



TEIGN SCHOOL



Key Stage 4 GCSE Options Information Booklet 2026



Welcome to Key Stage 4 GCSE Options

Dear Parent/carers,

At Teign School we want all our students to succeed and have pride through their success. We therefore run a two-year GCSE curriculum and offer a wide range of courses for students to study through years 10 and 11.

The year 9 options process, which starts in January 2026, is designed to help our students to choose the courses that will meet their current needs, passions and interests but that will also help them in their future lives and ambitions. The information in this booklet is intended to help you and your child to talk about these choices. We recommend that you both read it and then talk about the decisions that they will be making.

Your child will continue to study a curriculum that is made up of:

Students will then pick a further four options to study alongside those above

- English Literature and English Language
- Mathematics
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- PSHE (not examined)
- Non-examination Physical Education (2 hours per week)

Students will then pick a further four options subjects, to study alongside those above, to give them a broad and rich curriculum to study throughout KS4. Further information and guidance regarding the options subjects will be available at our parents' evening as well as individual student and parents' meetings at your request.

In January, GCSE option subjects will deliver informative assemblies, providing valuable information and context to each of those subjects, ensuring students are knowledgeable in what each of these subject involve, both from a curriculum and assessment point of view.

Following the Year 9 Parents Information Evening on Thursday 22nd January, parents will be sent a Microsoft Form to complete, via email, to select the GCSE Options your child would like to study. We send this to parents rather than students as we strongly recommend you sit together to make this important decisions.

Ensuring that children develop a love of learning is a central part of our ethos at Teign School. We know that if children are enthused by their lessons, this in turn will lead to greater attainment and achievement. Choosing the right subjects to study is an important part of this process.

Yours sincerely,

Lucie Wagner
Headteacher

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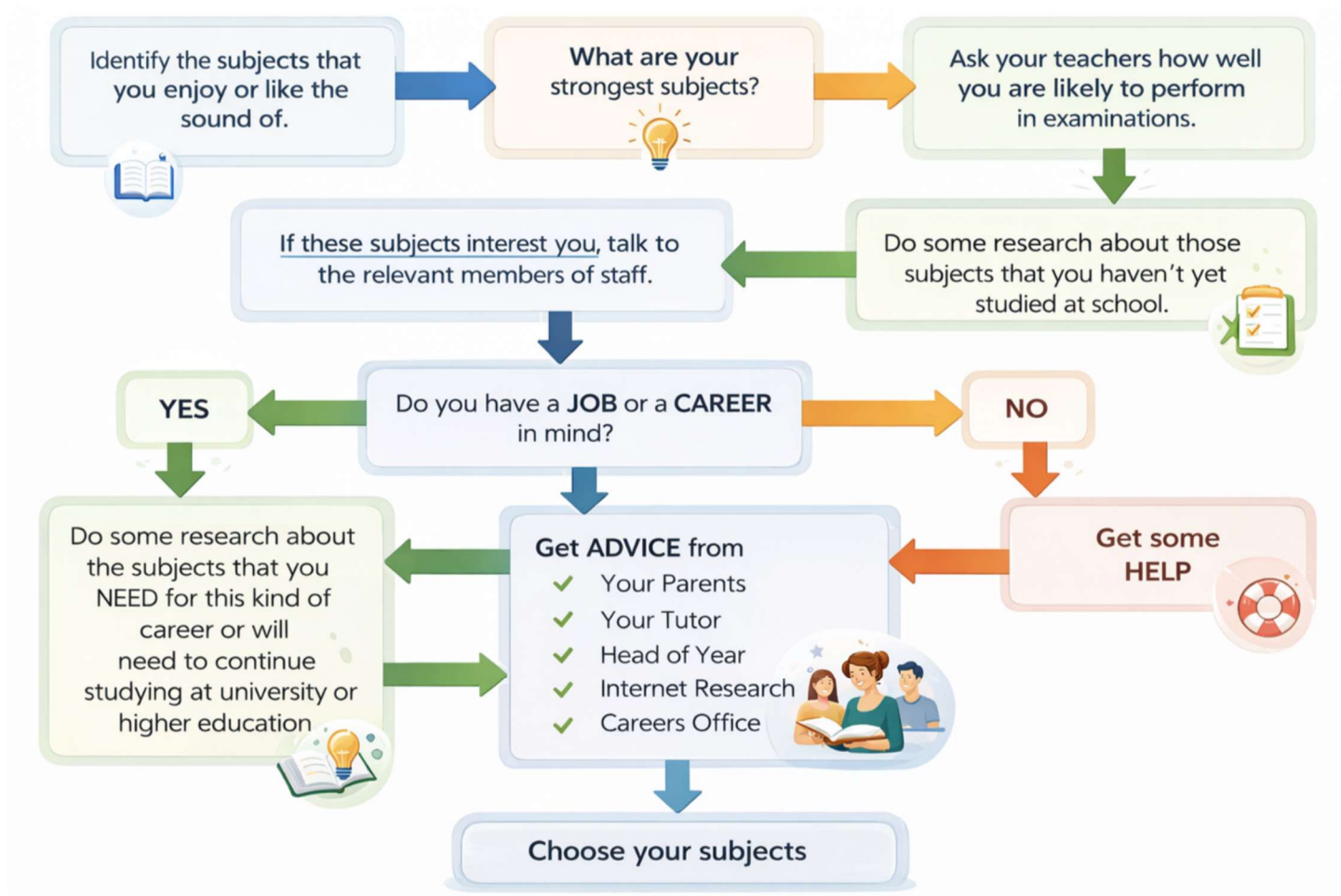
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How do I choose?

Your aim is to choose subjects that:

- Interest you and you love learning about
- You can do well at, through your current experience and passion to achieve
- Will support your plans for your future ambitions and career pathways



Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

The National Careers Service website is a resource with information on over 750 jobs. It is designed to help you make choices and study the right subjects.

www.icould.com

- Take the Buzz Quiz to get some ideas
- Read the article "Choosing your GCSE Options"
- Watch "How choices at 14 can affect your future" and "Tactics for making decisions"

www.careerpilot.org.uk

Help and support for young people in the South West about their choices at 14, 16 and 18.

Questions and Answers

How should I choose?

- Think carefully about your strengths and skills, what you really enjoy and any future ambitions you may have.
- Choose a subject because you enjoy it, not because your best friend does.
- Choose a subject for the subject, not because of the teacher you have; you may not have the same teacher next year.

What is meant by a 'good balance' of subjects?

- A good balance means that you have a range of different types of subject to show for your education.
- Your option choices will provide you with the additions needed for certain career paths such as the Arts or Technology or to simply add breadth to your core curriculum.
- Most students at Teign study a modern foreign language. Studying languages has many benefits. It will support your understanding of grammar and make you stand out to potential employers.

Will I definitely get the subjects I ask for?

- We will try to arrange things so that you can study your first-choice options. We will give you advice and guidance to ensure that you are studying subjects that will help you towards your future career goals.
- Getting your first choice may not always be possible due to the popularity of some subjects and staffing constraints. In these cases, those students who have shown the best attitude to learning within those subject areas will be prioritised.

Who can help me?

- Your parents, teachers, tutor and careers advisor, Mrs Gaston, will be able to help and guide you through the process.
- If you are unsure during the process, just ask your tutor

Thinking ahead to The Sixth Form

When you sit down to pick your GCSE options, think very carefully about the choices you make. Think about the things that matter to you – the subjects you enjoy, the options you've always wanted to choose, or simply the lessons that you can see yourself achieving highly in over the next two years. Get as many opinions as you can. Speak to the subject staff in detail about what you are thinking. Speak to other students who have chosen those subjects before you. Speak to friends and family about their experiences in these areas. Then take all of that and make the decision that is best for you and what you would like for your future.

Consider also what these choices will mean for your future beyond the next two years. Consider the opportunities and pathways it could open up for you in terms of further or higher education, because after you have made those choices and successfully completed Year 11, you have another big decision to make about what you do next.

For your Post 16 education we hope that you choose to stay at Teign and continue on to become a Sixth Form student here with us. The Sixth Form is a vibrant, committed and inclusive community within the school you already know well. We offer an extremely rich, diverse and varied programme of study where we aim to meet the needs of every one of our students.

If you choose to stay here you will be part of a Sixth form that values its students and that helps them to fulfil their potential and achieve highly. Whether preparing you for University, further education or the wider world of work, we do everything we can to help you achieve the goals that you set for yourself.

Should you feel the need to discuss future opportunities with us at any time, please contact the Sixth Form Team Co-ordinator, Liana Gaston, on 01626 882825 or email Liana.Gaston@educationsouthwest.org.uk We look forward to seeing you in a few years' time, fresh from your GCSE success, to continue your education here at Teign Sixth Form. good luck with your options, we wish you the best of success.



GCSE Art and Design – Fine Art

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 8202

Why choose this course?

GCSE Fine Art is a vibrant and dynamic course, this specification will give you the freedom to explore and develop within Art and Design in ways that inspire and bring out the best in yourself, whilst equipping you with the skills to continue the subject with confidence at A-level and beyond.



What will I study?

Fine art practice is defined here as the need to explore an idea, convey an experience or respond to a theme or issue of personal significance.

You will select and present a photographic portfolio representative of your course of study. Your portfolio must include both:

1. **A sustained project** developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief. Your extended creative response to this will show your ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and understanding from across your course of study.
2. **A selection of further work** resulting from activities such as experiments; skills-based workshops; mini and/or foundation projects; responses to gallery, museum or site visits; independent study and group work.

Your portfolio could include: mounted photographic imagery, sketchbooks, visual diaries, journals, presentation sheets, design proposals, installations or 3D models.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment in Art is based around 4 assessment objectives. These are Developing Ideas through investigations, Refine Ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate media, Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, and Presenting a personal and meaningful response.

As well as producing a portfolio, 40% of your final grade comes from an externally set assignment.

What can I use the qualification for?

This subject is a good preparation for our A-level Fine Art, Photography and Digital Illustration courses.

It is also a good route through to Art College where you can follow a foundation course or direct entry to a degree after A Level. This sort of qualification would be useful in the Creative industries of Architecture, Graphic Design, Digital Media, Animation, Fashion, Textiles and Industrial and Product Design

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mrs R Kelly

GCSE Art and Design - Photography

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 8206

Why choose this course?

GCSE Photography is a vibrant and dynamic course that will give you the freedom to explore and develop within Photography in ways that inspire and bring out the best in yourself. The course will also equip you with the skills to continue the subject at A-level and beyond.



What will I study?

Photography is defined here as the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images.

You will select and present a photographic portfolio representative of your course of study. Your portfolio must include both:

1. **A sustained project** developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief. Your extended creative response to this will show your ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and understanding from across your course of study.
2. **A selection of further work** resulting from activities such experiments; skills-based workshops; mini and/or foundation projects; responses to gallery, museum or site visits; independent study and group work.

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How will I be assessed?

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As well as producing a portfolio, 40% of your final grade comes from an externally set assignment.

What can I use the qualification for?

This subject will prepare you well for our A-level Photography course.

It also provides a good route through to Art College where you could follow a foundation course or direct entry to a degree after A Level. This sort of qualification would be useful in the Creative Industries of Graphic Design, Fashion, Digital Media, Film, Animation and Photo –Journalism.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mrs R Kelly

GCSE Citizenship Studies

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 8100

Why choose this course?

If you want to gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society, then this is the course for you! You will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate arguments, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.



What will I study?

GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable you to become a thoughtful, active citizen. It investigates how the citizen is enabled by society to play a full and active part and how citizens are empowered to effect change within society. The overarching theme of this course is 'How citizens can try to make a difference'. The first theme, **Life in modern Britain**, looks at the make-up and dynamics of contemporary society; what it means to be British. The second theme, **Rights and responsibilities**, looks at the nature of laws, rights and responsibilities within the UK. The third theme, **Politics and participation**, aims to give the student, through an understanding of the political process, the knowledge and skills necessary to understand how to resolve issues, bring about change, and understand how the empowered citizen is at the heart of our society.

How will I be assessed?

2 written exams (1h 45 mins each):

Paper 1 – Active Citizenship and Politics and Participation – 50%

Paper 2 – Life in modern Britain and Rights and Responsibilities – 50%

(Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, source-based questions, extended answers)

What can I use the qualification for?

This course will prepare you for a great number of career areas as it develops many sought-after skills. Specific career paths may include education, law, politics, the civil service and social research.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Ms Roberts, Miss Lines or Mrs Evans

GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 8525

Why choose this course?

Who doesn't have a mobile phone or use the internet? We live in a digitised, computerised, programmable world, and to make sense of it, we need computing. Computing has an immense impact on modern life. We are all exposed to the internet and digital devices and many of us use these on a daily basis.



What will I study?

Computing is the study of how computers and computer systems work and how they are constructed and programmed. It links well with many other subjects including Technology, Maths, Design and Science.

Computing students learn logical reasoning, algorithmic thinking, design and structured problem solving, all valuable and transferrable skills.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by 2 examinations at the end of Year 11.

Examination 1: Problem Solving (50%)

A written exam assessing problem solving skills.

Examination 2: Computer Systems, Networks and Security (50%)

A written paper assessing the theoretical knowledge of Computer Systems.

What can I use the qualification for?

This GCSE is the first step into a huge range of amazing careers including Game Development, Programmer, Cyber Security Expert, Mi6 Agent, Forensic Scientist, Teacher, Web Designer, RAF Pilot to include just a few. There has never been a better time to get into Computing as the potential for gaining an excellent job that is very well paid has never been greater. Alongside the course, vital IT skills are also taught in which will prepare you for your future employment.

This course provides a route to study BTEC Computing at Teign 6th Form which can lead to a wide choice of university courses aimed at the careers listed above.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Mason

GCSE Design & Technology

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: Design and Technology (8552)

Why choose this course?

Design & Technology is a part of our lives at every moment of the day, from the houses we live in, to the clothes we wear and the transport we take. The new Design and Technology GCSE qualification is modern and relevant. You will learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as world renowned designers.

The GCSE places emphasis on understanding and applying the iterative design processes. You will use your creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real world, relevant problems. You will learn how to consider the needs, wants and values of your target customers.



What will I study?

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy storage and generation
- Materials and their working properties
- Modern and smart materials
- Systems approach to designing
- Mechanical devices
- The work of well-known designers and movements
- Environmental and social issues
- The principles of design and manufacturing

You will develop your workshop skills and learn how to use a variety of materials and tools. This includes how to use CAD/CAM (laser cutter, 3D printer) to design and prototype ideas.

How will I be assessed?

50% - Non-exam Assessment (practical controlled assessment of 40 hours starting in June of year 10 and continuing until March of year 11)

50% - 2 Hour Written Exam covering technical knowledge.

What can I use the qualification for?

This GCSE course could lead into further study to AS/A2 level Design & Technology Product Design followed by an Art & Design Foundation course (an intensive 1 year course studying all fields of art & design) and a BA Hons Degree (generally 3 years)

Possible Careers: Architecture, Product Designer, Interior designer, Graphic Designer, Theatre Designer, Engineering Maintenance, Technology Technician, Engineering, 3D Designer, Film-set and prop design, Fashion & textiles, Illustration, Jewellery, Ceramics.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Mason, Miss Barnett, Miss Shepherd

GCSE Drama

Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas

Specification: GCSE DRAMA(9-1)

Why choose this course?

Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course that will give you experience of being a performer and a designer. You will attend live theatre performances and understand them as informed and thoughtful members of the audience.

You will also get to enjoy being taught by Mr and Mrs Churchill who are drama specialists with many years of experience between them.



What will I study?

The drama course is structured around three components. These are:

Devising theatre: You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre in response to a stimulus. You will make a portfolio of supporting evidence and will evaluate the final performance or design.

Performing from a text you will study and performing extracts from a play.

Interpreting theatre: You will choose and study a text as a performer, designer and director. You will also learn how to analyse and evaluate live theatre.

As well as developing your acting and design skills, you will do research, work in groups, manage your time effectively, reflect on and evaluate your work and analyse live performances. These are all useful skills for life. Drama is not an easy GCSE but it is extremely rewarding and you can expect to gain confidence as well as improving your communication skills.

How will I be assessed?

Devising theatre is worth 40% of the final grade. You will be assessed on performance, portfolio and evaluation

Performing from a text is worth 20% of the final grade. You will be assessed on acting or design by an external assessor.

Interpreting theatre is worth 40% of the final grade. This is assessed through a 90 minute written examination.

What can I use the qualification for?

GCSE drama will let you access A level Drama and other performance based courses at sixth form. These can lead to a variety of careers not only as performers but within the wider industry including roles such as backstage work, designers, front of house and management. GCSE Drama is also looked on favourably by industries that require good communication skills, public speaking and teamwork.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mrs Churchill or Mr Churchill

GCSE English Language

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 8700

Why choose this course?

English Language is a core GCSE subject, and as such is compulsory for all students. It is a compulsory course for good reason, however: it is through the study of English Language at this level that you learn in more detail how to understand and use language adeptly, thoughtfully and effectively.



What will I study?

English Language at GCSE is broadly divided into two elements: reading and writing. We study both of these through a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts from across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. You will develop your critical and evaluative abilities, by developing greater understanding of how writers seek to influence their readers through the choices they make when crafting texts, and will learn to read in more nuanced and informed ways. In writing, you will practise 'the basics' of accurate writing, as well as how to write with different intentions and audiences in mind. This is the study of how language works – how we communicate effectively, and how others communicate with us through writing and speech.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed through two exams in the Summer Term of Year 11. Both papers are 1hr 45mins. **Paper 1** relates to the reading and writing of fiction, and **Paper 2** focuses on non-fiction. Everyone takes the same exam papers in English: there is no Higher/Foundation tier.

There is also a non-exam assessment of Spoken Language and Listening skills in Years 10-11, which is part of this English Language course, but is marked separately from the GCSE grade. For Spoken Language, students receive a grade of Pass, Merit or Distinction.

What can I use the qualification for?

Both basic and more advanced reading and writing skills are critical to so much of life in the 21st century. Whether you want to be an astronaut or an accountant, a builder or a banker, a computer scientist or a carpenter (we won't carry on through the alphabet, but you get the point!), the ability to understand and use English in all its forms is critical. There are many careers – both obvious and less obvious – that depend on the ability to read and communicate. But most importantly, your ability to read, write, speak and listen intelligently to others informs your relationships, your confidence and your ability to interact with the world. More than anything else, you will use this qualification for living!

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Miss Moses or Miss Keiller

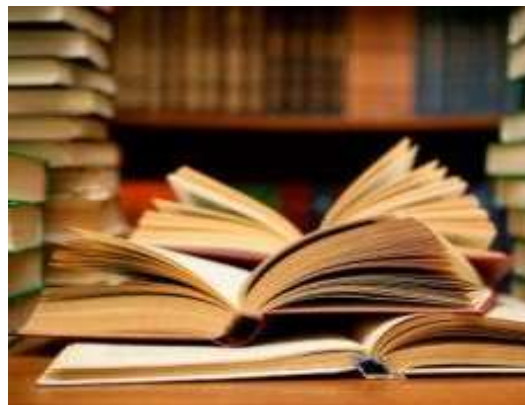
GCSE English Literature

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 8702

Why choose this course?

English Literature is a core GCSE subject, and as such is compulsory for all students. However, even if it weren't compulsory, we would very much hope that you would choose it! English Literature is the study of texts that have stood the test of time: certain novels, plays and poems seem to speak to audiences across decades and centuries, because of the skilful – and often beautiful – way they explore universal themes that we all have in common. This subject is your chance to be a part of some of humanity's great conversations.



What will I study?

The texts we currently study are 'A Christmas Carol' (19th century novel), 'An Inspector Calls' (20th century play), 'Macbeth' (Shakespeare) and a collection of 15 poems with the themes of Power and Conflict. With passionate, knowledgeable and subject-specialist teachers, you will read these texts and delve more deeply into both the details of the writers' craft (building on work you have done in Years 7-9) and the wider themes and 'big ideas' the writers explore. In some way, all of literature examines what it means to be human, and it is this question that we return to, from different angles, throughout the course. You will also develop and practise your essay writing; that is, your ability to think about complex ideas in a structured, well organised, clearly expressed and formal way.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed through two exams in the Summer Term of Year 11. Everyone takes the same exam papers in English: there is no Higher/Foundation tier. **Paper 1** includes 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Macbeth'. **Paper 2** assesses your knowledge of 'An Inspector Calls', the Power and Conflict poetry, and also has a section on Unseen Poetry, which allows you the freedom to read and explore a poem using your own knowledge and analytical skills within the exam.

What can I use the qualification for?

Studying Literature makes you more aware of the world and people around you, and broadens your knowledge of the complexity of humanity. As a result, students of Literature are often able to become more empathetic towards others, and have a greater understanding of the societies we live within. The wide knowledge, attention to detail and analytical skills developed through the study of Literature are in high demand in a wide range of careers: this is a truly 'facilitating subject' in that it opens doors both in your mind and in your world.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Miss Moses or Miss Keiller

GCSE French

Examination Board: AQA
Specification: 8652

Why choose this course?

Not only that but studying another language supports your understanding of English, promotes empathy and tolerance and is a skill that will make you stand out in the current economic climate.



What will I study?

Although the aim of a GCSE is not to make you a fluent speaker of the language, (or else there wouldn't be a need for A levels or a university degree,) the aim is for you to both be able to understand and produce language around some topics that many young people find interesting and relate to their everyday lives. These topics are:

People & Lifestyle	Popular Culture	Communication & the World around us
Identity & relationships with others, Healthy living and lifestyle, Education & work,	Free time activities, Customs, festivals & celebrations, Celebrity culture,	Travel & tourism, Media & technology, The environment & where people live,

How will I be assessed?

French is assessed using exams at the end of year 11, students are entered either for foundation or higher depending on their ability, attitude and aspirations. There are four exams, the speaking exam happens about a month before the main exam season, the reading and listening exams normally happen on the same day as each other and the writing exam is normally on a separate date.

What can I use the qualification for?

A foreign language can obviously pave the way to further study of the language but can also directly support subjects like international relations, TEFL, linguistics, speech therapy, education or translation and interpretation. But it also indirectly supports ALL subjects and ALL career pathways: no matter what your aspirations are, a language will help. Language learners will have also shown themselves to be resilient, caring, adaptable, broad minded, self-motivated, team players and committed to self-improvement- all of which make them very attractive to employers or higher education providers.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Any languages teacher.

Geography GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

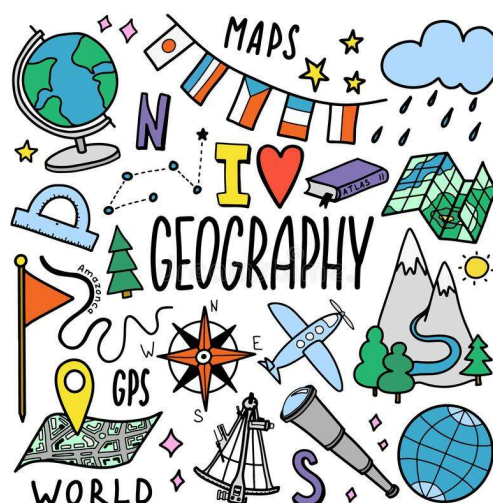
Specification: 8035 Geography

Why choose this course?

"Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?"

~ Michael Palin.

Understanding of the interdependence of Earth's human and physical systems is important for young people who are going to be future decision-makers in the world. There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. **Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you.**



What will I study?

Living with the physical environment

- The challenge of natural hazards (*Tectonic & climatic hazards, UK extreme weather, climate change*)
- The living world (*Ecosystems, rainforests & hot deserts*)
- Physical landscapes in the UK (*Rivers & Coasts*)

Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges (*Rio de Janeiro, Bristol & sustainable living*)
- The changing economic world (*The development gap, Nigeria & changing UK economy*)
- The challenge of resource management (*Food, water and energy in the UK & global resource management: Food*)

Geographical applications

- Issues evaluation
- Fieldwork technique
- Geographical skills

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment - 1hr 30 min Examination - 35% of GCSE
- Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment - 1hr 30 min Examination - 35% of GCSE
- Paper 3: Geographical applications - 1hr 15 min Examination - 30% of GCSE

What can I use the qualification for?

Mapping out a career as a geographer could be a wise decision. Geographers enjoy diverse job choices, ranging from disaster planning for government agencies to helping businesses be profitable. What's more, the field offers a substantial earnings potential.

The latest employment statistics from the Destination for Leavers in Higher Education survey show that geographers are among the most employable university graduates, with just five per cent unemployed and looking for work six months after graduation

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mrs de Klein, Mrs Diamond, Miss Wingfield

GCSE History

Examination Board: OCR

Specification: SHP B

Why choose this course?

The History GCSE has been designed to build on your KS3 studies and give you a broad and varied insight into the events that have made the world the way that it is today.



What will I study?

Crime and Punishment

You will explore the impact of big changes over time, covering a range of topics from witchcraft to whipping posts; from capital punishment to Jack the Ripper. Other issues will be investigated too: What role did the church play in punishment? Why were things so different for the rich and the poor? And how did we end up with the justice system we have today?

The Norman Conquest, 1065 - 1087

This unit investigates the Norman Conquest, focusing on how William established control over his new kingdom, crushing uprisings by starving his enemies in the North and publicly blinding them in Exeter, as well as building castles across the land.

History Around Us – The Tower of London

This aspect of the course is a site study. You will investigate how the Tower of London has changed and developed over time. This unit links with the Crime and Punishment and Norman Conquest units. And yes, you get to visit the Tower – one of the UK's most amazing historical sites.

Living under Nazi Rule, 1933 - 1945

You will investigate how Hitler established his dictatorship and why the policies of the Nazi Party appealed to so many people. You will study the key role of the S.S. and Gestapo in controlling Germany. You will discover how propaganda was used to brainwash people and understand why thousands of children flocked to join the Hitler Youth.

The Making of America, 1789 - 1900

You will discover how a new society was born in this ancient land and the tensions that have arisen as the result of its rapid rise; from the negotiations with Native Americans, through the horrors of slavery, to the bloody battles of the Civil War.

How will I be assessed?

There are three exams:

1. Crime and Punishment and The Norman Conquest
2. History Around Us (The Tower of London)
3. Making of America and Living Under Nazi Rule.

The five units each make up 20% of your grade.

What can I use the qualification for?

History is a well-respected qualification that develops transferable skills. For example, critical thinking and communicating ideas effectively, are skills that are highly valued by employers. As a result, qualifications in history can be a springboard to a wide range of careers, with opportunities in, amongst others, journalism, law and education.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Lea

Hospitality and Catering Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas

Specification: 5409

Why choose this course?

Ever wondered what it takes to work in a top hotel or restaurant? Does food and discovering new flavours in the kitchen inspire you? Maybe you're interested in developing the skills you need to work front of house? If so, this course may appeal to you.



What will I study?

This qualification is made up of 2 units:

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering industry

You will:

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

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action

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

How will I be assessed?

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

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

What can I use the qualification for?

Careers with hospitality and catering

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

- Chef de partie
- Commis chef
- Concierge
- Executive chef
- Front of house manager
- Head waiter
- Housekeeper
- Receptionist
- Sous chef

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Wagner

Land Based Studies

Examination Board: City and Guilds

Specification: Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Studies

Why choose this course?

If you are interested in a career in the great outdoors, working with animals, or finding out about food production and conservation, this is the course for you



What will I study?

You will explore how historical land use and management has changed from a having an emphasis on food production to having an emphasis on sustainability, environmental management and public access.

You will find out how science plays a major role in the modern land-based sector by investigating different parts of the industry such as the roles of technology, crops and animals. You will also learn about the importance of biosecurity.

The course will be delivered in a practical way that makes full use of the fantastic resources around us. These include: the school farm, local organisations, businesses and our amazing countryside. You will develop practical skills and knowledge associated with the land-based sector such as animal husbandry and estate management.

How will I be assessed?

60% of the course is assessed through assignments. For example, you might investigate an area of land and explain how it might be managed with regard to a range of different objectives. You would then make recommendations as to how the land might be developed and improved.

The remaining 40% of the course is assessed in an external exam. This will cover the full content of the qualification and contain a variety of question types.

The final grades for this qualification range from Distinction* to Pass.

What can I use the qualification for?

Students who take Land Based Studies can access related courses or apprenticeships at colleges such as Bicton, South Devon and Duchy College.

It particularly supports students with an interest in following careers in animal care, agriculture, conservation arboriculture, equine studies or horticulture.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Sims

GCSE Mathematics

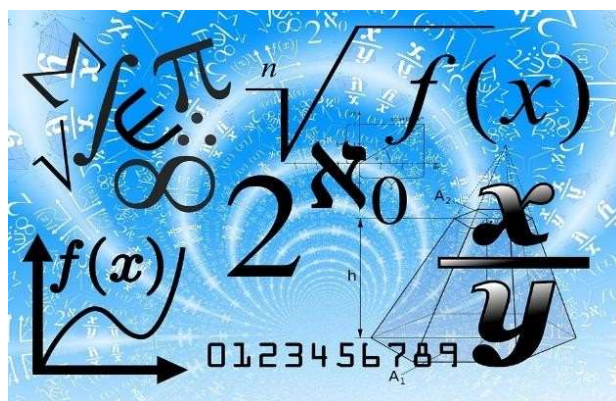
Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: Level/level 2 GCSE (9-1)

Why choose this course?

GCSE Mathematics is an interesting and challenging course that will develop your ability to use maths to solve problems and think analytically. These are vital life skills that you will use in all walks of life. Having a good maths qualification will give you choice and flexibility in your future career.

GCSE Mathematics is part of the national curriculum for all students and is not optional



What will I study?

The course is divided into the following topic areas: Number (15-25%), Algebra (20-30%), Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change (20-25%), Geometry and Measures (15-20%), Statistics and Probability (15%).

During the course you will learn a variety of principles and techniques which you will apply in different contexts.

You will develop your analytical skills by drawing conclusions from mathematical information and assessing the validity of a mathematical argument.

You will develop your communication skills by showing your workings and explaining your thinking.

How will I be assessed?

There are three, 1 hour 30 minutes, written examination papers at either Foundation or Higher tier. Paper 1 is non-calculator. Papers 2 and 3 require the use of a calculator.

What can I use the qualification for?

Mathematics is an important qualification that provides access to a wide variety of careers and further or higher education courses. A strong mathematics GCSE can be a pathway for studying a number of areas such as Mathematics, Sciences, Psychology, Economics, Accountancy, Engineering or Computer Science (the list could go on!)

GCSE Mathematics also provides skills that are useful in a number of vocational courses and careers.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Weedon or Mrs Williams

BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

Examination Board: Pearson BTEC

Specification: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice (603/7055/5)



Why choose this course?

Studying music at BTEC will give you the opportunity to:

- **Gain self-confidence** through performing to others.
- Develop **team-working skills** through performing with others.
- Develop non-verbal communication skills.
- Extend your **creative skills** through composing music.
- **Understand** the importance of **continuous evaluation and refinement** in any process.

This course is 100% Coursework – No exams.

“Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can”

What will I study?

This is a vocational music course based around 3 Components of Study. It is a hands-on course that will give you an insight into what it is like to work in the Music sector whether in composing, performing, or producing music.

You will have the opportunity to explore music in a practical setting and to develop understanding of the techniques used to create and realise music. You will explore a variety of musical styles and the musical theory and techniques that underpin them and develop technical and practical skills through workshops and classes.

In addition, you will develop transferable and employability skills such as responding to a brief, self-development, planning, time management and communication.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 (Internally Assessed 30%) – Exploring Music Products and Styles

You will create a **research portfolio** to show your understanding of at least 4 musical styles (3 popular music styles, 1 film, 1 other). You will also create 3 music products of 30-60 seconds in length with supporting commentary.

Component 2 (Internally Assessed 30%) – Music Skills Development

You will develop **two musical skills** either as performance, creating original music or music production. You will need to show your stylistic intentions, development processes for music skills and techniques showing how your skills have evolved by documenting progress and planning for further improvement

Component 3 (Externally Assessed 40%) - Responding to a Music Brief

Your task will be to develop and present music in response to a given brief set by the board. You will produce a cover version of a song but in a different style. You will follow **one** of the pathways: Creating and Performing or Creating and Producing (DAW)

What can I use the qualification for?

This course can prepare you for a career in the performing arts or the Music Industry. After completing the course, you can continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mrs Epps

GCSE Religious Studies

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: A (8062)

Why choose this course?

Do you have or want to develop an enquiring mind, an understanding and appreciation of others' points of view and an ability to come to clear informed decisions based on evidence. These are all useful life skills you will learn and develop in Religious Studies!



What will I study?

You will engage in studying a range of ethical issues, including areas such as

- *Matters of Life* (topics studied include the issues of abortion and euthanasia);
- *Relationships* (including religious attitudes to the use of contraception, sexuality and marriage);
- *Crime and Punishment* (which covers arguments for and against the death penalty) and
- *Peace and Conflict* (including whether religion is a cause of war).

The aim of the course is to ensure that you are able to evaluate ethical issues and use reasoned arguments to express your own views, whilst comparing them with the beliefs of others. You will focus on the religions of Christianity and Buddhism, including the key beliefs and practices of each religion.

How will I be assessed?

2 written exams (1h 45 mins each):

Paper 1 – Religious beliefs and practices (Christianity & Buddhism) – 50%

Paper 2 – Thematic studies – 50%

What can I use the qualification for?

RS is seen as a useful preparation for many university courses including Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Politics, English and History. Russell Group universities rate Religious Studies as the second highest 'facilitating subject' (informed choices webpage), this means RS has many transferable skills that can be used at degree level.

A qualification in RS could lead to careers in Journalism, Broadcasting, Publishing, Teaching, Law, Human Resources Management. It is a great basis for many other careers where you will be dealing with people, such as Nursing, Medicine, the Police and other public/civil servant jobs.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Ms Roberts, Mrs Evans or Miss Lines

GCSE Spanish

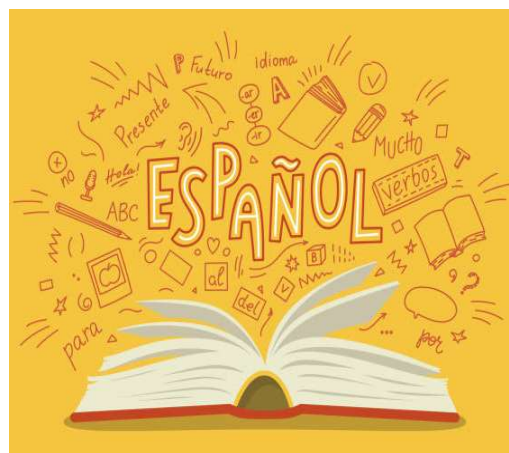
Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 8692

Why choose this course?

A GCSE in Spanish will help you with future studies, future travel and future career options. It is one of the first formal steps on the road to being able to live, study, work and travel around the world. Spanish is an officially recognised language in 20 countries globally and is the fourth most spoken language in the world.

Not only that but studying another language supports your understanding of English, promotes empathy and tolerance and is a skill that will make you stand out in the current economic climate.



What will I study?

Although the aim of a GCSE is not to make you a fluent speaker of the language, (or else there wouldn't be a need for A levels or a university degree,) the aim is for you to both be able to understand and produce language around some topics that many young people find interesting and relate to their everyday lives. These topics are:

People & Lifestyle	Popular Culture	Communication & the World around us
Identity & relationships with others, Healthy living and lifestyle, Education & work,	Free time activities, Customs, festivals & celebrations, Celebrity culture,	Travel & tourism, Media & technology, The environment & where people live,

How will I be assessed?

Spanish is assessed using exams at the end of year 11, students are entered either for foundation or higher depending on their ability, attitude and aspirations. There are four exams, the speaking exam happens about a month before the main exam season, the reading and listening exams normally happen on the same day as each other and the writing exam is normally on a separate date.

What can I use the qualification for?

A foreign language can obviously pave the way to further study of the language but can also directly support subjects like international relations, TEFL, linguistics, speech therapy, education or translation and interpretation. But it also indirectly supports ALL subjects and ALL career pathways: no matter what your aspirations are, a language will help.

Language learners will have also shown themselves to be resilient, caring, adaptable, broad minded, self-motivated, team players and committed to self-improvement- all of which make them very attractive to employers or higher education providers.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Any languages teacher

Cambridge National in Sport Science

Examination Board: OCR

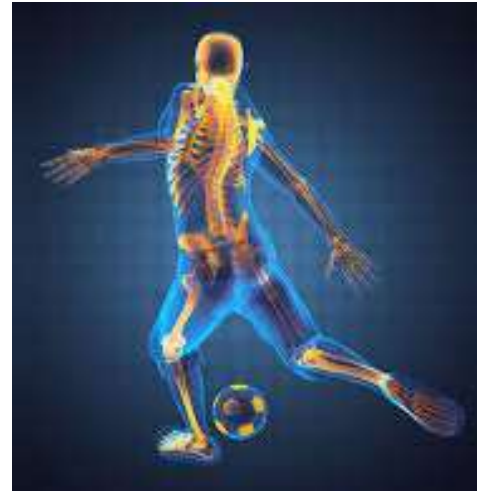
Specification: J828

Why choose this course?

Are you?

- Interested in how the human body works to allow you to perform in sport?
- More successful when assessed through assignments?
- Interested in sports science?
- Possibly considering a career in the sports industry or a biological or medical field?

If you want to develop skills that are relevant to the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector then this is a great course for you.



What will I study?

In this qualification you *must* complete three units:

1) Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions

This is assessed by an exam. You will learn how to minimise the risk of injuries and how to treat them alongside learning how to recognise common medical conditions.

2) Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects performance

This is assessed by a set assignment. You will learn how to conduct fitness tests and how to interpret and use the data. You will also learn how to plan and evaluate a fitness training programme.

3) Using technology to understand the body's response to physical activity

This is assessed by a set assignment. You will learn how to develop the cardio-respiratory and musculoskeletal systems through exercise and how these systems provide you with energy. In addition, you will learn how technology can measure the changes in these systems.

How will I be assessed?

The injury unit is assessed by an externally set exam, the other 2 units are assessed in school and moderated by OCR.

All results are awarded on the following scale:

Level 2 – Distinction* (*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)

Level 1 – Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1) and Fail/Unclassified.

What can I use the qualification for?

The skills developed on the course will help you progress onto further study in the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector. This may be Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as the Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity, AS or A-Levels, such as Physical Education, Psychology, Sociology, Sport or Media, an apprenticeship, personal trainer qualification or work as an outdoor activity instructor. This qualification will also enable transference onto a biological or medical pathway of study.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Sach, Mr Allanson

Cambridge National in Sport Studies

Examination Board: OCR

Specification: J829

Why choose this course?

Are you?

- A lover of physical activity or someone who appreciates the need for a healthy lifestyle?
- More successful when assessed through assignments?
- An all-round sports enthusiast?
- Possibly considering a career in leisure, sport or outdoor adventure?

If you want to develop skills that are relevant to the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector then this is a great course for you.



What will I study?

In this qualification students must achieve three units:

1) Contemporary Issues in Sport (40% Exam)

This unit is assessed by an exam. By completing this unit, you will understand a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including learning about participation levels and barriers to completing sporting activities.

2) Performance & Leadership in Sports Activities (40% Coursework)

This unit is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills.

3) Increasing Awareness of Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) (20% Coursework)

This unit is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will develop an understanding of the different types of OAA, the terrains and equipment that they use, and even have the opportunity to practically participate in OAA's. You will also plan and take part in an OAA activity session which you will then evaluate.

How will I be assessed?

Contemporary issues are assessed by an externally set exam, the other 2 units are assessed in school and moderated by OCR.

All results are awarded on the following scale:

Level 2 – Distinction* (*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)

Level 1 – Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1) and Fail/Unclassified.

What can I use the qualification for?

The skills developed on the course will help you progress onto further study in the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector. This may be Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as the Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity, AS or A-Levels, such as Physical Education, Psychology, Sociology, Sport or Media, an apprenticeship, Leisure team members, personal trainer or Outdoor activity instructor.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Sach, Mr Allanson

GCSE Combined Science

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: Trilogy Combined Science
(8464)

Why choose this course?

Science is an exciting and important subject to study. A good knowledge of science is essential for life in the modern world. This course will give you a solid grounding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics while also allowing you to take another option.

The content of GCSE Combined Science is part of the national curriculum for all students and is not optional.



What will I study?

You have already started studying GCSE Science at the beginning of Year 9. Combined science is an equal mix of Biology, Chemistry and Physics which leads to a qualification worth two GCSEs. This is a demanding course and is a good preparation for studying all A Level science subjects should the required entry grade be achieved.

Embedded throughout each topic are opportunities for you to develop your practical skills. This knowledge will also be assessed in the external written exams at the end of Year 11.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

How will I be assessed?

You will sit 2 Biology exams, 2 Chemistry exams and 2 Physics exams (1 hour 15 minutes each).

This is the same number of exams as the Separate Science course but they are shorter and you will be two GCSE grades instead of three.

What can I use the qualification for?

Access to many vocational Level 3 courses is supported with a Grade 4 or above in Combined Science, and entry to Science or Psychology A Levels usually needs a Grade 6.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mr Sims

GCSE Separate Science (Triple science)

Examination Board:

AQA

Specification:

GCSE Biology (8461)

GCSE Chemistry (8462)

GCSE Physics (8463)



Why choose this course?

If you love science and want to study it in greater detail then this course is for you. Subject specialists in the Science Department will lead your discovery and learning of amazing new worlds of understanding

What will I study?

During 'option' lesson time you will study the extra content associated with separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. You will also continue with the core science content in your remaining lessons. The extra time in Years 10 and 11 will lead to an equal amount of lesson time for Biology, Chemistry and Physics and allow entry to the separate science exams.

These are demanding courses and are excellent preparation for studying all A Level science subjects and for those considering a career within science. Embedded throughout each topic are opportunities for you to develop your practical skills which will also be assessed in the external written exams at the end of year 11.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>

How will I be assessed?

You will sit 2 Biology exams, 2 Chemistry exams and 2 Physics exams (1 hour 45 minutes each).

This is the same number of exams as the Combined Science course but you will be awarded a single GCSE grade for each science.

What can I use the qualification for?

Separate Sciences are excellent preparation for A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology providing the required entry grade is achieved. You can also access the BTEC Applied Science course which is equivalent to one full A Level.

Who do you contact if you want more information?

Mrs Wookey – Biology, Miss Smith – Chemistry, Mr Williamson – Physics

What will you be studying?

Your core curriculum contains the following subjects (**everyone will study these**):

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Religion Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) is combined with part of our statutory delivery of PSHE in Years 10 and 11 (not examined)
- Core Physical Education (not examined)
- **Four chosen GCSE option subjects (see below)**

Students will then select one option from each of the four blocks below, not repeating a subject across multiple blocks. Students will also select a reserve option for each of the block, should they not be able to fit their first choices into their timetable. If students receive their reserve options, we will discuss this with the student and parents to ensure that we are supporting every child with accessing options they would like to study.

Option Block 1	Option Block 2	Option Block 3	Option Block 4
History	History	Sport Science	Sport Science
Geography	Geography	Sport Studies	Sport Studies
French	Drama	Drama	Music
Spanish	Photography	Photography	Design Technology
Computer Science	Art	Citizenship	Land Based Studies
Triple Science	Religious Studies	Hospitality & Catering	Hospitality & Catering
			Triple Science

You may want to start thinking about which options you would like to choose. Why not have a go at drafting these below. **Please be aware that for some courses, such as Catering, Sport, and other Technology subjects, there may be a small cost which contributes towards materials used throughout the two years.**

Due to the limited places available in Catering and Design Technology, following health and safety guidance, it is unlikely that students will be able to study both Catering and Design Technology. Please consider this when choosing your options.

	Block 1 Option	Block 2 Option	Block 3 Option	Block 4 Option	Reserve Option Block 1	Reserve Option Block 2	Reserve Option Block 3	Reserve Option Block 4
Enter your initial thoughts here 