet.
- **Case studies:** Real-life examples from the UK, higher income countries (HICs), emerging economies (NEEs), and lower income countries (LICs).

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

Geography is an exciting subject where you'll explore interesting topics that are important in today's world. You'll learn about both physical Geography, like rivers, coasts, earthquakes, and climate change, and human geography, like cities, cultures, migration, and sustainability. Geography also helps you understand how it affects your life and the world around you.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

- **Paper 1:** Living with the Physical Environment (1 hour 30 minutes)
- **Paper 2:** Challenges in the Human Environment (1 hour 30 minutes)
- **Paper 3:** Geographical Applications (1 hour 30 minutes)
- **Fieldwork:** You'll do practical work outside the classroom on 2 separate day trips to West Wittering and Stratford, London.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

- **Curiosity:** An interest in learning about the world and how to protect it.
- **Critical thinking:** Analysing information to form an opinion. Explaining trends in sets of data.
- **Communication:** Sharing your ideas clearly and well-structured written work (PEEL paragraphs)
- **Teamwork:** Working with others during fieldwork.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

Geography opens up lots of exciting careers! You could help companies be more eco-friendly as an environmental consultant, design cities and towns as an urban planner, or teach others about geography. You could pursue careers in ecology and conservation. You could also study important geographical issues as a researcher or work in the travel industry.

BTEC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



Exam Board: Pearsons

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

This course helps you understand how people grow and develop at different life stages. You will learn about factors that affect health and well-being, the services that support people, and the skills needed to work in health and social care. You will also explore how life events, such as illness or moving home, impact people and how they adapt.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

If you are interested in helping people and want to understand more about health, well-being, and care services, this course is a great choice. It links well with GCSE subjects like Science and English and helps develop useful skills for future jobs or study.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course covers 4 components over 2 years:

- **Component 1: Human Lifespan Development** – Coursework (internally marked, externally moderated).
- **Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values** – Coursework (internally marked, externally moderated).
- **Component 3: Health and Wellbeing** – Exam (externally marked, 2 hours).

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You should be:

- Good at communicating and listening.
- Interested in health, well-being, and social issues.
- Able to research and present ideas clearly.
- Willing to work independently and meet deadlines.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course is great for anyone thinking about careers in nursing, midwifery, social work, childcare, physiotherapy, care work, teaching, or community support roles. It also prepares you for further study, including A-Levels, apprenticeships, and Level 3 BTEC qualifications.

GCSE HISTORY



Head of Department: Mrs Fitzmaurice

Exam Board: Pearson

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you will learn about important events, people, and changes in history. You will study different time periods and places, like Tudor England, the Cold War and Weimar and Nazi Germany. You'll explore concepts like change and continuity in medicine over time and the significance of major events in the 20th century.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

Pick this course if you enjoy learning about the past and understanding how it shapes our world today. It is great for developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Plus, history is full of interesting stories and characters!

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through three exams:

- **Paper 1:** Thematic study and historic environment (1 hour 20 minutes) – *Medicine in Britain 1250-present and the British Sector of the Western Front 1914-1918*
- **Paper 2:** Period study and British depth study (1 hour 50 minutes) – *Henry VIII and his Ministers 1509-1540 AND Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991*
- **Paper 3:** Modern depth study (1 hour 30 minutes) – *Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939*

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

- **Curiosity:** A natural interest in learning about the past and how it affects the present
- **Reading and writing:** You will need to read various texts and write extended answers
- **Analytical Skills:** Being able to examine sources and extracts and form logical arguments about them
- **Critical Thinking:** Questioning information and considering different perspectives
- **Attention to Detail:** Noticing small but important details in historical sources and texts
- These skills will not only help you succeed in the course but also in many other areas of life and future careers.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

Studying history can lead to careers in many areas including politics, civil service, teaching, law, journalism, archaeology, charity, and museum work.

BTEC CREATIVE MEDIA



Subject Lead: Mr Highman

Exam Board: Pearsons

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you'll learn how to create different types of media products like videos, podcasts, and websites. You'll explore how media is made, understand the audience, and learn about the tools and techniques used in the media industry.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

Pick this course if you love being creative and want to learn how to make cool media projects. It's a great way to explore your interests in film, TV, radio, and online media. Plus, it can help you decide if you want a career in the media industry.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through a mix of practical projects and written work. You'll complete three main components:

- **Exploring Media Products:** Investigate different media products and their audiences.
- **Developing Digital Media Production Skills:** Learn and practice the skills needed to create media products.
- **Creating Media Products:** Plan, produce, and evaluate your own media product.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

- Be creative and enjoy working on projects
- Have an interest in media
- Possess good communication skills
- Be able to work independently and in a team

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can lead to careers in film, TV, radio, journalism, advertising, and digital media. It's a great starting point if you want to work in the creative industries.

GCSE FRENCH



Subject Lead: Mrs Courtois

Exam Board: Edexcel

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In the GCSE French course, you'll learn how to understand and use French in real-life situations. The topics you'll study include:

- **Identity and culture:** Talking about yourself, your family, hobbies, and interests.
- **Local area, holiday, and travel:** Discussing your town, vacations, and traveling experiences.
- **School:** Describing your school life and subjects.
- **Future aspirations, study, and work:** Talking about your plans, jobs, and ambitions.
- **International and global dimension:** Exploring global issues and events.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

Choosing GCSE French can be exciting and useful. It helps you communicate with more people and understand different cultures. Learning French can also make traveling more fun and open more job opportunities in the future. Plus, studying a language can improve your memory and problem-solving skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course has four main parts, each part counts for 25% of your final grade. The exams are taken at the end of the course.

- **Speaking:** Reading aloud, Photo description, Role play and General conversation (7-12min.)
- **Listening:** Listening to French audio and responding to questions in English + Dictation (35-45 min.)
- **Reading:** Reading texts in French and responding to questions in English + Translation from French into English (45min. – 1hr)
- **Writing:** Photo description, short and long answer writing in French + Translation from English into French (1h10 -1h20 min.)

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

To do well in this course, it's helpful if you:

- Enjoy learning new languages.
- Are curious about other cultures.
- Like communicating and expressing ideas.
- Are willing to practice all four skills in French regularly.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

Studying French can open the door to exciting career opportunities, especially in fields where knowing another language is an advantage. You could work in translation and interpretation, teaching, travel and tourism, or international business with companies that trade with French-speaking countries. Careers in diplomacy, government, fashion, art, food, sports, and culture also benefit from French language skills, as many French-speaking countries lead in these industries. Science and technology roles often involve international research where French is widely used. With French spoken in over 30 countries and as an official language of the EU and UN, it is a valuable skill for many careers.

GCSE SPANISH



Subject Lead: Mrs Courtois

Exam Board: Edexcel

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In the GCSE Spanish course, you'll develop skills in understanding and using Spanish in real-life situations. The topics you'll study include:

- **Identity and culture:** Discussing yourself, family, hobbies, and interests.
- **Local area, holiday, and travel:** Discussing your town, vacations, and travel experiences.
- **School:** Describing your school life and subjects.
- **Future aspirations, study, and work:** Sharing your plans, career goals, and ambitions.
- **International and global dimension:** Exploring global issues and events.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

GCSE Spanish can be both enjoyable and beneficial. It enables you to communicate with millions of Spanish speakers worldwide and gain insights into diverse cultures. Learning Spanish can enhance travel experiences and broaden future job opportunities. Additionally, studying a language can improve memory and problem-solving abilities.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course has four main parts, each part counts for 25% of your final grade. The exams are taken at the end of the course.

- **Speaking:** Reading aloud, Photo description, Role play and General conversation (7-12min.)
- **Listening:** Listening to Spanish audio and responding to questions in English + Dictation (35-45 min.)
- **Reading:** Reading texts in Spanish and responding to questions in English + Translation from Spanish into English (45min. – 1hr)
- **Writing:** Photo description, short and long answer writing in Spanish + Translation from English into Spanish (1h10 -1h20 min.)

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

To do well in this course, it's helpful if you:

- Enjoy learning new languages.
- Are curious about other cultures.
- Like communicating and expressing ideas.
- Are willing to practice all four skills in Spanish regularly.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

Studying Spanish can lead to a range of careers, including translation and interpretation, teaching, travel and tourism, and international business. It is also useful in diplomacy and government work, media and journalism, and healthcare or social services, where assisting Spanish-speaking communities is essential. With Spanish spoken in over 20 countries and as one of the most widely spoken languages globally, it is a valuable skill in many professions.

GCSE MUSIC



Head of Department: Mrs Richardson

Exam Board: Eduqas

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this music course, you'll explore three main areas: **Performing**, **Composing**, and **Appraising** (Listening to Music.) You'll perform songs or pieces on your instrument or voice, create your own music, and learn to understand music from films, bands, and orchestras. The four topics include:

- Musical Forms and Devices (e.g. classical music styles),
- Music for Ensemble (group performances e.g. Jazz, blues or musicals),
- Film Music, and
- Popular Music (e.g. rock and pop).

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

This course is perfect for you if you love playing or creating music, want to understand how music works, and enjoy listening to a variety of styles, from classical pieces like Bach to exciting movie soundtracks.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

1. **Performing (30%):** Perform two pieces (4–6 minutes total), including one group performance. Non-Examined Assessment
2. **Composing (30%):** Create two pieces of music, one based on a set idea and one of your choice (3–6 minutes total). Non-Examined Assessment
3. **Listening Exam (40%):** Answer questions about music you hear in a 1-hour-15-minute exam.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You don't need to be a music expert, but you should:

- Play an instrument or sing (about Grade 3 level by Year 11),
- Be creative and open to creating and developing your own musical ideas,
- Enjoy performing and practising on your instrument
- Be prepared to develop your skills on Logic using the Mac computers

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can lead to exciting careers such as becoming a musician or singer, a music producer or sound engineer, a composer for films or games, or even a teacher or conductor.

GCSE DANCE 2025



Head of Department: Mr Lyle

Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you'll explore the exciting world of dance through **performance, choreography, and dance appreciation**. You'll learn how to express yourself using movement, create your own dance routines, and study professional works to understand different styles and techniques. The course also focuses on improving your physical, creative, and analytical skills.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

If you enjoy being creative, moving to music, and want to explore different dance styles, this course is perfect for you! It's great for both beginners and those with some dance experience. Plus, it combines practical work with learning about famous professional dances, making it both fun and inspiring.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course is split into two main parts:

- **Performance and Choreography (60%):** Perform set moves as a solo (1 minute) and in a group dance (3-5 minutes). Create your own dance piece based on a given idea (2-3.5 minutes).
- **Dance Appreciation (40%):** A written exam (1 hour 30 minutes) where you'll discuss your own work and analyse professional dance pieces.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

- Enthusiasm for dance and willingness to try different styles.
- Confidence in performing.
- Teamwork skills.
- Ability to think creatively.
- No advanced dance skills required.
- Willingness to practice and improve.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can lead to exciting careers in dance, such as being a professional dancer, choreographer, dance teacher, or working in the performing arts industry. It's also a great foundation for further studies in dance at A-level or college.

VCERT: HEALTH AND FITNESS



Subject Lead: Mr Lyle

Exam Board: NCFE

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

In this course, you will learn how your body works during exercise, how to keep fit, and how to stay healthy. You'll study body systems like muscles and the heart, effects of exercise, training methods, and how to create safe fitness programs. You'll also learn how lifestyle choices affect your health and fitness.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS COURSE?

If you like being active, enjoy learning about health, or want a career in sports, fitness, or health, this course is for you. It's practical, fun, and will help you develop skills that are useful in everyday life and future jobs.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course has two parts:

- A **coursework project** (60%) where you create a health and fitness plan.
- A **1 hour 30-minute exam** (40%) with questions about everything you've learned.

WHAT SKILLS WOULD I NEED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You don't need any special skills to start, but it helps if you like sports, enjoy working on projects, and are good at managing your time.

- An interest in health and fitness activities.
- The ability to study theory (e.g., science about the body)
- Ability to work independently and in teams.
- Enthusiasm for learning about health, fitness, and sports science.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course can help you pursue a career as a personal trainer, fitness instructor, or physiotherapist. You can also use it to study A-level Physical Education or sports science courses at college or university.

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Subject Lead: Mr Lyle

Exam Board: Pearson

WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS COURSE?

You'll study how the body works during exercise (like muscles and the heart), how to stay fit and healthy, and how to improve your performance in sports. You'll also learn about sports psychology (e.g., motivation), how society affects sport, and the importance of fitness for wellbeing.

WHY PICK THIS COURSE?

If you enjoy being active, learning how your body works, or playing sports, this course is for you! It's a great mix of classroom learning and practical activities. It's also useful for developing teamwork, leadership, and self-discipline skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

1. **Two written exams:**

- *Fitness and Body Systems*: 1 hour 30 mins (36% of your grade).
- *Health and Performance*: 1 hour 15 mins (24% of your grade).

2. **Practical performance:** Perform three sports, including one team and one individual (30%).

3. **Personal Exercise Programme (PEP):** Create and analyse your own fitness plan (10%).

WHAT SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

- An interest in sports and physical activity.
- The ability to study theory (e.g., science about the body)
- Basic skills in at least three different sports or activities.
- Ability to work independently and in teams.
- Enthusiasm for learning about health, fitness, and sports science.

WHAT CAREERS DOES IT LINK TO?

This course is a stepping stone to careers like sports coaching, physiotherapy, teaching physical education, sports journalism, and sports psychology. You can also use it to study A-level Physical Education or sports science courses at college or university.