Penketh High School

High Expectations,
Outstanding Young People

GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET

2025 - 2027

PATHWAY 1

KS4 CURRICULUM MODEL 2025 - 2027

CORE SUBJECT

Subject	Hours	GCSEs	Qualification
English	8	2	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature
Mathematics	8	1	GCSE Mathematics
Science	9	2	GCSE Combined Science
Digital Functional Skills (ICT)	1	&	Digital Functional Skills (Level 1)
Personal Development	1	-	Core PD (Not Examined)
Physical Education	3	-	Core PE (Not Examined)
Religious Education	1	-	Core RE (Not Examined)

OPTION SUBJECT

Subject	Hours	GCSEs	Qualification		
Option 1	5	1	EITHER	GCSE	Geography+
			OR	GCSE	History
Bespoke Pathway	5	1		GCSE	German
Option 3	5 Y10 4 Y11	1	EITHER	GCSE	Business Studies
			OR	GCSE	Computer Science*
			OR	WJEC	Designing the Built Environment+
			OR	GCSE	Drama
			OR	GCSE	Film Studies
			OR	GCSE	Geography+
			OR	BTEC	Health and Social Care+
			OR	WJEC	Hospitality and Catering+
			OR	GCSE	Sociology
			OR	WJEC	Sport+
			OR	GCSE	Triple Science*+
Option 4	4 Y10 5 Y11	1	EITHER	GCSE	Art (Art and Design)
			OR	BTEC	Child Development+
			OR	WJEC	Designing the Built Environment+
			OR	GCSE	Economics*
			OR	BTEC	Health and Social Care+
			OR	WJEC	Hospitality and Catering+
			OR	GCSE	Music**
			OR	GCSE	Psychology*
			OR	GCSE	Photography
			OR	BTEC	Travel and Tourism+
			OR	GCSE	Triple Science*+

Total : 9 GCSEs or Equivalent - 10 Qualifications

& Pupils will complete a qualification in ICT which is smaller than a normal GCSE course.

+ You cannot pick the same subject twice, for example, you cannot pick Geography in Option 1 and Option 3, or Sport in Option 2 and Option 3

*These subjects are traditionally more academically challenging. We will use a range of data to ensure that this course is suitable for all students who select it.

**Students picking this subject must be musically proficient instrumentally or vocally.

THE OPTION PROCESS

Monday 9 June 2025
Publication of Options Booklet and Subject Information

Thursday 26 June 2025
Options Fair
4pm - 7pm
Sports Hall

Friday 27 June 2025
(Walking Day Inset)
Options Form Available on Microsoft Teams
9am

Friday 27 June 2025
(Walking Day Inset)
Options Form Closes
3pm

Monday 14 July 2025
Final Options Choices Communicated to Parents / Pupils

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Art (Art and Design)	ADitchfield@penkethhigh.org
Art (Graphic Communications)	MBillington@penkethhigh.org
Business Stidues	JThompson@penkethhigh.org
Child Development	Curriculum@penkethhigh.org
Computer Science	JThompson@penkethhigh.org
Designing the Built Environment	BBewes@penkethhigh.org
Digital Functional Skills	JThompson@penkethhigh.org
Drama	HDean@penkethhigh.org
Economics	JThompson@penkethhigh.org
English	KBradshaw@penkethhigh.org
Film Studies	SAshurst@penkethhigh.org
Geography	DRobinson@penkethhigh.org
German	RDeberque@penkethhigh.org
Health and Social Care	Curriculum@penkethhigh.org
History	MBell@penkethhigh.org
Hospitality and Catering	JBlundell@penkethhigh.org
Mathematics	LHarding@penkethhigh.org
Music	AJones@penkethhigh.org
Personal Development	ZSilver@penkethhigh.org
Photography	MBillington@penkethhigh.org
Physical Education	MMullock@penkethhigh.org
Psychology	CCooper@penkethhigh.org
Religious Education	CCooper@penkethhigh.org
Science / Triple Science	CLewin@penkethhigh.org
Sociology	CCooper@penkethhigh.org
Sport	MMullock@penkethhigh.org
Travel and Tourism	DRobinson@penkethhigh.org

CAREERS CONTACT

Careers Lead	Email Address
Mr Musgrove	IMusgrove@penkethhigh.org

You can also find information, advice and guidance on the National Careers Service Website: https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

CORE

SUBJECTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AQA
Realising potential

Students will develop fluency in reading and effective writing skills. They will read a range of texts and will have a chance to engage with writing for a range of purposes including creative writing. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

1 x GCSE

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minute Written Examination
- Component 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minute Written Examination

Homework

Students will be asked to learn key features of questions and undertake other re-call and re-cap activities that will consolidate understanding.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Levels in English Literature / Language, Law, History, Media, Film
- BTEC Nationals & Cambridge Technicals in any subject
- A range of undergraduate degrees BA / BSc / BEd / BEng / LLB (Hons)

Mrs Bradshaw

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study English Language could go on to a huge range of jobs/ apprenticeships/ career paths:

- Education / Lawyer / Administrator
- Business / Childcare / Creative & Design
- Digital / Health & Science

What knowledge will I learn?

In English Language, you will be learning to: read fluently, and with a good understanding, of a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In English Language, you will develop the skills of reading and evaluating texts critically and making comparisons between texts, summarising and synthesising information & ideas from texts; writing effectively and coherently using standard English appropriately, using grammar correctly and punctuating and spelling accurately, acquiring and applying a wide vocabulary alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology; listening to and understanding spoken language and using spoken standard English effectively including presenting a speech.

Why Study English Language?

Studying English Language will show how well-developed your ability is to communicate effectively in a wide variety of other subjects and situations. Many of your chosen destinations after Penketh will require you to have a good grade in this subject. It will hopefully foster a love of language and literature in all its forms.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Students will develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students will have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of literature that covers a wide range of themes. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and as preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

AQA
Realising potential

1 x GCSE

Mrs Bradshaw

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (50%) 1 Hour 45 Minute Written Examination
- Component 2 - Modern texts and poetry (50%) 2 Hour 15 Minute Written Examination

Homework

Students will be asked to do pre-reading, re-reading, learning of key quotations and other re-call and re-cap activities that will consolidate understanding of the texts.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Levels in English Literature / Language, Law, History, Media, Film
- BTEC Nationals & Cambridge Technicals in any subject.
- A range of undergraduate degrees BA / BSc / BEd / BEng / LLB (Hons)

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study English Language could go on to a huge range of jobs/ apprenticeships/ career paths:

- Education / Lawyer / Administrator
- Business / Childcare / Creative & Design
- Digital / Health & Science

What knowledge will I learn?

In English Literature, you will be learning about:

- Shakespeare: Romeo & Juliet
- The 19th-century novel: A Christmas Carol
- Modern prose or drama text: J.B Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'
- Poetry: you will study Power & Conflict poetry and learn how to analyse Unseen poetry

What Skills Will I Develop?

In English Literature you will develop the skills of: reading a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding; reading in-depth, critically and evaluatively, so that you are able to discuss and explain your understanding and idea; writing accurately, effectively and analytically about your reading, using a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology.

Why Study English Literature?

Literature unlocks the world, allowing an understanding of culture, history, society and politics that might otherwise be closed off. It is about people and emotions, unlocking feelings we might never have seen played out or felt ourselves. It allows humans to think deeply and form an understanding of issues that might never have been in our consciousness without it. The skills you will develop in English Literature will allow you access to other literary worlds. And, besides all that, it can be fun.

MATHEMATICS

Pearson

Mathematics is one of the big keys that you need to open the door of further education for any course that you want to pursue when you leave Penketh High. You will follow either the Higher course (Grades 9-4) or the Foundation course (Grades 5-1).

1 x GCSE

Miss Harding

Assessment

There are 3 exam papers each is 1 hour 30 minutes long. The first paper will be non-calculator and papers 2 and 3 are calculator papers.

Homework

Homework is expected to be 1-1.5 hours per week and will include step booklets, exam question packs and GCSE papers. Students will use written and electronic material for homework.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- AS / A-Level Maths and Further Maths
- A-Level Statistics
- STEM courses at A-level and beyond
- T-Level in Science
- Degree level and post-graduate qualifications in maths/statistics
- A-level and degrees in Economics and Accounting to name but a few

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Mathematics could go on to work as:

- Accounting / Finance / Business post 16 and post 18 apprenticeships
- Computing and digital industries
- STEM industries such as engineering have apprenticeships and post-graduate courses using maths
- Architect and construction careers
- Careers in medicine

What knowledge will I learn?

In Mathematics, you will be learning about topics including numbers, algebra, shape and space and data handling. Number topics cover all areas of the curriculum such as fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios and proportions, whilst the algebra aspect involves generalising findings in a more abstract way. Shape and space covers the geometry and measures topics like area and volume so there are many applications to real-life situations here. Data handling involves statistics and probability.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Mathematics, you will develop problem-solving and mathematical reasoning. You will learn how to extract keywords and ideas from mathematical problems and be able to apply correct knowledge in order to move forward. The work involved incorporates the functional skills that employers seek, so there are some cross-curricular aspects to the course. Pupils need to be able to use mental methods to solve problems as well as use a calculator effectively.

Why Study Mathematics?

A good understanding of maths and the ability to calculate efficiently will help you in all aspects of your future. The language of maths is universal and is one thing that can bring all people around the world together.

COMBINED SCIENCE

AQA
Realising potential

This course recognises the impact of Science in everyday life, helping learners to make informed decisions about current scientific issues. The course covers key ideas in biology, chemistry and physics.

2 x GCSEs

Assessment

There are six written exams each lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. There are two papers for each specialism – biology, chemistry and physics – each accounting for 16.7% of the overall mark.
All students complete a series of practical investigations which are examined as part of the written exams.

Homework

Homework will be set weekly to provide retrieval practice and exam practice questions. This will be set through Tassomai, which is an online app of multiple-choice questions and Teams which will include video playlists and practice exam questions.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A-Levels in Biology / Chemistry / Physics
- BTEC Applied Science / Engineering
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- Apprenticeship

Mrs Lewin

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Science could go on to work in a wide range of professions including:

- Medicine / Nursing / Vet / Paramedic
- Pharmacy/Environmental Scientist
- Engineering/Electrician/Technician
- Teaching/Researcher/Forensics

What knowledge will I learn?

In Science, you will study the following topics:
Biology: Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection & Response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis & Response, Inheritance & Evolution, Ecology
Chemistry: Atomic Structure, Periodic Table, Bonding, Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rate of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of The Atmosphere, Using Resources
Physics: Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic Structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism & Electromagnetism

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Science, you will develop your scientific thinking, experimental skills and strategies as well as analytical and evaluative skills. We use contemporary and relevant contexts which are taught through a range of theoretical and practical-based learning activities.

Why Study Science?

Science is a fundamental course which enables students to explain how everything in their day-to-day lives works. From “What does a plant need to grow?” to “How does mains electricity work?” This GCSE course explores the key ideas of Science, encouraging students to investigate and explain their findings.

DIGITAL FUNCTIONAL SKILLS (ICT)

The Pearson Digital Functional Skills Qualification is an ideal qualification for learners wishing to develop practical, transferable skills in ICT in order to work confidently, effectively and independently in life.

1 x Level 1 Digital Functional Skills

Mrs Thompson

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – External Assessment (100%) 1 Hour 45 Minute Practica lExamination

Homework

Homework will be skills-based to practice those learnt in class.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- Technical level – IT
- Apprenticeship – IT

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Almost every career requires basic ICT skills. This course provides a solid foundation to build on in any career choice.

What knowledge will I learn?

Digital Functional Skills is a practical skills-based course focused on the skills listed below.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Plan solutions to complex tasks by analysing the necessary stages.
- Select, interact with and use ICT systems safely and securely for a complex task.
- Manage information storage to enable efficient retrieval.
- Use appropriate search techniques to locate and select relevant information from a variety of sources to meet requirements.
- Enter, develop and refine information using appropriate software.
- Use appropriate software to meet the requirements of a complex data-handling task.
- Use communications software (Email)
- Combine and present information in ways that are fit for purpose and audience.

Why Study Digital Functional Skills?

A stepping stone to the successful completion of various wider qualifications and frameworks, such as apprenticeships. You will develop transferrable skills to use in further study and employment.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Personal Development (PD) is the curriculum subject through which RSHE, PSHE and Citizenship content is delivered at Penketh High School.

It is a statutory requirement for schools in England to teach Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) to all secondary-aged pupils. RSHE enables young people to understand what healthy relationships look like and how to navigate their personal lives in a positive, safe and healthy way, and it supports children and young people to keep themselves and others safe, both on and offline.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) is an important and necessary part of all pupils' education and is the subject through which children and young people acquire the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to stay physically and emotionally healthy, safe and thrive, now and in the future.

Citizenship Education helps to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. It equips pupils with the skills and knowledge to explore political and social issues critically and prepares pupils to take their place in society as responsible citizens, manage their money well and make sound financial decisions.

Assessment

Personal Development is a non-examined subject.

How will this help me in the future?

PD equips pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions in a wide variety of circumstances, providing pupils with the best chance to flourish in everyday life and society both now and in their lives beyond high school.

What knowledge will I learn?

In PD, you will be learning about:

- How to engage in discussion and debate relevant to topical and controversial issues.
- Rights, responsibilities, duties and freedoms and about laws, justice and democracy.
- How to deal with changing situations in their personal and social development.
- How to stay in good health.
- The workplace, careers, enterprise, economic well-being, and financial capability.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In PD, you will develop:

- Teamwork: Students develop the skills necessary to work effectively and efficiently as part of a group.
- Discussion: Students know how to talk about something in order to reach a decision or to exchange ideas in a civil manner.
- Debate: Students understand how to engage in an effective formal discussion on a particular matter.
- Questioning: Students know how to question so as to elicit information in a manner which does not cause offence.
- Decision-making: Students are able to make informed decisions based on their ability to assess risk and evaluate facts and opinions.
- Coping strategies: Students develop the skills required to deal effectively with difficulties including stress and anxiety.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Core Physical Education (PE) pupils will participate in a wide range of sports activities which follow on from the diverse Key Stage 3 PE curriculum. Our aim is that every pupil leaves Penketh High School with a positive view of physical activity and health-related exercise. Core PE is mandatory for all pupils to participate in across Key Stage 4.

Mr Mullock

Assessment

As Physical Education is a non-examined subject, there are no formal assessments. However, pupils are given ongoing formative assessments throughout the different activities they participate in.

Homework

There is no homework set for core PE at Key Stage 4.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- Sport and Physical Education related courses.

What Are My Career Opportunities?

- PE teacher
- Physiotherapist
- Sports therapist
- Professional athlete
- Sports Scientist

What knowledge will I learn?

In core PE, you will be learning about different sporting activities both individually and as part of a team. You will also have the opportunity to take part as a participant, leader/coach and as an official.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In core PE you will develop skills including:

- Teamwork
- Cooperation
- Fair play
- Leadership skills
- Officiating
- Communication
- Self-Confidence
- Self-Esteem

Why Study Core Physical Education?

Physical activity is a significant aspect of leading a well-rounded healthy lifestyle, and therefore it is vital that pupils learn about the importance of keeping physically fit and healthy.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Core Religious Education is a statutory subject, which all pupils have the right to study. It explores world religions, their beliefs and teachings. It gives pupils an opportunity to gain knowledge and insight into faith and why it is important for individuals who have it and society, whilst developing essential skills for life.

Assessment

As Religious Education is a non-examined subject, there are no formal assessments. However, pupils are given ongoing formative assessments throughout the different activities they participate in.

Homework

A range of homework will be set to enhance and affirm the pupil's knowledge and understanding of what is studied including investigation and research-based activities.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A-Levels in Religious Studies, Sociology, Law, Politics, History, English, Psychology and Health and Social Care.
- Degrees in Theology, Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, History, English, Politics, Business, Economics, Medicine and Social Care.

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Core Religious Education could go on to work in:

- The Charity Sector, Human Resources, Legal Practise, Criminal Justice, Management, Medicine, Politics, Education, Public Services, Police, Journalism, Youth and Community Work.

What knowledge will I learn?

In Core Religious Education, you will be learning about:

- Is this Justice?
- Respect
- The only way is ethics

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Core Religious Education, you will develop skills including Explanation, Discussion, Debating, Application, Evaluation and Communication.

Why Study Religious Studies?

Studying Core Religious Education gives an insight into world religions their beliefs and teachings, their impact on moral dilemmas, and their influences on choices and decisions that are made, have been made and could be made. It also looks at the answers the world religions provide to the big questions raised about the world we live in. It is a chance to gain an understanding of and insight into what it means to have faith and what impact faith, can have. Whilst also developing knowledge, understanding and valuable skills for life.

OPTION

SUBJECTS

OPTION 1

Geography+

History

Step 1: Pick one subject from the Option 1

OPTION 2

German

PATHWAY 1

You have been selected to study on pathway 1 as a result of your Key Stage 2 SAT results, your continued academic progress, and your excellent performance in German across the last three years.

In your most recent German assessment, you scored 90% or higher in your exam. Studying German along with a humanity (Geography/History) with your core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science means you will be sitting the English Baccalaureate (EBACC) suite of subjects. This strong core of academic subjects will support a robust application to college and University, especially if you are planning to study more academic subjects at Red Brick Universities.

Any questions/queries/concerns at all please let me know on IFarrar@penkethhigh.org

Kind Regards

Mr I. Farrar
Vice Principal: Curriculum and Outcomes

OPTION 3

- Business Studies
- Computer Science*
- Designing the Built Environment+
- Drama
- Film Studies
- Geography+
- Health and Social Care+
- Hospitality and Catering+
- Sociology
- Sport+
- Triple Science*+

Step 3: Pick one subject from the Option 3

*These subjects are traditionally more academically challenging. We will use a range of data to ensure that this course is suitable for all students who select it.

Art (Art and Design)***

Child Development+

Designing the Built Environment+

Economics*

Health and Social Care+

Hospitality and Catering+

Music**

Photography

Psychology*

Travel and Tourism+

Triple Science*+

Step 4: Pick one subject from the Option 4

*These subjects are traditionally more academically challenging. We will use a range of data to ensure that this course is suitable for all students who select it.
**Students picking this subject must be musically proficient instrumentally or vocally

OPTION 4

ART (ART, CRAFT & DESIGN)

AQA
Realising potential

1 x GCSE

Miss Ditchfield

Art is a practical course allowing you to explore a variety of art and design techniques and processes. You will produce a personal portfolio, including a sketchbook and mounted sheet work, enabling you to progress to further study and a range of jobs within the Creative Industries.

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments

- Component 1 - Portfolio (60%) Non-Exam Assessment
- Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (40%) 10 Hour Non-Exam Assessment.

Homework

Homework will mainly consist of the completion of classwork and allow you to develop your coursework ideas. This may be sketchbook work, photography research or artist research. Homework and class work will be marked holistically as every piece of work completed during the course will go towards your GCSE grade

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level Art and Design
- BTEC National Diploma Art and Design
- A range of degree courses - BA (Hons), B.Des (Hons), BA (Arch)

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Architect, Fashion designer, Graphic artist, Interior/Spatial designer, Fine Artist, Teacher, Theatre/Set designer, Illustrator.

What knowledge will I learn?

You will develop a wide variety of skills including drawing, painting, printing, designing, and illustrating. You will research and explore new ways of developing your own ideas based on a theme, building upon your existing knowledge. Each project will be supported by your sketchbook, including research of appropriate artists, this inspiration will inform your practice as you develop as an artist.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- You will develop drawing, painting, and printing skills and whilst exploring with composition, design and creative direction.
- You will present and annotate your work in your portfolio and sketchbook.
- You will develop dual curriculum skills: independence, resilience, communication, and problem-solving skills.

Why Study Art?

Art allows you to visually communicate, express and celebrate your talent. This can lead to fantastic opportunities for employment in the Creative Industries. Art gives you the opportunity to specialise in one area of study and can link closely to your other GCSE subjects to help you decide on a career pathway. From Art GCSE you can go on to study further at some of our fantastic local colleges. Employment opportunities can take you all over the world to shape the future for others through art, creativity and design.

BUSINESS STUDIES

When you leave school you may be working for a business or other organisation. After studying Business, you will have an insight into just how businesses operate, including how to set up a business of your own. So why should you not be the next Richard Branson?

OCR
RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

1 x GCSE

Mrs Thompson

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 - Business activity, marketing and people (50%) 1 Hr. 30 Min Written Examination
- Component 2 - Operations, finance and influences on business (50%) 1 Hr. 30 Min Written Examination

Homework

Most homework will be in the form of theory. A GCSE revision guide and workbook will be used for some set homework tasks. News articles will also be used to keep up to date with current Business and economic data.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level Business Studies
- Technical level – Business
- Apprenticeship - Business/Accountancy/Economics

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study GCSE Economics could go on to work as:

- Business Analyst
- Accountant
- Marketing executive
- Human Resources manager

What knowledge will I learn?

Component 1 introduces learners to business concepts and issues concerning the activities of a business. It explores the purpose and role of a business from first spotting an enterprising opportunity through to the growth of an established business. It takes a closer look at the role of marketing and human resources.

Component 2 has learners explore the purpose and role of marketing within business and how it influences business activity and the decisions businesses take.

What Skills Will I Develop?

This qualification equips learners with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect business decisions. It is a well-rounded introduction to the subject. The qualification will develop life skills that enable them to become financially and commercially aware. Pupils will develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems.

Why Study Business Studies?

Studying Business Studies GCSE can be beneficial because it develops transferable skills like problem-solving, communication, and decision-making, which are valuable in various careers and aspects of life and provides foundational knowledge of how businesses operate.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCED 2024

The early years sector focuses on the learning, development, and care of children in the UK. Knowledge of child development is important in a variety of occupations outside of childcare and teaching, for example, in healthcare roles such as paediatricians and psychologists.

Pearson

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Children's Growth and Development (30%) Pearson Set Assignment (PSA)
- Component 2 – Learning Through Play (30%) Pearson Set Assignment (PSA)
- Component 3 – Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop (40%) 2 Hour Written Exam

Homework

Homework will be given on a weekly basis including reading and assignment preparation

1 x Level 1 / Level 2 Technical Award

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this Level 1/2 BTEC course, you could study:

- A Level Science, Psychology, Sociology
- BTEC National in Children's Care, Learning and Development or Health and Social Care
- Higher degrees in nursing and social care

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Child Development could go on to work as:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Early Years Education
- Social Worker
- Play Therapist
- Child Counsellor

Mrs Austin

What knowledge will I learn?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will develop key skills such as research and written communication skills as you plan different types of play activities to encourage children's learning and development and investigate how to meet children's individual circumstances.

Component 1 – you will gain knowledge of the principles of growth and development, including expected milestones.
Component 2 - you will explore different stages and types of play and how play activities can support and promote children's development and learning.
Component 3 – you will develop an understanding of how learning and development can be affected by their individual circumstances.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Research and written communication skills as you plan different types of play activities to encourage children's learning and development and investigate how to adapt them to meet children's individual circumstances.

Why Study Child Development?

Studying child development can lead to several exciting and rewarding career paths. It is also a great place to start if you want to go into a specialist field such as special educational needs, play therapist, teaching, and counselling.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is a modern, fascinating subject. The world depends on computers. In this GCSE you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges.

OCR
RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 - Computer systems (50%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination
- Component 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (50%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination

1 x GCSE

Homework

Most homework will be in the form of theory. A GCSE revision guide and workbook will be used for some set homework tasks. There is also a heavy focus on programming skills and so students will be expected to download key software like Python and practice the skills they have learnt in class.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level Computer Science and beyond.
- Technical level – IT

The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

Mrs Thompson

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study GCSE Computer Science could go on to work as:

- Cyber protection officer
- Robotics programmer
- Social media manager
- Web Developer
- Software Architect
- Game Designer
- Project manager

These subjects are traditionally more academically challenging. We will use a range of data to ensure that this course is suitable for all students who select it.

What knowledge will I learn?

In GCSE Computer Science, you will be learning about

Component 1

1. Systems architecture 2. Memory and storage 3. Computer Networks, connections and protocols 4. Network security 5. Systems Software 6. Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Component 2

1. Algorithms 2. Programming fundamentals 3. Producing robust programs 4. Boolean logic 5. Programming language and Integrated Development Environments.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Computer Science you will develop skills to

- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing, and debugging programs.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

Why Study Computer Science?

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly. It instils computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems.

DESIGNING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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 designing construction projects? Do you want to develop a good foundation for a successful career in the built environment?

eduqas
Part of WJEC

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Introduction to the Built Environment (40%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination
- Component 2 – Designing the Built Environment (60%) Non-Examination Assessment

Homework

You will be assigned one hour of homework per week that should be completed independently.

1 x Level 1 / Level 2 Technical Award

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level in civil engineering
- A Levels in Construction
- BTECs Diplomas in Construction and Built Environment Design
- Apprenticeships in Surveying and Civil Engineering and Architecture.

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Building Design is integral to a large variety of career pathways and a strong designer will be able to access a wide variety of careers within the Design industry, such as:

- Architect
- Structural Engineer
- Builder
- Civil Engineer
- Interior Designer

Mr Bewes

What knowledge will I learn?

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

Be introduced to the principles of the built environment and can develop the skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining, and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment. Explore a range of professional and trade roles Explore some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment

Unit 2: Designing the Built Environment

Building on the skills, knowledge and understanding you will develop through Unit 1, our Designing the Built Environment unit will offer you the opportunity to interpret and produce drafts, drawings, and models of design plans.

What Skills Will I Develop?

By studying for the Level 1/2 Award in Designing and Constructing the Built Environment you will develop drawing skills in the production of both 2D and 3D designs. This could include the sketching of 2D technical drawings and the importing of images, rendering and applying scenes to 3D plans for construction designs. You will also be able to gain essential employability skills that are valued by employers.

Why Study WJEC designing the built environment?

If you enjoy design in any form this course will be right for you. You will be learning to use industry-standard CAD software along with traditional design methods. We also building regulations and procedures involved in construction. It will also give you a clear insight into several possible careers within the Construction/Design industry.

DRAMA

Pearson

This a broad and coherent course of study which enables learners to explore three predominate areas of performance creating, performing, and evaluating. This can be explored from the role of the designer, director, or performer. Students will work collaboratively to generate and develop their own ideas and explore existing performance work.

1 x GCSE

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Devising Theatre (40%) Non-Examination Assessment.
- Component 2 – Performing from a Text (20%) Non-Examination Assessment.
- Component 3 – Interpreting Theatre (40%) 1 Hour 45 Minute Written Examination

Homework

Regular homework is based around the written exam paper, learning lines, and a logbook for C1 to record ideas and work.

Mrs Dean

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level Drama and Theatre Studies / English Literature / Media Studies
- BTEC National Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) Performing Arts, English, Drama, Media, Film

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Drama could go on to work in a variety of industries. The transferable skills learnt in the course are paramount for a huge range of careers. Within the field of Performing Arts, students could explore acting, designing, producing, film/tv, writing, and many more.

What knowledge will I learn?

In Drama, you will be learning about

- Creating devised drama in response to a stimulus using techniques and performance skills.
- Performing scripted performance using a range of characterisation skills.
- Exploring the play 'An Inspector Calls' from the role of a director, designer and performer.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Drama, you will develop

- Knowledge and understanding of style, genre, structure and dramatic techniques.
- Performance skills, including voice, physicality, relationships and interaction between characters.
- Design skills, creating a concept for a set, sound, lighting, props, staging and costume.
- Collaboration and communication skills, independent thinking, creativity, teamwork and problem-solving.

Why Study Drama?

Our students thrive from the opportunity to learn through creativity. The opportunity to work collaboratively and communicate creative ideas through performance is a popular element of the course, where students are given the freedom to develop their thinking and imagination based on a stimulus. The students will explore a range of theatre texts, as well as getting the opportunity to experience live theatre in performance developing their analysis and evaluation skills. Students are encouraged to collaborate with others, engaging in stimulating and creative activities with confidence. These fundamental cooperative, collaborative and social skills are useful across all kinds of disciplines, careers, and life experiences in general.

ECONOMICS

Economics introduces students to basic economic concepts and helps them develop the appropriate range of analytical, critical and reasoning skills to enable them to think as economists. They learn how consumers, producers and governments interact in markets nationally and internationally.

OCR
RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

1 x GCSE

Mrs Thompson

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 - Introduction to Economics (50%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination
- Component 2 - National & International Economics (50%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination

Homework

Most homework will be in the form of theory. A GCSE revision guide and workbook will be used for some set homework tasks. News articles will also be used to keep up to date with current economic data.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level Economics and beyond.
- A Level Business Studies
- Technical level – Business
- Apprenticeship - Economics/ Business

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study GCSE Economics could go on to work as:

- Economist
- Financial planner
- Accountant
- Economic researcher
- Financial consultant
- Investment analyst

These subjects are traditionally more academically challenging. We will use a range of data to ensure that this course is suitable for all students who select it.

What knowledge will I learn?

In GCSE Economics, you will be learning about

- Introduction to Economics; main economic groups and factors of production, the basic economic problem.
- The role of markets and Money; demand, supply, price, competition, production, financial markets.
- Economic objectives and the role of government; Economic growth, unemployment, distribution of income, fiscal & monetary policy, supply-side policies.
- International trade and the global economy; balance of trade, exchange rates, globalisation.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In GCSE Economics you will develop a logical approach to thinking and reasoning. By learning how to use economic data from a range of sources, such as tables, charts and graphs, you will acquire the skills to make informed judgements and to communicate in a clear and concise way. You will benefit from these transferrable skills in further study and employment.

Why Study Economics?

Economics is a dynamic, real-world subject, with something happening almost every hour which affects markets and the global economy. This course is both active and enjoyable. You need to be good at communicating and explaining your ideas, articulating and defending your position. You will be working with numerical, graphical and written data to analyse economic issues. You will learn how to be a creative and critical thinker and learn how to make justified decisions.

FILM STUDIES

INTRODUCED 2024

The WJEC Eduqas specification in GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on your enthusiasm for film and introduce you to a wide variety of cinematic experiences. This course is also designed to build upon your own experience of film – as consumers and creators.

eduqas Part of WJEC

Assessment

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film (35%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination
Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style (35%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination
Component 3: Production (30%) Non-Exam Assessment

Homework

Some homework will be recall of key facts and quotations, some may be research or preparation for class work.

1 x GCSE

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Levels in English Literature / Language, Law, History, Media, Film
- BTEC Nationals & Cambridge Technicals in any subject
- A range of undergraduate degrees BA / BSc / BEd / BEng / LLB (Hons)

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Film could go on to a huge range of jobs/ apprenticeships/ career paths:

- Education
- Lawyer
- Administrator
- Creative & Design
- Business
- Childcare
- Digital
- Health
- Science

Miss Ashurst

What knowledge will I learn?

The most significant developments in the history of film and film technology.
How films are organised into structures – genre (the different kinds of film) and narrative (how films tell their stories).
How you can make sense of film through exploring a film's relevant contexts (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional.
How to analyse film - the cinematography (camerawork and lighting), mise-en-scène (how sets, locations, props and costume are used in film), editing and sound.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- The ability to analyse film and film sequences.
- An understanding of narrative & genre.
- How to analyse and evaluate your own work in relation to other professionally produced work.
- How to apply knowledge and understanding of film to the production of a screenplay.

Why Study Film?

Film allows you to share and develop your enthusiasm for films and you get to show off your excitement for film and your 'film geek' credentials! It is widely acknowledged as the major art form of the last hundred years, and film is so important to many people's cultural experience, so this makes it an important medium to study – it has after all had such a significant influence on the way people think and feel.

GEOGRAPHY

AQA
Realising potential

This exciting course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. It allows students to investigate the link between the two themes and approaches and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds. Students who complete the course will have the knowledge and skills to progress onto A-level and beyond.

1 x GCSE

Miss Robinson

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Challenges in the Physical Environment (35%) 1 hour 30 Minute Written Examination.
- Component 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment (35%) 1 hour 30 Minute Written Examination.
- Component 3 – Geographical Skills (30%) 1 hour 30 Minute Written Examination.

Homework

Homework will be set weekly in a variety of forms such as online quizzes, revision worksheets and knowledge organisers.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of Geography, you could study:

- A Level Geography, Geology, Environmental Science and Architecture
- BTEC Construction and Planning
- T-level Design, Surveying and Planning
- BA (Hons) Human Geography, BSc (Hons) Physical Geography, BSc (Hons) Environmental Sustainability/Science

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Geography could go on to work as:

- Meteorologist / Weather Presenter
- GIS Specialist
- Civil Engineer
- Environmental Consultant / Sustainability
- Conservationist / Ecologist
- Civil Service; Town Planner, Social Work

! You cannot pick the same subject twice, for example, you cannot pick Geography in Option 1 and Option 3, or Sport in Option 2 and Option 3

What knowledge will I learn?

GCSE Geography students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher-income countries, newly emerging economies and lower-income countries. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students will be given two fieldwork opportunities, an urban investigation and a river investigation. Students will also be encouraged to understand their role in society by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

What Skills Will I Develop?

There are many opportunities to learn new skills such as map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

Why Study Geography?

Geography is a broad-based academic subject which will open up options for you in the future. Employers and universities see Geography as a robust academic subject, rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences, it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with, GCSE and beyond. This course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

GERMAN

The German course we offer will enable pupils to study the German language as well as developing their understanding of German culture. Pupils will learn to express their views in German on many topics that they can relate to whilst developing a passion and curiosity for the subject. The course is a valuable long-term investment in our young pupils as well as a short-term fulfilling experience as it will help them develop a skill for life.

AQA Realising potential

1 x GCSE

Mr Deberque

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Listening (25%) 35 / 45 Minute Written Examination
- Component 2 – Speaking (25%) Non-Examination Assessment
- Component 3 – Reading (25%) 45 Minute / 1 Hour Written Examination
- Component 4 Writing (25%) 1 Hour 10 Minutes/ 1 Hour 15 Minutes Written Examination

Homework

Pupils will be expected to complete a weekly quiz and learn a certain amount of words from the AQA vocabulary list relevant to their tier of entry. This will link directly to lesson content.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level language course in college
- Travel & Tourism BTEC in aviation
- Business A Level or BTEC
- Using your language skills in the army
- Apprenticeship in hospitality

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study German could go on to work as:

- (game) translator/interpreter
- Children's book writer
- Journalist/foreign correspondent
- Fashion buyer

What knowledge will I learn?

In German, you will be learning about a range of topics organised in three themes, each containing four topics:

- Theme 1 is about identity & relationships, healthy living and education & work.
- Theme 2 is about popular culture and includes my free-time, celebrity culture and festivals & customs.
- Theme 3 is about technology, travel & tourism and the environment

What Skills Will I Develop?

In German you will develop many transferable skills:

- Reading and showing understanding of texts in German
- Listening and responding to spoken language
- Communicating in written and spoken German
- Translation from and to German

Why Study German?

At Penketh, we believe that the study of a language is inclusive and that it helps our pupils develop skills and acquire knowledge that they will call on after their time at Penketh. It also helps our young people develop resilience and a passion for something new that will support them in their personal and professional lives.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Health and Social Care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK, with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. This is a vocational course that will help you develop real-world knowledge, experience, and skills.

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development (30%) Pearson Set Assignment (PSA)
- Component 2 – Health and Social Care Services and Values (30%) Pearson Set Assignment (PSA)
- Component 3 – Health and Wellbeing (40%) 2 Hour Written Exam

Homework

Homework will be given on a weekly basis including reading and assignment preparation.

What Could I Study Next?

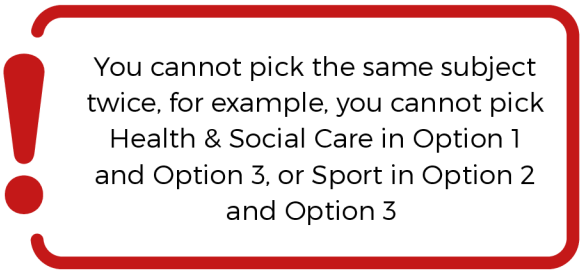
Upon completion of this Level 1/2 BTEC course, you could study:

- A Level Science, Psychology, Sociology
- T Level Health
- BTEC National Health & Social Care
- Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care, Applied Science

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Health and Social Care could go on to work as:

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Early Years Education
- Physiotherapist
- Social Worker
- Mental Health Nursing



What knowledge will I learn?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will also develop key skills relevant to the health and social care sector, such as research techniques and how to measure someone's physical health. You will develop written communication skills in your Pearson Set Assignments.

Human Lifespan and Development gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age.

In Health and Social Care Services you will investigate common services as well as those for specific needs and consider how they may work together to meet individual needs.

Health and Wellbeing explores factors that can have a positive or negative influence on an individual's health and well-being.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Health and Social Care, you will develop key skills such as interpreting data to assess someone's health, design and investigation skills. You will also develop your literacy and ICT skills through assignment writing where you will explain, compare and analyse information.

Why Study Health and Social Care?

The UK healthcare industry currently employs over 2.2 million specialists, making it a great place to begin a successful career. Studying H&SC opens the door to many opportunities to develop and progress in an ever-changing world. Most importantly, it gives you the privilege to make a difference in someone's life.

HISTORY

Our exciting History GCSE course enables pupils to make sense of past events, to consider their causes and consequences, and to examine how societies have changed over time. We offer a broad and diverse study of the History of Britain and the wider world.

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 - Thematic Study and Historic Environment (30%) 1 Hour 20 Minute Written Examination
- Component 2 - Period Study and British Depth Study (40%) 1 Hour 50 Minute Written Examination
- Component 3: Modern Depth Study (30%) 1 Hour 30 Minutes Written Examination

Homework

The primary purpose of homework is to develop knowledge and skills. For instance, by reading scholarship on key events or individuals, completing a knowledge quiz or preparing for GCSE-style practise questions.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level in History and/or other related subjects
- BA (Hons) degree in many disciplines, including History

Remember that many career paths are connected to History in some way

What Are My Career Opportunities?

History is a universal qualification which leads to a wide range of careers. Some examples are:

- Banking
- Business
- Law
- Journalism

What knowledge will I learn?

In History, you will be learning about:

- Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000-present and Whitechapel, c1870-c1900.
- A British depth study of Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
- A period study of The American West, c1835-c1895
- A modern-depth study of Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

What Skills Will I Develop?

In History, you will develop the capacity to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning that is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured. Pupils develop as independent learners, who analyse sources and think critically about contrasting interpretations.

Why Study History?

History matters in the modern world. From History, we learn who we are, we understand the present and our future, and we learn the greatest stories ever told. Pupils learn about dramatic events such as the brutal execution of the Gunpowder Plotters, the failure of the Metropolitan Police to catch Jack the Ripper, the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party and lawlessness in the American West. You will acquire the skills of analysis, interpretation and communication. These skills are highly transferable and are valued in a wide range of professions.

HOSPITALITY & CATERING

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Awards enable learners to gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the hospitality and catering industry. In addition to developing specific vocational knowledge and understanding, this qualification also supports learners to develop life skills and the essential employability skills that are valued by employers and higher education.

1 x Level 1 / Level 2 Technical Award

Mrs Blundell

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40%) 1 Hour 20 Minute Written Examination.
- Component 2 – Hospitality and Catering in Action (60%) Non-Examination Assessment.

Homework

Throughout the two years, you be expected to complete a range of homework tasks that will include dish designs, exam paper practice, research tasks and practical cooking tasks. You will be issued two pieces of home learning every 5 lessons.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- Level 2 Food Hygiene & Safety
- Culinary Skills Level 1 / Level2
- Professional Cookery Level 3
- City & Guilds Food Preparation
- BTEC Food Processing / Microbiology
- BSc (Hons) Food Technology / Analysis / Chemistry
- BSC (Hons) Degree or Diploma in Food Science or Technology

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Hospitality and Catering could go on to work as a Chef, Food Technologist, Dietician, Food Distributor, Food Blogger, Food Stylist, Event Planner, Teacher, Environmental Officer, Taste Tester, Media Specialist, Quality Manager, Technical Brewer, Food Scientist, Restaurant Manager, Supermarket Assistant/ Waiter/Waitress

You cannot pick the same subject twice, for example, you cannot pick Hospitality & Catering in Option 1 and Option 3, or Sport in Option 2 and Option 3

What knowledge will I learn?

In Hospitality and Catering, you will be learning about the health and safety aspects of food and bacteria, the operations of running a kitchen and a business, the food laws and legislation and the hierarchy system for job roles within this industry. You will then move on to learn about nutrition, special diets, food manufacturing from farm to fork and environmental issues, as well as practical skills to prepare and cook meals to a high standard.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Practical cookery skills
- Science and nutritional skills
- Business management
- Teamwork and Leadership skills
- Numeracy and problem-solving skills
- Organisation and time management

Why Study Hospitality and Catering?

Hospitality and Catering allows you to be creative, practical and hands-on, whilst gaining essential life skills. It has cross-curricular links with biology, maths and business, which are further skills acquired throughout this course.

MUSIC

Music is an exciting practical-based course that will enable you to develop your all-round skills as a versatile musician. You will enjoy and encounter a wide variety of musical styles and traditions in this course. You will enjoy this course if you are interested in songwriting, music for film and computers in music.

AQA
Realising potential

1 x GCSE

Mrs Jones

Assessment

- Component 1: Listening (40%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Exam
- Component 2: Performing (30%) Practical Exam
- Component 3: Composition (30%) Non-Examination Assessment

Homework/Extra-Curricular Commitments

- Commitment to the music department by playing your chosen instrument (including voice) by regular practice and regular lessons with a specialist tutor.
- Revise key concepts and features regularly to help prepare yourself for the listening exam.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- Music at A level/BTEC National level
- Other creative arts-related HE or FE qualification

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Music could go on to work as Professional Musician, Professional composer, Sound engineer, Teacher, Music Therapist, other creative industry career paths.

! Students picking this subject must be musically proficient instrumentally or vocally

What knowledge will I learn?

The course is divided into 3 key areas of study:

Performing - You will develop your skills as a performer throughout the course. You are expected to prepare both solo and ensemble pieces.

Listening - As part of the course, you will learn about different styles of music and be able to discuss key features of the music. Three areas of music are studied: World Music, The Western Tonal Tradition, and Popular Music.

Composing - Through the course, you will produce 2 compositions that are related to the areas of study completed in your listening work. Compositions range from song-writing, writing for you own instrument, writing for a group and using the latest ICT equipment available

What Skills Will I Develop?

Throughout your study of this course, you will develop your musicianship skills within the 3 key areas. In performance you will develop specialist skills on your instrument with the chance to perform solo or as part of an ensemble. In composition, you will develop the use of Mac computers to create your own compositions using a MIDI keyboard and your own instrument. In Listening you will develop your skills to be able to write about a wide range of music that you hear.

Why Study Music?

Music is all around us. It influences our moods and emotions and enhances our lives every day. GCSE gives you the opportunity to develop all of your skills as a musician. It allows you to learn with like-minded people who love to perform and make their own music.

PHOTOGRAPHY

AQA
Realising potential

This is a two-year practical course which allows you to explore a variety of Photography skills and techniques. The qualification requires you to produce a digital portfolio of work which creatively records your ideas, and the processes and techniques learned. You will develop independent thinking skills and take creative risks to help explore and understand the importance and purpose of visual imagery.

1 x GCSE

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments

- Component 1 - Portfolio (60%) Non-Exam Assessment
- Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (40%) 10 Hour Non-Exam Assessment.

Homework

Homework will be set regularly throughout the course. This will mostly consist of Photoshoots and preparation for lesson activity which will inform your digital photography sketchbook response. You must be sufficiently self-motivated to complete photoshoots.

Mr Billington

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Level Photography

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Art could go on to work as:

- Photographer
- Photojournalist
- Animator
- Fine art Photography
- Design Fashion Photographer
- Forensic Photographer
- Visual Merchandiser

What knowledge will I learn?

In Photography lessons, you will explore supporting studies and develop your knowledge about photographers, designers and cultures. You will be introduced to a variety of Photography skills to enable you to use a digital camera and Photoshop and experiment with your outcomes to analyse visual elements and compositions.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Photography, you will develop your knowledge and own ideas based on the project themes set. You will be given the opportunity to become confident and competent using a digital camera as well as being able to use editing skills using Photoshop to evidence your progress in sketchbook work.

Why Study Photography?

We live in an age where photographic images play a large part in all our lives. Photography will give you the opportunity to explore a medium which is both artistic and science-based. If you have a passion for Photography and can commit time to complete photoshoots outside of school hours, this subject allows you to express yourself as an individual and develop personal ideas and creative thinking skills.

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Psychologists observe and conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact. They try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us and use this knowledge to help tackle personal and social problems.

OCR
RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

1 x GCSE

Miss Cooper

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Studies and Applications of Psychology (50%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Paper
- Component 2 – Studies and Applications in Psychology (50%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Paper

Homework

A range of homework will be set to enhance and affirm the pupil's knowledge and understanding of the course content and practise and develop the skills needed to ensure success at GCSE.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A-Levels in Psychology, Sociology, Law, Politics, Theology, Philosophy, Health and Social Care, Sports Studies.
- Degrees in Psychology, Criminology, Sociology, Medicine, Sport, and Social Care.

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Psychology could go on to work in:
Education, Medicine, Sports Science, Legal Practise, Police, Criminal Justice, Forensics, Prison Service, Counselling, Therapeutic Practise, Human Resources, Youth and Community Work and Management.

These subjects are traditionally more academically challenging. We will use a range of data to ensure that this course is suitable for all students who select it.

What knowledge will I learn?

In Psychology, you will be learning about:

- Criminal Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Psychological problems (Mental Health)
- Social Influence
- Cognitive Psychology (Memory)
- Sleep and Dreaming
- Psychological Research Methods

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Psychology, you will develop your skills of: Identification, Explanation, Interpretation, Analysis, Application, Evaluation and Communication

Why Study Psychology?

To study Psychology, you must have an interest in discovering how the human mind works and the ways it influences behaviour. Studying Psychology will begin to give you answers to questions such as how we develop our personality, why people suffer from mental disorders how they can be treated and why we are more likely to obey the orders of a policeman than a milkman! All are based on evidence from scientific research, from different psychological perspectives. Psychology is an ever-developing and evolving discipline.

SOCIOLOGY

NEW FOR 2025

AQA Realising potential

GCSE Sociology provides the opportunity to take an unbiased, fresh look at the most obvious day-to-day experiences. It provides students with skills to facilitate a better understanding of our social world and to consider how it might be changed and improved. The course is ideal for pupils who have an interest in developing their existing skills of research, enquiry and analysis, with the chance to gain an in depth understanding of society and human behaviour and development including: why people act, develop and interact with others and how this affects and is effected by the society we live in and how this compares to societies of the past and where society is heading in the future.

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – The Sociology of Families and Education (50%)

1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper

- Component 2 – The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification (50%)

1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Paper

1 x GCSE

Homework

A range of homework will be set to enhance and affirm the pupil's knowledge and understanding of the course content and practise and develop the skills needed to ensure success at GCSE.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A-Levels in Sociology, Criminology, Law, Media Studies, Politics, History, Psychology, Economics and Health and Social Care.
- Degrees in Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Law, History, Politics, Business, Economics, Media and Cultural Studies and Social Care.

Miss Cooper

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Sociology could go on to work in:

- The Media, Advertising, Market Research, Human Resources, Legal Practise, Criminal Justice, Management, Health Care, Politics, Education, Public Services, Journalism, Youth and Community Work.

What knowledge will I learn?

In Sociology, you will be learning about:

- Family Life
- The role of Education
- Crime and Deviance
- Social Stratification
- Sociological Research Methods

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Sociology, you will develop skills including: Analysis, Interpretation, Application, Evaluation and Communication.

Why Study Psychology?

Studying sociology will enable pupils to develop their analytical and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, including the changing nature and structure of the family, issues of family diversity and domestic labour. The role of education in our society and reasons for differential attainment e.g. by social class, gender, ethnicity. The nature of crime and deviance in our society, the role of social control, the media influence on crime

SPORT

This is a two-year course appealing to students who enjoy combining theoretical understanding and practical application of Sport and Physical Education. It is designed to give students an awareness and understanding of fitness, practical sports, personal training and anatomy and physiology.

1 x Level 1 / Level 2 Technical Award

Mr Mullock

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 - Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (30%) Non-Examination Assessment.
- Component 2 - Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (30%) Non-Examination Assessment.
- Component 3 - Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participant's Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (40%) 1 Hour 30 Minute Written Examination.

A variety of forms of assessment are used such as presentations, PowerPoints, posters, Microsoft Word documents, sports leadership sessions and evaluations. Photographic and video evidence are also used frequently. Pupils are assessed against set criteria for each unit and take the form of a Pass, Merit or Distinction grading.

Homework

Homework is provided fortnightly to embed pupils' knowledge and understanding, and often takes the form of extended written answers to tasks and revision for unit topic tests.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A-Level Physical Education
- Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Sport
- Sport-related national governing body awards
- ·TEC T-Levels

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study BTEC Sport could go on to work as:

- Sports Scientist
- Sports Coach
- Physiotherapist
- PE teacher
- Fitness Instructor or Personal Trainer

What knowledge will I learn?

In Sport, you will be learning about a wide range of theoretical and practical elements. The course is designed into 3 units, where you will study topics that include Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport, Taking Part and Improving Others Sports Performance and Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Sports Performance.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Sport, pupils will develop a variety of skills based around sports performance and the theory of sport. Independent ICT skills are thoroughly developed as is presenting work for assessment and report writing.

Why Study Sport?

The Sport course suits pupils who are highly motivated and are willing to work both independently and within larger groups. They must have a keen interest in sport and play for at least one (preferably two) teams/clubs outside of school.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Pearson

1 x Level 1 / Level 2 Technical Award

Miss Robinson

The BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism has been designed to allow pupils to draw on knowledge and skills from all of their subjects and apply it to every day and work contexts. The qualification is an introduction to vocational learning and gives learners the opportunity to build skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely.

Assessment

To complete this course, you will undertake the following assessments:

- Component 1 – Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations (30%) Non-Examination Assessment
- Component 2 – Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism (30%) Non-Examination Assessment
- Component 3 – Influences on Global Travel and Tourism (40%) 2 Hour Written Examination

Homework

Homework will be based around securing knowledge from each lesson by completing weekly quizzes and interim knowledge assessments.

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A Levels
- BTEC Level 3 National in Travel and Tourism

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Travel and Tourism could go on to work as tour operators, travel agents and guides, in the air travel industry, in ground-level aviation and in overseas tourism industries.

You cannot pick the same subject twice, for example, you cannot pick Travel & Tourism in Option 1 and Option 3, or Sport in Option 2 and Option 3

What knowledge will I learn?

In Travel and Tourism component one, you will be learning about different organisations which make up the travel and tourism sector, and the ways in which they work together. I will learn about travel and tourism destinations, and how specific features attract different types of visitors. In component two I will learn about the factors influencing tourism, the impact of tourism on destinations and destination management to travel and tourism contexts. Finally, in component three I will learn about customer trends customer needs and requirements, and how to meet these through the knowledge acquired in components one and two.

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Travel and Tourism, you will develop a range of skills based on vocational learning, from analysing the needs of customers to evaluating the facilities provided by a destination. Internal assessment also demands that students present their findings through verbal as well as written presentations.

Why Study Travel and Tourism?

The travel and tourism sector is the UK's third largest employer, with tourism being one of the fastest-growing sectors, employing nearly 3 million people.

TRIPLE SCIENCE

AQA
Realising potential

This course recognises the impact of Science in everyday life, helping learners to make informed decisions about current scientific issues. The course covers key ideas in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in greater depth than in Combined Science GCSE.

Assessment

There are six written exams each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. There are two papers for each specialism – biology, chemistry and physics – each accounting for 16.7% of the overall mark. Though the difficulty of triple science is no more advanced than that of higher tier combined science, so please do not be put off by that if you love science!

3 x GCSEs

Homework

Homework will be set weekly to provide retrieval practice and exam practice questions. This will be set through Tassomai, which is an online app of multiple-choice questions and Teams which will include video playlists and practice exam questions.

Mrs Lewin

What Could I Study Next?

Upon completion of this course, you could study:

- A-Levels in Biology/Chemistry/Physics
- BTEC Applied Science / Engineering
- BTEC Health & Social Care

What Are My Career Opportunities?

Pupils who study Science could go on to work in a wide range of professions including:

- Medicine/Nursing/Vet/Paramedic
- Pharmacy/Environmental Scientist
- Engineering/Electrician/Technician
- Teaching/Researcher/Forensics

These subjects are traditionally more academically challenging. We will use a range of data to ensure that this course is suitable for all students who select it.

What knowledge will I learn?

In addition to the topics covered within the combined science course, you will also study:
Biology: Culturing microorganisms, plant diseases, the brain, eye and kidney, DNA structure, Cloning, Evolution, Speciation, Human impact on environmental resources
Chemistry: Transition metals, Titrations, Fuel Cells, Further Organic Chemistry, Reactions of metal and non-metal ions, The Haber Process
Physics: Pressure laws, Electrostatics, Nuclear Power, Further mechanics, Electricity generation and Space

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Science, you will develop your scientific thinking, experimental skills and strategies as well as analytical and evaluative skills. There are additional practical investigations compared to Combined Science. We use contemporary and relevant contexts which are taught through a range of theoretical and practical-based learning activities.

Why Study Triple Science?

Science is a fundamental course which enables students to explain how everything in their day-to-day lives works. The triple science course allows students who enjoy science to extend their knowledge further by studying topics such as Space which are not covered within the Combined Science course. For those wanting to pursue a career in a scientific field, Triple Science is favoured as it demonstrates a more in-depth knowledge of scientific concepts.

Perseverance