

2024/25 OPTIONS BOOKLET



Woodbrook Vale School



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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

This booklet gives information about your GCSE options for Years 10 and 11.

Each year we offer slightly different choices. We are extremely ambitious for our students and our trustees expect us to furnish students with the best and most competitive batch of qualifications we can. This is so that our students can go forward and take advantage of all the opportunities available in post 16 courses, universities, apprenticeships and the wider world.

No combination of subjects can better prepare students, or keep opportunities broader than the EBacc combination. In fact, in previous years, this was a pathway only available to a certain group of students. Here at Woodbrook Vale, it is now available to all and we expect every student to consider these subjects in their choices. We want you to make ambitious and life-expanding choices for yourselves, so that you can access the most exciting opportunities in your future and never meet a closed door!

With the right combinations of subjects, everything will be open to you and you will be able to follow your dreams as they change and evolve throughout your lives.

Enjoy the process and choose well!

Rachael Fraser

Headteacher





Key Dates & Core Subjects

This section tells you what all students study at Woodbrook Vale.

Personal Development (PD)

All students will have fifteen minutes of tutor time each day when you will develop skills for life and understanding of your personal wellbeing. This includes Finance, Health, Identity and Diversity, Understanding Risk and Relationships and Religious Education. You will also be taught the importance of Citizenship, how democracy works and your rights and responsibilities. This may be supported by 'drop down' days with a PD-based programme.

Careers Education will also be taught in as part of the PD programme and you will develop skills to enable you to succeed in further learning and work.

Core Physical Education (PE)

At Key Stage 4, all students at Woodbrook Vale will have core Physical Education where you will have the chance to develop your physical skills, knowledge and understanding through a variety of sports. You will also be given information that helps you appreciate the importance of being physically active throughout life.

Your PE teacher will be helping you develop your overall personal fitness, the skills and techniques needed for the activities covered and how to improve your understanding of rules, tactics and strategies.

Key Dates:

Wednesday 11 December 2024 - Year 9 Options assembly

Thursday 19 December 2024 - Year 9 Options booklets issued

Thursday 23 January 2025 - Online Options Form Available

Thursday 23 January 2025 - Options Evening

Wednesday 29 January 2025 - Options form deadline 3PM





Advice and Recommendations

- Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs – Biology, Chemistry and Physics) does not appear as a separate option choice as it has done in previous years. This will now be covered in the normal science hours for students who are motivated to take it. Students started these courses earlier in Year 9 so no choice is needed.
- Computer Science is a very mathematical GCSE and is recommended for students with an interest in coding and an aptitude for mathematics.
- Creative iMedia (ICT), Health & Social Care, Travel & Tourism and Sports Studies are vocational qualifications and are suitable for students who enjoy a practical way of learning and may prefer coursework to exams.
- It is not always possible that every subject will run, for example, if very few people show an interest in taking it. Also it may not be possible for every student to be offered their first choice option subjects. If some subjects are oversubscribed we will look at their previous attitude to learning in that subject to help allocate places.
- Examination boards sometimes make changes to the content of courses after we have printed this options booklet.
- It is not possible to study more than one design option (Fine Art, 3D Design and Food Preparation & Nutrition). These can be popular subjects so priority will be given to students that identify the subject as their number one priority.
- Some subjects may have trips and visits as part of the curriculum. In these cases, the school may ask for a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of the activity.
- Students who have not studied French or Spanish in Years 7-9 do not need to choose one of those subjects as an option.

Please speak to your tutor if you need any option choice advice or contact Mr Hynes, Deputy Headteacher – phynes@wbvs.co.uk or Mrs McSwiney, Careers Leader, mmcswiney@wbvs.co.uk



The EBacc Combination

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Combination

It is our belief that a brave curriculum should not be a luxury! Students at Woodbrook Vale are entitled to the best teaching in subjects deemed to be 'challenging', like languages, humanities and sciences, so that they can leave school with qualifications that give them power and breadth of opportunity in their lives. This is sometimes referred to as 'cultural capital' and we believe our students deserve access to it.

The following combination of subjects is considered to be a 'golden ticket':

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Science - Combined Science or 3 Separate Sciences
- History or Geography
- A language - French or Spanish

These subjects, when combined with a practical, creative or arts based subject will provide access to absolutely any post-16 and university course or pathway. This combination opens doors. Indeed the Department for Education encourage us to ensure all students have equal access to these subjects and we have achieved that here in the options offer for this year.

Each student will be asked to choose a Humanities subject, a language and two others from an extremely broad and diverse range of subjects.

Whilst your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, we believe that the 10 or 11 GCSEs or equivalents they will achieve, will give them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and give them the broad knowledge that employers are looking for, as well as full access to some of the most prestigious universities in the country.



English

The English course will consist of both English Language and English Literature, taught in parallel through Years 10 and 11, building on the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired throughout Key Stage 3.

Within English Language students will enjoy the study of creative writing, extended reading and spoken language and studying Shakespeare, poetry and modern classics in English Literature.

All students will study English Language and English Literature, achieving two full GCSEs.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

English Language

- Understanding, reading and enjoying non-fiction texts and composing your own written non-fiction
- Speaking and Listening assignment
- Extended reading and creative writing

English Literature

- An exploration of modern texts including modern prose or drama and exploring cultures
- Poetry across time
- The significance of Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage

Teaching Strategies:

You'll be exposed to a range of fiction and non-fiction novels and extracts including poetry, short-stories and speeches.

Drama will also be used to embed some themes, certainly when studying Shakespeare. Work is varied and may include theatre visits in order to aid your learning.

Assessment:

All candidates will study a linear course for both English Language and English Literature.

English Language is 100% examination, organised into two units:

Fiction and Imaginative Writing (worth 40% of your marks when combined)

Non-fiction and Transactional Writing (worth 60% of your marks when combined)

English Literature is also 100% examination, organised into two units:

The 19th-century Novel and Poetry since 1789 (worth 50% of your total GCSE marks)

Shakespeare and Post-1914 British Literature (worth 50% of your overall marks when combined)

Beyond GCSE:

A GCSE in English is required by most colleges for further study in A-levels and vocational courses. GCSEs in English Language and Literature also open doors to careers in journalism, television and media, communications, teaching and many others.

Find Out More

Your English teacher will be happy to talk to you in a little more detail about the GCSE English Language and Literature courses.



**Core
Subject**

Mathematics

Mathematics is an essential tool of communication as well as being a fascinating subject in its own right. This is a core subject, which all students will study to GCSE level. Mathematics GCSE includes transferable skills to help you in your other subjects. You will learn to use problem-solving strategies and to work efficiently by breaking down complex situations into simpler steps.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

Number

- Understand place value and the decimal number system
- Understand and use relationships between numbers
- Develop methods of computation
- Solve numerical problems

Algebra

- Understand and use functional relationships
- Understand and use equations and formula

Geometry and Measures

- Understand and use properties of shape
- Understand and use properties of position, movement and transformation
- Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change
- Change freely between related units
- Use scale factors, scale diagrams
- Understand and use proportion as equality of ratios

Statistics & Probability

- The mathematics of chance and the knowledge of how to describe events in terms of probabilities
- How to collect, process, represent and interpret data.

Teaching Strategies:

The change to the GCSE Mathematics curriculum means there is more emphasis placed on the deep understanding of mathematics, therefore the GCSE mathematics course will begin in Year 9. Students will be set according to their ability.



**Core
Subject**

Mathematics

Assessment:

Edexcel GCSE Mathematics students will sit 3 exam papers of equal weighting; 1 hour 30 minutes each. (1 Non-calculator and 2 Calculator papers). There will be a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Beyond GCSE:

Mathematical experts are in demand across all kinds of industries, the world over. You'll have access to career opportunities in sectors you may never have even considered, from Engineering, Accountancy and Banking to Law or Medicine. A GCSE in Mathematics is a requirement for further study at A Level, University courses and vocational courses. It is evidence of a logical mind and the ability to problem solve.

Additional Opportunities:

Throughout Year 10 the Maths department have for many years provided additional opportunities for students. These have previously included GCSE Statistics, Edexcel Maths awards, Functional skills qualifications and Entry level qualifications. During Year 10 opportunities such as these will be made available to our students which will allow them to deepen their understanding and further their appreciation and attainment in Maths.

Find Out More:

Your Mathematics teacher will be able to discuss the course with you in further detail.

Science (Combined or Separate)

This section is for course information only. Students have made their choice of science separately. This is separate to the usual options choice process.

Science is the study of the universe and everything in it. The combined science (trilogy) course develops skills needed to examine and evaluate scientific theories. The course is hands-on with experiments being used so that students discover, experience and learn what makes the world tick.

Students are also given a guided choice to take the 3 separate (triple) science GCSEs of chemistry, biology and physics. Both courses are delivered in core science lesson time.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

The combined science course is a double award so students get two GCSEs covering content from chemistry, biology and physics.

Biology includes:

- Human biology, including health, the development of medicine and drugs, the role of enzymes in the body and respiration
- Evolutional biology, which looks at how adaptation in a species allows for survival of the fittest
- Modern developments in biology, including genetic engineering and cloning
- Plant life and ecology

Chemistry includes:

- Fundamentals in chemistry, atomic structure, the periodic table, bonding and chemical formulae
- The chemistry of construction, metals and the useful products of rocks
- The chemistry of oil, which deals with everything from fuels to plastics
- Environmental chemistry, which looks at the impact of human endeavour
- Analytical chemistry
- Factors which affect the rate of a reaction
- Salts and electrochemistry

Physics includes:

- Energy transfers and how energy is used
- Generation, production and use of electricity
- Waves, radiation and the use of lenses
- Motion including velocity and acceleration
- Forces
- Radioactivity and nuclear physics



**Core
Subject**

Science (Combined or Separate)

Do I have to choose science at GCSE?

Science is a core subject so all students will study it. You have already made the choice of Separate (triple) science or Combined (double) science.

Teaching Strategies:

Science will be taught by specialists in Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Both theory and practical work will be undertaken.

Assessment:

For Combined Science (2 GCSEs) or Separate science (3 GCSEs); the exam board is AQA. Assessment is 100% exam based.

There will be 2 exams for each area Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will be expected to complete 16 required practicals during the course. They must understand these fully as questions about them will be in the exam.

Beyond GCSE:

GCSE science is an entry requirement for many further educational courses. If you want to do A-level science you will need at least a grade 6 at GCSE level.

Find Out More:

Please speak to your Science teacher if you have any questions.



AQA Exam Board



Option Subject

Business Studies

The GCSE in Business Studies is industry relevant, geared to key sector requirements and very popular with schools and colleges because it suits such a broad range of learning styles and abilities.

Business skills are essential for success in employment and provide fundamental knowledge required by employers, in addition to providing transferable skills for future study.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

Students will have to study a variety of topics, these include:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

Subject Content:

Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour.

The course requires students to draw on their knowledge and understanding to:

- Use business terminology to identify and explain business activity
- Apply business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts
- Develop problem solving and decision making skills relevant to business

- Investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues
- Make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data including its selection, interpretation, analysis and evaluation.

Teaching Strategies:

GCSE Business Studies is an academic qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspired approach to studying business. Theory, problem solving and working in a team are all important parts of the course.

Assessment:

The course is assessed through two written exams papers, each one lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. Each paper counts for 50% of the GCSE. The qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

Beyond GCSE:

Studying and succeeding in GCSE Business Studies can lead to students studying the following at A-Level.

- Business Studies
- Economics
- Accounting

Find Out More:

Further information about the units and the methods of assessment will be available from Miss Wilson or by visiting the AQA website.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/>



Option Subject

Computer Science

The course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from Computing at Key Stage 3 and also their other subjects.

However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

Component 01 – Computer Systems

Component 01 focuses on Computer Systems, such as software security and networks. It is an examined unit and makes up 40% of the assessment total.

Component 02 – Computational

Thinking, Algorithms and Programming
Component 02 is a written exam, focused on computational thinking and algorithms. Students are principally assessed on their ability to write, correct and improve algorithms.

Component 03 – Programming Project

(non-exam assessment). This component is the non-exam assessment where candidates will be challenged by a range of exciting and engaging tasks to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned.

What will I learn?

A Computer Science qualification is relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. It is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement. Computer Science will value computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so.



**Option
Subject**

Computer Science

Teaching Strategies:

Computer Science is an academic qualification. The lessons will have a strong focus on problem solving and logical thinking, with students expected to display their learning using a variety of methods. Students will be able to use computers to aid their studies, but time spent working in groups will prove to be just as valuable.

Assessment:

The two units are assessed through two written exams. The other unit requires students to complete an assessed programming project under timed conditions in school.

Beyond GCSE:

If you choose to study Computer Science at GCSE level, then it can lead to studying Computing at A-Level and then at University if you desire.

A Computer Science qualification is a good basis for work as an IT consultant, computer hardware engineer, web designer, software engineer, analyst, network administrator, software applications developer and IT project manager.

Find Out More:

Further information about the Computer Science course is available from Mrs Harvey or by visiting the OCR website:

<https://ocr.org.uk/>



OCR Exam Board



Option Subject

3D Design

Our daily lives revolve around well designed products. This course allows students to use their imagination and creative skills to design and make a range of products suitable for human use. The course specification is AQA GCSE Art & Design (3D Design).

Summary of the topics you will cover:

In Year 10 students will develop their design skills as well as practical skills through set tasks. Strong emphasis is on sketchbook skills; drawing and written work.

Students produce a sustained project where they research, produce a range of ideas and models leading onto a final practical piece. This project has a set theme but allows for independent research and personalised outcomes.

In Year 11 students will continue working on their coursework portfolio and begin preparing for the externally set assignment in January, where they will respond to set task, followed by a practical exam in April of Year 11.

Should I take 3D Design at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

- Are enthusiastic and enjoy your design lessons
- Enjoy developing ideas and coming up with new ones
- Like producing design drawings and sketches of your ideas
- Enjoy making models with a range of different materials such as woods, plastics, card and metals
- Enjoy solving problems and finding solutions
- Can plan and organise your time effectively

Teaching Strategies:

Students will learn in a variety of ways. They will conduct primary and secondary research when assessing their ideas, produce detailed technical drawings and written notes and work hands on with tools and machines to develop their practical skills.

Assessment:

- Coursework Portfolio worth 60% of the final mark.
- Externally set Assignment worth 40% of the final mark.

Beyond GCSE:

This subject is useful to those who are:

- Considering further education after GCSEs in Product Design, Industrial Design, Exhibition Design, Resistant Materials or Technology and Engineering.
- Interested in working in Design, Engineering or many other skilled trades.

Find Out More:

If you want to find out more about the course please see Mr Beadle.



Option Subject



Drama

Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course. It consists of a wide range of stimulating activities designed to encourage students to develop as effective and independent learners.

Students will develop an insight into and an understanding of a wide range of drama techniques. They will be required to develop and demonstrate competence in a range of practical, creative and performance skills.

The course specification is AQA.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

- Practical Drama workshops completed during the course
- Study and performance of a scripted play
- Study of a live theatre production seen by the students
- Practical production skills centred around acting and stage management

Should I choose Drama?

Yes if you:

- Have a passion for performance arts
- Want to develop your communication skills and work as part of a team
- Are committed to hard work and prepared to put in time for rehearsals
- Are interested in theatre and live performances
- Enjoy expressing yourself and being creative

Teaching Strategies:

You will experience a combination of performance and theoretical work during the course. Some of the techniques used in lessons will include cross-cutting, forum theatre and split scene. Students are also encouraged to assess each other and work in teams to deliver a performance.



Option Subject



Drama

Assessment:

Drama is assessed in three parts:

Component 1: Understanding Drama

A written exam paper worth 40% of the overall mark. This is separated into 3 compulsory sections which cover knowledge of theatre terms, study of a set text (play) and analysis of a performance of live theatre seen by students.

Component 2: Devising Drama

A controlled assessment in Devised Performance with an accompanying portfolio worth 40% combined (comprising a Devising Log worth 60 marks = 75% of the overall 40% and a Devised Performance worth 20 marks = 25% of the overall 40%).

Component 3: Texts in Practice (practical)

Two extracts from one play (each marked out of 20 and worth 10% EACH - 20% in total of the overall qualification). These are based on practical Drama skills demonstrating the abilities of a performer.

Please be aware that in order to successfully complete the course students will be expected to see a live performance of a set play. This may be organised through school.

Find Out More:

Mrs Hopkinson will be happy to talk to you in a little more detail about the GCSE Drama course. Alternatively, the course specification is available to view online at <http://www.aqa.org.uk>.



Option Subject

Fine Art

In the Fine Art course you will be able to experience a range of two and three dimensional work such as painting, drawing, mixed media, collage, print-making, photography and sculpture. The GCSE specification is AQA Art and Design (Fine Art).

Summary of the topics you will cover:

In Year 10 you will explore the formal elements; colour, line, tone, texture, shape, form and become more aware of Art and Design processes in two and three-dimensions within set tasks to ensure your practical skills and theoretical understanding progresses.

You will research and develop your ideas from given starting points, researching appropriate and a range of contextual sources to inspire your ideas.

In Year 11 you will continue to work on your coursework portfolio until the Christmas. In the January of Year 11 you will begin the Externally Set Assignment responding to one of the set themes and completing this project with an examination in the April.

Should I take Fine Art at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

- Are enthusiastic about Art and enjoy your Art and Design lessons
- Want to be practical and creative
- Can work independently
- Like to experiment with different media and want to improve your skills and understanding of Art
- Like to find out about different artists

Teaching Strategies

You will work from given starting points and have the opportunity in lessons to experiment with, and develop, skills and media. You will keep on-going sketchbooks throughout the course and present these, a portfolio of work and final pieces for assessment. All class work and homework from the start of Year 10 count towards your final GCSE grade.

Assessment

- A Portfolio of Work, which is developed over Years 10 and 11 (60%)
- Final Examination in Year 11 (40%)

Beyond GCSE

A-level, BTEC, Degree qualifications and Careers in: Art and Design, Fashion, Graphics, Architecture, Photography, Animation.

Find Out More

If you want to find out more about the course, please see Mrs Philippou or Mrs Eddy.



Option Subject

Food Preparation and Nutrition

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course builds upon the skills, knowledge and understanding students have gained whilst studying Food and Nutrition in Years 7, 8 and 9. It covers a range of topics and will enable students to develop recipes which are suited to the needs of individuals or families, to understand the links between diet and health, where food comes from and the science of food and nutrition.

The course specification is AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a practical and theoretical subject. You will develop and show your food preparation and handling skills through practical activities, whilst applying relevant knowledge and understanding of these 5 areas.

Should I take GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Yes, if you:

- Are interested in Food Science and how food works
- Enjoy learning about nutrition, food products, food preparation, food science, diet and health
- Are interested in developing your practical cooking skills

Teaching Strategies

Theory lessons undertake a number of different methods to support your learning. You will develop your food preparation and food handling skills through practical sessions which will involve meal production, experimental work, testing and modifying recipes in preparation for the Food Investigation/Preparation Assessments. Knowledge and understanding of the topic areas can be gained via class notes, completion of homework tasks, video clips, group and individual research from primary and secondary sources.

Assessment

- Two Food Investigation Assessments worth 50% of the final grade. Both are in Year 11: a food science investigation for 10 hours (2000 words), and a design and make project for 20 hours
- One written exam paper worth 50% of the final grade (1 hour 45 minutes)

Beyond GCSE

This subject is useful to those who are:
Interested in working within the food industry, health service or care industry
Considering further education in Food and Nutrition, Food Technology, NVQ Catering, A-level Health and Social Care or A-level Human Biology

Find Out More

Please see Mrs Eastwood for more details.



Option Subject

French

This GCSE French course builds on the skills and understanding you have developed in Years 7 to 9. A variety of topics are covered, some of which will be totally new, and others more familiar, which you will study in greater depth.

The topics relate to three themes which you will cover over 2 years:

- People and lifestyle
- Popular Culture
- Communication and the world around us

The GCSE requires that all topics are studied in the context of the home nation and Francophone countries allowing students to broaden their horizons and learn about the culture of French speaking countries as well as learning the language.

Independent Learning

You must be prepared to work independently and to learn vocabulary regularly. There will be resources in place to support you, such as our on-line learning platform languagenut.com and a French intervention class after school designed just for KS4 exam practice.

Should I take French at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

- Want to learn about the world we live in and understand different cultures
- Would like to improve your communication, memory and problem-solving skills
- Enjoy learning and speaking French!



**Option
Subject**

French

Teaching Strategies:

Students will have access to on-line resources and extension tasks, and the latest audio-visual materials will be used in lessons.

A great emphasis will be put on conversation. Students will have regular opportunities to speak the language. Authentic reading and listening resources will be used to improve your comprehension and you will tackle many different writing tasks from writing blogs to magazine articles. Translation from English into French and from French into English are now an integral part of learning a language at GCSE; this is an excellent skill to have in the workplace.

Assessment:

GCSE languages are assessed in the four skill areas of Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing, each accounting for 25% of the final marks. Speaking assessments are conducted by your class teacher at the end of Year 11. The Listening, Reading and Writing examinations are sat in the summer term of Year 11.

Beyond GCSE:

A GCSE in a modern foreign language enables you to take an A-level in that language and is highly valued by employers as well as Further and Higher Education providers. With it, you will have a competitive edge in the job market, giving yourself increased opportunities to travel and work abroad.

Find Out More:

Your Languages teacher will be available to discuss this course further with you if more information is required.



Option Subject

Geography

GCSE Geography is an interesting subject that permits students to examine the relationship between people and the fragile environment we inhabit. This ability to link different viewpoints and disciplines provides students with the skills to solve problems that we as a global population face. The course specification is Eduqas B.

Summary of the themes you will cover:

A variety of themes are covered which look at human, physical and environmental Geography. The key themes cover the following topics which are then assessed through the 3 papers: Urbanisation, Contrasting global cities, Urban and rural processes and change in the UK, Development issues, Coasts and coastal management, Rivers and river management, Weather and climate, Climate change, Ecosystems, Water resources and management and Desertification.

Should I take Geography at GCSE?

Yes, if you want to:

- Improve your understanding of global issues, which will affect our lives now and in the future
- Develop a better understanding of the way the world works
- Enhance your understanding of how physical landscapes (e.g. rivers, coasts) are formed
- Express opinions about people and places
- Find out about different cultures and societies that are different from your own
- Find out how people are connected and interact with each other and their environment



Option Subject

Geography

Teaching Strategies:

A variety of teaching strategies are used and include group work, independent learning and enquiry based activities. Field work is an integral part of the course and relevant visits and techniques will be completed. These skills add to and enhance your learning experience. Data collected on field visits will provide the opportunities to develop interpretational and analytical skills which will be applied to and used in paper 3.

Assessment:

It is 100% exam and completed through 3 papers.

Component 1: Investigating geographical issues and is worth 40% (1 hour 45 minutes)

Component 2: Problem solving and is worth 30% (1 hour 30 minutes)

Component 3: Applied field work enquiry and is worth 30% (1 hour 30 minutes)

Fieldwork:

Please note that it is compulsory to undertake fieldwork and this may well be in the form of a residential visit.

Beyond GCSE:

Geography opens up a gateway to an exciting future. Students can continue to study Geography at A-level. Other courses accessible include Travel and Tourism, Geology and Environmental Studies. More specific courses such as Town Planning are also available.

Find Out More

To find out more speak to Mrs Kimber or visit the website below:

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography-gcse-b/#tab_keydocuments



**Option
Subject**

Health & Social Care

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care course will provide you with a good understanding of Health and Social Care and will help you to make choices about your future career choices. You will develop a wide range of practical skills which are helpful for a career in one of the Health and Social Care industry sectors.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

In this component, you will study how people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to old age, this includes physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, and the different factors that may affect them.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

This component will give you an understanding of Health and Social Care services and will help you develop skills in applying care values that are common across the sector (some of which are transferable to other sectors that involve interactions with clients or customers).

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

In this component, you look at the factors that can have a positive or negative influence on a person's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators, and what they mean for someone's state of health. You will learn how to use this information to design an appropriate plan for improving someone's health and wellbeing, including short- and long-term targets.



Pearson

Pearson Exam Board



Option Subject

Health & Social Care

Teaching Strategies:

You will use practical techniques to measure the health of a person and plan how to improve it.

You will communicate this to them using techniques learnt, including the use of body language and taking into account the needs of the person you are communicating with.

You may produce a support plan for a person with specific medical needs, a care plan for an individual or design a creative activity for a toddler group.

Assessment:

Component 1: Assessed tasks.
(30% of total)

Component 2: Assessed tasks.
(30% of total)

Component 3: External exam
(40% of total)

If you want to go into the caring professions of social care or health care, you will have developed a large range of practical skills. Other skills you will have developed are communication, critical analysis and evaluation, decision making and problem solving.

Should I take Health and Social Care?

Yes if you:

- Like to work in a more practical way
- Like to present things creatively
- Are interested in people and their health and lifestyles

Find Out More:

If you want to find out more about the course, please see Mr Moore.



Option Subject

History

The History course builds on the skills and understanding you have developed in Years 7 to 9. You will develop a range of skills such as testing interpretations, source analysis & evaluation and second order concepts such as causation, consequences and significance. The exam board is AQA. The GCSE specification requires students to study 4 key areas; the development of medicine, a study of Germany, conflict and tension during the inter-war years and the Elizabethan period.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

- An in depth investigation into the development of medicine from medieval times to the present day. The course looks at the changes in surgery, public health and the fight against disease.
- A study of Germany which includes life under the last Kaiser, the impact of WWI and formation of the Weimar constitution, the rise of the Nazis and life in Nazi Germany.
- An investigation of the impact of WWI and causes of WWII, including a study of peace and conflict in the inter-war years.
- An independent study of Elizabethan England which focuses on the government of Elizabeth I, life under Elizabeth for Tudor England and Elizabethan foreign policy. The students will also need to study a site of Elizabethan significance.

Should I take history at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

- Are curious about the world we live in and want to understand where we came from
- Enjoy reading and are prepared to review what you know
- Want to think for yourself instead of being told the answer
- Can write well and want to improve from the feedback you gain in class
- Have enjoyed your history lessons during years 7, 8 and 9

Teaching Strategies:

You will use primary and secondary sources and be expected to analyse and interpret them. Activities are varied, you will receive a lot of guidance on exam technique and revision skills.

Assessment:

2 written papers, each 2 hours long and worth 50% each. They are both marked out of 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar).

Beyond GCSE

History teaches students how to analyse information, construct arguments and assess facts. These skills are invaluable in many careers including law, accountancy, management and teaching.

Find Out More

Your History teacher will be able to discuss the course with you or see Mr Thornton, Mr Freeman or Mrs Burgess for more details.



**Option
Subject**

Creative iMedia

Why Take This Course?

The Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia is aimed at students aged 14-16 years and will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in the media industry.

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- Developing visual identities for clients
- Planning and creating original digital graphics
- Planning, creating and reviewing original digital media products.

This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- Thinking about situations and deciding what is required to be successful
- Exploring different options and choosing the best way forward to solve a problem
- Exploring and generating original ideas to find imaginative solutions to problems
- Selecting the best tools and techniques to use to solve a problem
- Appropriate use of media to convey meaning
- Use of planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised way which meet deadlines



ocr.org.uk/cambridgenationals



Cambridge National – Creative iMedia (ICT)



Option Subject

Creative iMedia

You will study 2 mandatory units and choose 1 optional unit. The two mandatory units are:

R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry:

This is assessed by taking an exam. In this unit you will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. Topics include:

- The media industry
- Factors influencing product design
- Pre-production planning
- Distribution considerations

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics

This is assessed by completing a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Topics include:

- Develop visual identity
- Plan digital graphics for products
- Create visual identity and digital graphics

Unit R099: Digital games:

This is assessed by completing a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to plan, create and review digital games.

Topics include:

- Plan digital games
- Create digital games
- Review digital games

Assessment:

The externally assessed unit R093 allows students to gain knowledge and understanding relevant to the digital media industry, and the non examined assessment (NEA) units R094 & R099 draw on and strengthen this learning by letting students apply their learning in a practical, skills-based way. Students' performance on the units will determine their overall grade and level.

Find Out More :

Please see Mrs Harvey for more information.



Option Subject

Media Studies

Media Studies includes the study of television, film, newspapers, magazines, radio, advertising and pop music. To complete this course you will study a range of topics and create a practical production where you could create a magazine or a music video. During this course you will gain skills in analysis, design, image production, word processing, marketing, research, journalistic techniques, filming and editing.

Teaching Strategies

Media Studies will be taught for three lessons a week. You will be expected to be self-motivated and have an enquiring mind. Much of the course will be based around your own research and areas of interest. In addition to filming, web-design and editing, the course does have a large written element and will require a commitment to meeting deadlines and a hard-working attitude.

Assessment

All students will study a linear course for two years. The course is a mixture of exams and creating a practical product.

- Exploring the media is externally assessed through a written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes (40%)
- Understanding media forms and products is externally assessed through a written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes (30%)
- Creating media products is a non-exam (coursework) assessment (30%)

Beyond GCSE

GCSE Media Studies is a very popular course. The media industry is a large and growing area for employment and there are many media based courses at colleges and universities.

What topics will I study?

A mixture of film posters, old and new (James Bond), magazines (GQ and Pride), newspapers, (The Sun and the Guardian) video games, (Fortnite) advertising, (Quality Street and This Girl Can), music videos (Bruno Mars and Katy Perry) and TV drama, including crime drama with a close study of research and areas of interest. In addition to police show, Luther.

Find Out More

Please speak to Mr Barney for further information about this course and what it can offer. Alternatively, you can view the specification at:

<http://eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/gcse/>



Option Subject

Music

The Music course builds on the skills and understanding you have developed in Years 7 to 9. It involves three sections: Performing, Composing and Listening/Appraising. The course specification is Eduqas GCSE Music. The course is suitable for students who play a musical instrument or students who have a keen interest in music.

Summary of topics you will cover:

Component 1: Performing

- Solo Performance: You will practice and perform a piece of music on your main instrument.
- Ensemble Performance: You will practice and perform a piece of music on an instrument with at least one other performer.

Component 2: Composing

- Composition 1: You will compose a piece of music to a set brief that will be provided by Eduqas.
- Composition 2: You will compose a piece of music in any style using any combination of instruments.

Component 3: Appraising

Students will sit an exam paper at the end of the course where their knowledge of the following areas of study will be assessed:

AOS1: Forms and Structure (Set Work: Badinerie - J.S. Bach)

You will explore and develop your understanding of structural forms and musical devices across a variety of genres and styles within the Western Classical Tradition.

AOS 2: Music for Ensemble

You will delve into the world of Musical Theatre, Chamber Music, Jazz and Blues whilst contextualising the use of sonority and texture within these varying styles.

AOS 3: Film Music

You will learn how the likes of John Williams, Hans Zimmer and Dany Elfman use timbre, tone colour and dynamics to create enveloping cinematic masterpieces and how you can learn to do the same.

AOS 4: Popular Music (Set Work: Africa -Toto)

You will explore Pop, Rock, Bhangra and Fusion music in this AOS in order to expand your perception of contemporary music.



Option Subject

Music

Should I take Music at GCSE?

Yes, if you enjoy:

- Composing and performing music
- Learning an instrument or singing
- Creating music on computers
- Learning about all types of music, including popular, classical and world
- Have enjoyed your Music lessons during Year 7, 8 and 9

Teaching Strategies:

You will learn about the music in the Areas of Study and go on to compose music that is related to those areas. You will also perform a solo piece and take part in an ensemble performance. Students must be prepared to study the theory of music to develop their musicianship further and to succeed in the examination.

Assessment:

Although the subject is divided into 3 components for the exam, the skills involved are closely related and they all form an essential part of a musician's training. You will work on all units in parallel throughout most of the course, completing the performing and composing during the course and the listening paper at the end of the course.

Beyond GCSE:

Students can continue to study music beyond Year 11. GCSE music provides the necessary foundations to progress onto A-level Music, A-level Music Technology or BTEC Level 3 Music qualifications that can be used to progress to higher education (music degree) or progress into a strand of the music industry.

Find Out More:

Please see Mr Black for more details.



Option Subject

GCSE PE

GCSE Physical Education (PE) offers students the opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical activity and sport. This dynamic course is designed to develop your understanding of the human body in action, as well as the importance of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. You will gain practical experience in a range of sports and activities, while also gaining a deeper knowledge of how physical performance is linked to health and well-being.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

The Edexcel 9-1 GCSE Physical Education (1PE0) is made up of three key components:

1. Theory (60% of final grade)
 - Paper 1: The Human Body and Movement in Physical Activity and Sport (36%)
 - Paper 2: Socio-cultural Influences and Well-being in Physical Activity and Sport (24%)
2. Practical Performance (30% of final grade)
 - Practical Assessments (30%): Students are assessed on their performance in three different sports.
3. Coursework (10% of final grade) – This focuses on a 6 week training program to improve performance in an approved activity.

Should I take GCSE PE as an option?

Students should have a keen interest in sport and physical activity. You must have a good level of fitness and be involved in sport outside of school. A basic understanding of scientific principles will be beneficial for the theoretical aspects of the course.

Why choose GCSE Physical Education?

- Engage with a subject that blends theory and practice: If you enjoy sport and want to learn more about how it impacts the body, this subject is for you.
- Develop transferable skills: Critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that can benefit your future studies and career.
- Career Opportunities: A qualification in PE opens the door to careers in sports science, coaching, fitness, physiotherapy, teaching, and health education.

Beyond GCSE?

- This is the ideal course to prepare you for A-level PE or level 3 sport science.

Find Out More:

- PE staff will be available to discuss the course further with you if more information is required.



**Option
Subject**

Sports Studies

The OCR Cambridge National in Sport Studies is an engaging course that explores the world of sport. It combines theoretical knowledge with practical application, making it ideal for students who are passionate about sport and want to develop their skills and understanding.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

The topics you will study in your theory lessons cover the scientific, health and social aspects of sport. They include:

- Study contemporary issues in sport: Explore the impact of technology, media, and social factors on sport.
- Develop leadership and performance skills: Learn how to plan, organise, and lead sports activities, as well as improve your own performance.
- Gain practical experience: Participate in a variety of sports and physical activities.
- Develop essential skills: Enhance your communication, problem-solving, and teamwork abilities.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of written exams and practical assessments. You will have the opportunity to showcase your knowledge and skills in a variety of ways, including a 1-hour 15-minute Written exam (40%), Course work project (20%) and Practical assessments (40%).

Why choose Sport Studies?

- Develop transferable skills: The skills you gain, such as leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving, are valuable in many different careers.
- Prepare for further study: This qualification can lead to further education and training in sports-related fields, such as sports science, sports coaching, or sports management.
- Enhance your active lifestyle: The course encourages you to be physically active and develop a healthy lifestyle.
- Gain a deeper understanding of sport: Explore the history, culture, and social impact of sport.

If you are interested in sport, enjoy being active, and want to develop a range of valuable skills, then Sport Studies is the perfect choice for you!

Students must have a keen interest in sport and physical activity. You must have a good level of fitness and be involved in sport outside of school. A basic understanding of sport and the media and contemporary issues in sport will be beneficial for the theoretical aspects of the course.

Beyond the course?

There is a very wide choice of courses suitable for progression, including various vocational Sports courses.

Find Out More:

PE staff will be available to discuss the course further with you if more information is required.



Photography

Introduction

In this Photography course you will be learning how to use digital visual imagery in a highly creative manner. The course specification is AQA GCSE Art & Design (Photography)

Summary of the topics you will cover

In Year 10 Students will develop their digital photography practical skills, alongside a number of Computer and Artistic manipulation methods. The course will have a strong emphasis on the use of computers to present and manipulate the imagery using the Google and Adobe suite of programmes. Themes that will be covered are location photography, portraiture (self), studio and experimental photography. With it being an Art GCSE there will be use of more traditional art methods such as drawing, sculpture and printmaking to expand and develop creative connections.

Students will be showing through set tasks how contextual sources can adapt and support ideas. As the students move from Year 10 to Year 11 tasks will have greater emphasis on individual ideas, independent homework photoshoots and personalised outcomes.

In Year 11 students will continue working on their coursework portfolio and begin preparing for the externally set assignment in January, where they will respond to one of the set tasks, followed by a practical exam in April of Year 11.

Should I take Photography at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

- Are enthusiastic and enjoy digital manipulation using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.
- Enjoy developing ideas and coming up with new ones
- Like producing highly creative visual outcomes that push the boundary of what a photo should look like.
- Have an interest in Graphic Design and Advertising.

Teaching strategies

You will work from given starting points and have the opportunity in lessons to experiment with, and develop, skills and ideas. You will keep on-going digital sketchbooks throughout the course and present these, a portfolio of work and final pieces for assessment. All class work and homework from the start of Year 10 count towards your final GCSE grade.

Assessment

- A Portfolio of Work, which is developed over Years 10 and 11 (60%)
- Final Externally Set Assignment in Year 11 (40%)

Beyond GCSE

A-level, BTEC, Degree qualifications and Careers in: Art and Design, Fashion, Graphics, Architecture, Photography, Animation.

Find out more

If you want to find out more about the course, please see Mrs Eddy.



**Option
Subject**

Spanish

The language-learning skills you have been developing in Key Stage 3 will be a good foundation for GCSE Spanish.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

Topics covered during the 2-year course will include:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

The GCSE requires that all topics are studied in the context of the home nation and Hispanic countries, allowing students to broaden their horizons and learn about the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken.

Independent Learning:

You must be prepared to work independently and to learn vocabulary regularly. There will be resources in place to support you such as our on-line learning platform languagenut.com and a Spanish intervention class after school designed just for KS4 exam practice.

Should I take Spanish at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

- Want to learn about the world we live in and understand different cultures
- Would like to improve your communication, memory and problem-solving skills
- Enjoy learning and speaking languages
- Like a challenge and are willing to work hard

Teaching Strategies:

Students will have access to on-line resources and extension tasks, and the latest audio-visual materials will be used in lessons.

A great emphasis will be put on conversation. Authentic reading and listening resources will be used to improve your comprehension and you will tackle many different writing tasks from writing blogs to writing magazine articles. Translation from English into Spanish and from Spanish into English are also essential parts of this course.

Assessment:

GCSE languages are assessed in the four skill areas of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing, each accounting for 25% of the final marks. Speaking assessments are conducted by your class teacher at the end of year 11. The Listening, Reading and Writing examinations are sat in the summer term of Year 11.

Beyond GCSE:

A GCSE in a modern foreign language enables you to take an A-level in that language and is highly valued by employers as well as further and Higher Education providers. With it you will have a competitive edge in the job market, giving yourself increased opportunities to travel and work abroad.

Find Out More:

Your Languages teacher will be happy to talk to you about the course and answer any questions you have.



**Option
Subject**

Sociology

Sociology is a social science which offers you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of social behaviour and identity in the UK and other societies. You will learn to analyse and evaluate sociological evidence gathered through questionnaires, interviews, observation, official statistics, documentaries and historical documents. You will be required to debate and criticise the evidence before drawing your own informed conclusions. The course specification is Eduqas GCSE Sociology.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

This component focuses on the themes of socialisation, identity and culture. You will study the key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, including socialisation and the acquisition of identity, and develop these through detailed study of families and education. Sociological research methods are presented as a separate topic area but are also taught in relation to the topics mentioned. Sociological theory and its relevance in contemporary society also permeates the course.

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures

The focus in this component is on social differentiation, power and stratification. This includes the theme of power, issues of social order and social control, studied through crime and deviance. You will also study applied methods of sociological enquiry. In applied methods of social enquiry, you are encouraged to further develop your understanding of the research process by considering the stages in carrying out research and in interpreting data.

This will assist you in your assessment of the evidence used to support or challenging theories



Option Subject

Sociology

This will assist you in your assessment of the evidence used to support or challenge theories

Should I take Sociology at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

- Want to develop critical understanding of modern British society and other societies
- Want to understand the way in which people's behaviour, beliefs and identity are shaped and how they impact on society
- Want to develop a critical understanding of the family and individual identity. This includes knowledge of family structures and relationships and the creation of identity
- Sociology may be a first step towards a career in the caring professions, education, the media, or the criminal justice system. It will certainly provide a new perspective on the social world in which we live

Teaching Strategies:

You will use case studies and primary and secondary sources. You will be expected to analyse and interpret them. Work is varied and will include revision sessions in order to aid your learning.

Assessment:

There are two written papers, one for each component and each worth 50% of the final grade. Both exams are 1 hour 45 minutes long.

Beyond GCSE?

Students can continue to study Sociology at A-level. It also develops skills which are useful for researchers, social workers, health care professionals, criminologists and the law.

Find Out More:

For additional information, please see Miss Vaughan.



**Option
Subject**

Travel & Tourism

Pearson BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Travel & Tourism

Travel & Tourism operates in many different contexts, from local bed and breakfasts, to national parks, from large multinational companies to small specialist transport operators and includes the private, public and voluntary sectors. The BTEC Level 2 Award in Travel & Tourism is designed for students who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for careers or further study. It is mainly suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment.

Summary of the topics you will cover:

The course offers a blend of theoretical study and experience of the creative and technology environment. The course is equivalent to one GCSE and is structured into different units.

Some are mandatory and externally assessed through a short examination paper. In line with other vocational qualifications, these examinations can be sat twice to give students a chance to improve their mark.

This Qualification aims to:

Develop students understanding and skills related to a range of different types of tourism and tourism organisations. The qualification has been designed so that knowledge, skills and understanding is developed through tasks that have many of the characteristics of real work in tourism. It is also devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning where students are introduced to a context for learning, review previous learning to plan activities, carry out activities and review outcomes and learning. This approach mirrors many work related activities in tourism and also provides for learning in a range of contexts.



**Option
Subject**

Travel & Tourism

Teaching Strategies:

The Level 2 Tech Award in Travel & Tourism is designed to be engaging, practical and have an inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The course suits a broad range of learning styles and abilities.

Assessment:

The course consists of 3 compulsory units, two are assessed internally and third is an external exam.

Performance bands are provided for Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit and Level 2 Distinction. Evidence must clearly show how the students has met the standard for the higher grades.

Beyond GCSE

The successful completion of this qualification, together, could provide the student with opportunities to access a range of Level 3 qualifications including GCE, apprenticeships and vocationally related qualifications.

These include:

- GCE A-level in Travel and Tourism
- Level 3 Vocational qualifications in travel/tourism
- Apprenticeships in travel services, cabin crew or aviation operations on the ground.

Find Out More:

For further information see Mr Moore or visit qualifications.pearson.com



KS4 Online Option Form

The link to the online form will be sent to students by email after the Options evening

Year 9 Option Choices

This is the form to complete as you identify your option choices for next year. If you have any questions then please contact Mr Hynes (phynes@wbvs.co.uk) before completing the form. Your name and tutor group are automatically collected from your Google login.

* Required

Section 1: Choose your Humanities subject. (There is a chance to choose a second Humanities subject in section 3 below if desired) *

- Geography
- History

Section 2: Choose your Languages subject. (There is a chance to choose a second language in section 3 below if desired). If you have not had languages lessons during Years 7 and 8 then you do not need to choose a language. *

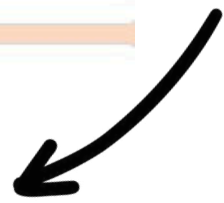
- French
- Spanish
- I have not studied languages in years 7 and 8

Section 3: Please identify your option choices.

Your first choice... *

Choose ▼

- Choose
- GCSE Art
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Computing
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Media Studies
- ICT Creative iMedia
- GCSE PE/Sports Studies
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Spanish
- BTEC Travel & Tourism
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- GCSE Food
- GCSE 3D Design
- GCSE Sociology





Subject Contact Information

English, Drama, Media Studies and iMedia (ICT)	Mr Barney dbarney@wbvs.co.uk
Maths, Computer Science and Business Studies	Mr N Bruce nbruce@wbvs.co.uk
Science	Mrs B Johal bjohal@wbvs.co.uk
Fine Art, 3D Design, Photography and Food Preparation & Nutrition	Mrs A Eddy aedly@wbvs.co.uk
French and Spanish	Mrs J Lewis jlewis@wbvs.co.uk
History, Geography and Sociology	Mrs L Kimber lkimber@wbvs.co.uk
PE, Music, Sports Studies	Mr I Smith ismith@wbvs.co.uk
Health & Social Care and Travel & Tourism	Mr J Moore jmoore@wbvs.co.uk



Woodbrook Vale School
Grasmere Road,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire,
LE11 2ST

Tel: 01509 557560
Email: office@wbvs.co.uk